

Histories of Development and Environment

Research Seminar, Second Term, 2021/22

Thursdays, 15.10 to 17.00

Sala degli Stemma, Villa Salviati

Professor Corinna Unger

Outline

The history of development is, by now, a well-established field of research. In recent years, historians in the field of international, colonial, and global history have studied development thinking, development practices, and development conflicts across the globe. What is missing from most of those histories is the environment. Given the massive effects many of the twentieth-century development projects – from irrigation to industrialization, from land reform to transport infrastructures – have had on the natural environment, and the dependence of economic growth on the existence of natural resources, this is a conceptual and historiographical problem. Hence, the time seems ripe to incorporate the environmental angle more fully into the investigation of the history of development. This is what the research seminar aims to do. It provides participants with an overview of the state of the art in the history of development and in environmental history, and it looks at new approaches that try to bridge the gap between the two fields.

The session foreseen for January 27 will take place on January 26, 15.10 to 17.00.

PART 1: HISTORIOGRAPHICAL INTRODUCTION

January 13: History of development

Corinna R. Unger, Iris Borowy, and Corinne A. Pernet, “The History of Development: A Critical Overview,” in idem, eds., *Routledge Handbook on the History of Development* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022), in press.

Barbara Weinstein, “Developing Inequality,” *American Historical Review* 113.1 (2008): 1-18.

January 20: Environmental history

Melanie Arndt, “Environmental History,” *Docupedia Zeitgeschichte* (August 23, 2016), DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14765/zzf.dok.2.700.v3>

Joachim Radkau, *Nature and Power: A Global History of the Environment* (Washington, DC: German Historical Institute Washington, DC; Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008 (2002)), chapter 1.

Thomas Robertson, "Cold War Landscapes: Towards an Environmental History of US Development Programmes in the 1950s and 1960s," *Cold War History* 16.4 (2016): 417-441.

PART 2: DEVELOPING THE ENVIRONMENT?

January 26: Developmental interventions into nature

Marco Armiero and Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, "Green Rhetoric in Blackshirts: Italian Fascism and the Environment," *Environment and History* 19 (2013): 283-311.

Paul Josephson, "Introduction: The Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature, and the East European Experience," in Doubravka Olšáková, ed., *In the Name of the Great Work: Stalin's Plan for the Transformation of Nature and Its Impact in Eastern Europe* (New York: Berghahn, 2016), 1-41.

Nick Cullather, "Damming Afghanistan: Modernization in a Buffer State," *The Journal of American History* 89.2 (2002): 512-537.

February 3: Environmental side effects: Subjects and critics of development projects

J. Christopher Brown, "Placing Local Environmental Protest within Global Environmental Networks: Colonist Farms and Sustainable Development in the Brazilian Amazon," in Christof Mauch, Nathan Stoltzfus, and Douglas R. Weiner, eds., *Shades of Green: Environmental Activism around the Globe* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), 197-218.

Julia Obertreis, "Soviet Irrigation Policies under Fire: Ecological Critique in Central Asia, 1970s-1991," in Nicholas B. Breyfogle, ed., *Eurasian Environments: Nature and Ecology in Imperial Russian and Soviet History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018), 113-129.

Shubhra Gururani, "Regimes of Control, Strategies of Access: Politics of Forest Use in the Uttarakhand Himalaya, India," in Arun Agrawal and K. Sivaramakrishnan, eds., *Agrarian Environments: Resources, Representation, and Rule in India* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000), 170-190.

Part 3: NATURAL 'RESOURCES' FOR DEVELOPMENT

February 10: Forests and forestry

David Moon, "Planting Trees in Unsuitable Places: Steppe Forestry in the Russian Empire, 1696-1850," in Nicholas B. Breyfogle, ed., *Eurasian Environments: Nature and Ecology in Imperial Russian and Soviet History* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2018), 23-42.

K. Sivaramakrishnan, "Scientific Forestry and Genealogies of Development in Bengal," in Paul Greenough and Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, eds., *Nature in the Global South: Environmental Projects in South and Southeast Asia* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), 253-277.

Teresa Cribelli, "'These Industrial Forests': Economic Nationalism and the Search for Agro-Industrial Commodities in Nineteenth-Century Brazil," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 45.3 (2013): 545-579.

February 17: Water, rivers, and dams

David Blackbourn, *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2006), chapter 3.

Martin Kalb, "Water, Sand, Molluscs: Imperial Infrastructures, the Age of Hydrology, and German Colonialism in Swakopmund, Southwest Africa, 1884-1915," *Environment and History* 26 (2020): 175-206.

Benjamin Cohen, "Modernising the Urban Environment: The Musi River Flood of 1908 in Hyderabad, India," *Environment and History* 17 (2011): 409-432.

February 24: Food, irrigation, and fertilizer

Maya Peterson, "US to USSR: American Experts, Irrigation, and Cotton in Soviet Central Asia, 1929-1932," *Environmental History* 21 (2016): 442-466.

Céline Pessis, "The tractor as a tool of development? The mythologies and legacies of mechanised tropical agriculture in French Africa, 1944-56," in Joseph M. Hodge, Gerald Hödl, and Martina Knopf, eds., *Developing Africa: Concepts and Practices in Twentieth-Century Colonialism* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014), 179-203.

Madhumita Saha, "Food for Soil, Food for People: Research on Food Crops, Fertilizers, and the Making of 'Modern' Indian Agriculture," *Technology and Culture* 54.2 (2013): 289-316.

March 3: The population-health-environment nexus

Robert Peckham, "Hygienic Nature: Afforestation and the Greening of Colonial Hong Kong," *Modern Asian Studies* 49.4 (2015): 1177-1209.

Monica M. van Beusekom, "From Underpopulation to Overpopulation: French Perceptions of Population, Environment, and Agricultural Development in French Soudan (Mali), 1900-1960," *Environmental History* 4.2 (1999): 198-219.

Chad H. Parker, "Controlling Man-Made Malaria: Corporate Modernization and Arabian American Oil Company's Malaria Control Program in Saudi Arabia, 1947-1956," *Cold War History* 12.3 (2012): 473-494.

March 10: Animals and minerals

Jim Clifford, "London's Soap Industry and the Development of Global Ghost Acres in the Nineteenth Century," *Environment and History* 27.3 (2021): 471-497.

Miles A. Powell, "People in Peril, Environments at Risk: Coolies, Tigers, and Colonial Singapore's Ecology of Poverty," *Environment and History* 22 (2016): 455-482.

Gavin Bridge and Tomas Frederiksen, "'Order out of Chaos': Resources, Hazards, and the Production of a Tin-Mining Economy in Northern Nigeria in the Early Twentieth Century," *Environment and History* 18.3 (2012): 367-394.

March 17: Conservation for development?

William Beinart, "Soil Erosion, Conservationism and Ideas about Development: A Southern African Exploration, 1900-1960," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 11.1 (1984): 52-83.

Gregory T. Cushman, "'The most valuable birds in the world': International Conservation Science and the Revival of Peru's Guano Industry, 1909-1965," *Environmental History* 10.3 (2005): 477-509.

Jamie Lorimer and Clemens Driessen, "From 'Nazi Cows' to Cosmopolitan 'Ecological Engineers': Specifying Rewilding through a History of Heck Cattle," *Annals of the American Association of Geographers* 106.3 (2016): 631-652.

March 17 Final discussion

