



Household Consumption and Environmental Change in the Twentieth Century

Time 30 - 31 May, 2017

Venue Department of History, Cultures and Civilization, University of Bologna, Piazza San Giovanni in Monte 2, Bologna, Italy

Conveners Giacomo Parrinello (Sciences Po), Paolo Capuzzo (University of Bologna)

Abstract Consumption is a crucial dimension of present-day environmental debates. From meat to automobiles, from tourism to electronic gadgets, multiple dimensions of individual and group consumption are questioned from the perspective of their impact on the environment and their share of responsibility in the global ecological crisis. How this relationship has been built, both discursively and in its material underpinnings, throughout history? While consumption studies have shed light on the subjective and often political dimension of consumer culture, environmental history has emphasized the material outcomes. We think that only by combining these two historical perspectives it is possible to fully understand the contradictory place of consumption in present-day environmental debates and politics.

Tuesday, 30 May 2017

3–3.30 pm Introduction

3.30–6.30 pm **Panel 1: Food and the Kitchen**

Daniel Philippon, University of Minnesota, United States
"Kitchens of the Great Anthropocene"

Anastasia Day, University of Delaware, United States
"Unpacking Trash Compactors: Consumerism and Waste in Late-Twentieth Domestic Space"

Elisa Tizzoni, University of Florence, Italy
"From 'Domestic Economy' to Food Bloggers: Sustainability in Home Cooking and the Media"

Michelle Mart, Penn State University, United States
"Rethinking the Impact of Food Consumption: The Appeal of Local Food"

8.00 pm Dinner

Wednesday, 31 May 2017

9.30–12.30 am **Panel 2: Household Technologies**

Nina Lokowski, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
"Saturday is bathing day'—Household Consumption Patterns of Warm Water Heating and Personal Hygiene (ca. 1914-1979)"

Wolfgang König, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
"Structures of Throwing Away"

Heike Weber, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany
"Made to Break?—Product Durability and the 'Planned Obsolescence' Discourse in West Germany"

Sina Fabian, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany
"Car Use and Environmental Awareness in West Germany in the 1980s"

1–2.30 pm Lunch

2.30–6.30 pm

Panel 3: Energy and the Home

Rebecca Wright, University of Sussex, UK

“Tracing Domestic Energy Consumption through the Mass Observation Archive, 1938 to the Present”

Nina Möllers, Deutsches Museum Munich, Germany

“In Your Face, Yet Out of Sight? The Environment as an Invisible Issue in Household and Energy Exhibitions in the Second Half of the 20th Century”

Federico Paolini, University of Naples, Italy

“Mass Consumption and the Outbreak of Environmental Crises: a First Consideration on the Italian Case”

Manfred Stoppock, University of Bayeruth, Germany

“Household Energy Consumption in the Global North and South—Comparing Energy Consumption Levels and Standards of Living in Kenya, Spain, and Germany”

Final Remarks