

# ICEHO Bulletin 11



International Consortium of  
Environmental History  
Organizations

## February 2017

### From the President



Dear colleagues,

With this first Bulletin of ICEHO for 2017, let me wish you the best for the as yet young New Year. The past year has been one of great political changes in many countries, a year of fighting for the environment for many activists, and, by chance, the year I learned from Libby Robin about the “Hug a Climate Scientist Day”, celebrated at least since 2012 in Australia in June (mid-winter). When we discussed this initiative, I did not only learn that Australia’s public funding for Climate Science is dismal, with civil society starting to chime in, but also that hugging a climate scientist was considered important as their science is often depressing.

As ICEHO, we have an important agenda in creating a supportive scholarly network. Conferences are the most important opportunity we have to present our findings and to learn of all the exciting work our colleagues are doing. They are also good to have the occasional chat ‘over coffee or beer’ about our pet subjects, the universe and everything in between. But they can also be used more explicitly as a great opportunity for creating ties and forming networks of support for each other.

The next ASEH meeting will take place in Chicago this American spring. I will be there and I look forward to conversations with all ICEHO members at the conference. ICEHO will also hold a meeting during ASEH.

Save the date, please: We will meet on Friday 31/3/2017 in the evening.

This meeting will be the first and last one organized by our current Secretary, Dagomar Degroot. Dagomar has given ICEHO its new website, he has also brought us to the world of Twitter and has managed the membership survey. Now he has asked us to find a replacement for him, as he has recently not only fathered a wonderful baby but also won major research grants (congrats to both!) and feels that he cannot continue without compromising the quality of service. Although Dagomar’s tenure will end earlier than planned, he has given ICEHO a lasting gift with the new website and the social media attached to it. We are deeply grateful for his stellar contributions. While it is never easy to replace someone, and particularly difficult in this case, we will be able to elect a new Secretary in due course as we already have been able to identify a brilliant candidate who has agreed to be nominated for the position.

We are looking forward to the next business meeting of ICEHO to be held at ESEH in Zagreb, Croatia, at the end of June 2017, to elect the new Secretary and Treasurer. Details will be advised nearer the time.

In this first bulletin of 2017, I would like to also share a reflection of a more personal kind with you. Last year, several excellent scholars of our field died. In several of these cases, colleagues sadly took their own lives. While each such case is different, depressive disorder has played an important role in them. Being a scholar obviously can be a difficult and lonely occupation. Several graduate students I know and hold in high esteem as to their scholarly capability, have recently succumbed to the pressure and suffer from illnesses such as persistent migraine or burn-out-like symptoms.

While I still hope that we have not entered a post-factual age where scholarly truth-seeking becomes more and more devalued, I do think that scholarly networks have become even more important than ever before. Career pressure is mounting. I admire how so many of the younger generation juggle babies, books and the professional requirements of travelling and teaching, how they deal with insecure jobs and with universities given over to measuring quantities where quality should matter. At the same time, funding for the humanities is definitely not increasing. In many countries, researchers have to support their own work

with menial jobs, because state payment is simply not enough. Adjunct professors are badly paid and have no job security. The closing of the National Endowment for the Humanities in the United States is shocking news that will further challenge the way scholarship in environmental history can be achieved.

Perhaps not only Climate Scientists but also Environmental Historians need a hug? Should we call for hugs perhaps on May 27, Rachel Carson's birthday? Or perhaps on February 27, the birthday of Alice Hamilton, a pioneer in occupational health and safety? Or would we want to hug on March 14, the day Nellie Kershaw, the first acknowledged victim of asbestos, died in 1924? Let us know if you have an idea what the perfect day to hug an Environmental Historian might be.

In our roles as functionaries and members of professional organizations, we can foster mentoring programs, graduate student liaisons and support for young scholars by providing childcare at conferences and grants to ease the financial burden of travel.

In our role as scholars, we can use the opportunities we have in universities, museums, research organizations or wherever else we are, to foster mental illness awareness, to talk to the organization's ombudsman if we see bullying or pressure mounting on colleagues or students, in short, we can create a supportive and caring atmosphere.

This will not only make the academic world in which we live a better place to do so, it will also strengthen our scholarly pursuits and help the discipline thrive. One of the most important gifts we can give each other is attention to each other's work, attention and well-meaning criticism to make it even better. I am looking forward to the opportunities for engaging in scholarly discussions at the many gatherings this coming year.

