

## **New Directions in Russian Environmental History**

*Catherine Evtuhov, Julia Lajus, David Moon*

We will spend our month in Munich assembling a volume of innovative articles on Russian environmental history over several centuries, and to write a substantial coauthored, interpretative introduction (30-40 pages) formulating the current “state of the art” in this relatively young field.

Our book will be the culmination of several years of working together in a larger network, whose purpose has been to explore issues of Russian environmental history from a transnational and interdisciplinary perspective. Scholars in different disciplines and working in different countries bring a variety of approaches to their research. Environmental history as a specific field has its origins in the United States, and American scholars turning their attention to Russia often draw on methodologies of such historians as William Cronon, Richard White, and others. In Russia, in contrast, interest in environmental history has largely come by way of the history of science and focuses on issues of natural resources. In the UK, a strong tradition of historical geography informed attention to landscape and spatial dimensions.

The researchers involved with our network have developed individual projects addressing crucial aspects of Russian environmental history, ranging from whaling monopolies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to the establishment of cities in the Far North at the end of the twentieth century. The point of our book is to bring these approaches together, and to select representative contributions of the different threads and new directions in Russian environmental history, thus creating a go-to resource for anyone interested in the Russian geographical space as a part of global environmental history.

The strength of our project is that we have already put together a significant pool of scholars producing the most interesting current work on Russian environmental history. All that remains is to choose representative pieces and pull together the different strands.