Until we meet again, have a GOOD New Year. Please let us know about important developments in your organization, we are looking forward to filling the next issue to the brim with news from *your* member organization.

Verena Winiwarter, President



**Bulletin Editor Libby Robin** is based at the Australian National University, Canberra. She welcomes contributions!  
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The third World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH2019) will run from 23<sup>rd</sup>—26<sup>th</sup> July 2019



### ICEHO ELECTIONS 2017: TREASURER AND SECRETARY

The ICEHO by-laws provide for staggered elections for Board members and for Treasurer and Secretary at 3 and 4 years respectively. In 2016 Board members were elected and this year, at the ESEH meeting in Zagreb between 28 June and 2 July elections will be held for Treasurer and Secretary. Details about the General Assembly will be announced nearer the time.

We are pleased to have one nomination for each of these positions thus far and we invite further nominations, accompanied by CVs, by 28 February 2017. Please send these to the election officer, **Jane Carruthers** at [j.carruthers@mweb.co.za](mailto:j.carruthers@mweb.co.za)

**Treasurer:** Steven Anderson, a founder



and ever-enthusiastic supporter of ICEHO, and who has been responsible for the financial and administrative business of the Consortium

since its inception, has agreed to be re-nominated for a further 4-year term. Steve, who has a PhD in forest economics and

who has extensive experience in many aspects of forestry, is currently President of the Forest History Society based in North Carolina. The FHS has very close ties with the American Society of Environmental History and Steve is active in many environmental and forestry associations.

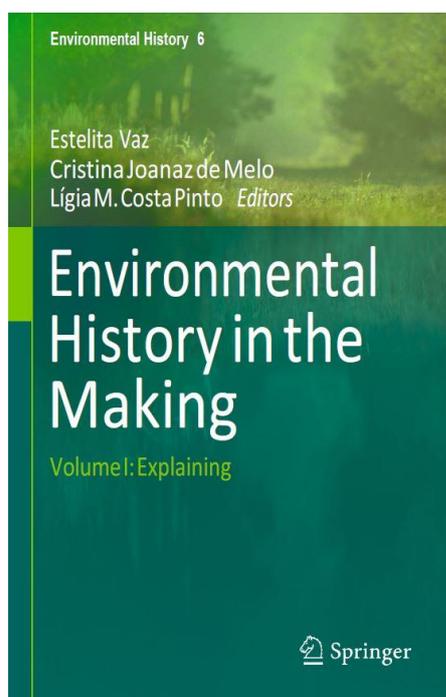
**Secretary:** Bo Poulsen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Culture and Global Studies at Aalborg University in Denmark. Bo also has a long association with ICEHO having been local organizer of the World Congress of Environmental History in Copenhagen/Malmö in 2009. Bo is a widely published and highly regarded environmental historian with special interest in marine and maritime studies. His research includes social and economic history and he enjoys novel methodologies and interdisciplinary studies. His latest book is *Global Marine Science and Carlsberg: The Golden Connections of Johannes Schmidt, 1877-1933* (Leiden, 2016)



The new secretary replaces the indefatigable Dolly Jørgensen, President of the ESEH who, after a wonderful job as ICEHO's founding Secretary was obliged to step down last year owing to pressure of work. In her stead, Dagomar Degroot has been temporarily in the secretarial seat and we thank him sincerely for his efforts and his assistance in this interim period.

**Jane Carruthers**  
ICEHO Election Officer  
j.carruthers@mweb.co.za

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to the Editors, **Estelita Vaz, Cristina Joanaz de Melo and Lígia M. Costa Pinto** on this wonderful publication of so many of the papers from our last Congress. Thanks to all the contributors, and to **Mauro Agnoletti**, who steered the publication through Springer.

## Other New Publications



## Environment and History

Volume 23(1) 2017



[Imagined Forests: The History of the Scientific Management of Ghana's High Forest Zone](#), Christian Pilegaard Hansen and Jens Friis Lund

[Engineering Edens on This Reversed Earth? A Review Article on Water Management and Hydro-Resilience in the British Empire, 1860-1940s](#), James Beattie and Ruth Morgan

[Charting the Elbow: Water Science and State Hydrography in the Po Watershed, 1873-1917](#), Giacomo Parnisello

[The Slink as a Source: Safeguarding the Raw Water Source of Gothenburg, Sweden, 1860-1980](#), Klas Rönnebeck

[A Sudden Fancy for Tree-Planting? Forest Conservation and the Demise of New Zealand's Provinces](#), André Brett



## Environment & Society Portal

Welcome to the Portal

The Environment & Society Portal is a gateway to open access resources on the human-environment relationship. Its content reflects research themes of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, its fellows, and partners. It addresses the community of teachers and researchers, as well as the interested public. Click here to learn more.

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Arcadia: Environmental Histories  
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Multimedia Library  
An archive of curiosity-inspiring images, podcasts, films, and scholarly articles.

RCC Perspectives  
Online journal of the Rachel Carson Center



Seeing the Woods  
A BLOG BY THE RACHEL CARSON CENTER

<https://seeingthewoods.org/>



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environmental HISTORY

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Articles  
Gallery  
Book Reviews  
New Scholarship  
Cover/Standing Material

### Articles

Forgotten Paths of Empire: Ecology, Disease, and Commerce in the Making of Liberia's Plantation Economy: President's Address

Gregg Mitman

Abstract View article

"A Catastrophe Happening in Front of Our Very Eyes": The Environmental History of a Comet Crash on Jupiter

Dagomar Degroot

Abstract View article

"A Fighter Pilot's Heaven": Finding Cold War Utility in the North African Desert

Gretchen Heafner

Abstract View article

Engaging and Narrating the Antarctic Ice Sheet: The History of an Earthly Body

Alexandria Antonello

Abstract View article

The Torrey Canyon Disaster, Everyday Life, and the "Greening" of Britain

Timothy Cooper, Anna Green



### New Publication: *Environmental History In The Making*



The 2014 World Congress of Environmental History now has a lasting scholarly legacy. This series draws on presentations at WCEH 2014, and serves as a link for ongoing scholarship on the historical interrelationships between humanity and the natural world, with special attention to the modern age. It brings together different areas of expertise in both the natural and the social sciences to help them find a common language and a common perspective. This links between human activities and flora, fauna, water, soil, are examples of the most debated topics in environmental history, and they are covered in this series.

Check out our website:

<http://www.iceho.org>

There is always something new happening here!

In Brief:



La Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental es la red que desde 2004 reúne a quienes estudian la historia de las relaciones entre las sociedades latinoamericanas y su medio ambiente.

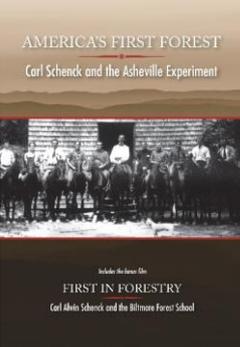
Solcha's next symposium, in 2018, will be hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica at its Liberia campus (Guanacaste province) Dates will be announced soon.



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see latest **CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS** here:

<http://www.climatehistory.net/news2/2016/10/6/chn-fall-newsletter-published>



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Georgetown University's Mellon-Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Environmental Humanities

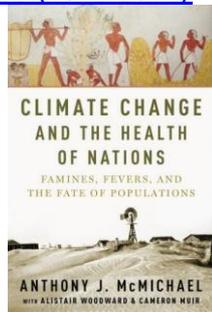
October 07, 2016



Georgetown University is looking for a one-year Mellon-Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Environmental Humanities on the subject "Approaching the Anthropocene: Global Culture and Planetary Change." Applicants should be working in the Environmental Humanities, broadly conceived, but could come from any humanities discipline, such as Anthropology, Archaeology, Cultural Geography, History, Library and Cultural Studies, Philosophy, or Religious Studies. The annual salary is \$50,000. Applicants must have their degree in hand by July 1, 2017 and must submit a cover letter summarizing their dissertation work, as well as a CV, a 20-page writing sample, and contact information for three academic references. The application is due February 1, 2017. [Click here](#) for more information.

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/TONY\\_MCMICHAEL\\_\(1942-2014\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_McMichael_(1942-2014))

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE HEALTH OF NATIONS**  
**TONY MCMICHAEL**  
with Alistair Woodward and Cameron Muir



Launch 7 February 2017, Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University – details

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/launch-of-tony-mcmichaels-last-book-tickets-28825671359>

**The International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations** is a 'network of networks' for environmental history in universities, museums, publishers and other institutions.

We sponsor International Congresses every 5 years. Between Congresses, we work actively to promote environmental history in all its forms: as scholarship and research, informing public policy and

education, and in promoting collaboration between environmental historians around the world. We are keen to publicise your conferences and events on our WEBSITE:

<http://www.iceho.org/>

Make sure your organization is part of the ICEHO Family...

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Information online:

<http://www.iceho.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ICEHO-Membership-Application.pdf>

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