



aseh news

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Environmental History Week 2023 **April 16-23**

Environmental History Week is NEXT WEEK!

There are dozens of events planned for next week taking place across the world - in person and online. Check out all of the events on the [calendar](#). See what is taking place [near you](#) and in your [area of interest](#).

There is still time to publicize your events or Earth Day events in your area. Submit your event to add it to calendar.

We look forward to seeing you at in person and virtual EH Week events!

[SUBMIT YOUR EVENT!](#)

VIEW THE EH WEEK CALENDAR

Save big on new releases in Environmental History from UNC Press. Use promo code 01UNCP30 and get 30 % discount, and free shipping for orders of \$75. Visit www.uncpress.org

Featured Environmental History Week events

[Coast in Crisis Speaker Series: Craig Colten Lecture, "State of Disaster: Does Coastal Restoration Neglect People?"](#), April 18, 4:00PM US Central Time (Lafayette, LA)

[Climate Change goes pop. A roundtable discussion around and beyond the 2021 movie Don't Look Up by Adam McKay](#). April 21, 9:00AM US Central Time (Virtual)



ASEH Annual Conference 2023 Boston, Massachusetts

Thank you for joining us in Boston March 22-26, 2023. Thank you to the local arrangements committee and the program committee for all of your work to make it happen. And thank you to our sponsors Penn State University Department of History, Boston University Department of History, Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences at Boston College, Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society, Leventhal Map & Education Center, and UMass Boston School for the Environment.

It was great to see so many familiar and new faces excited about environmental history. The field trips were fantastic, as was the plenary session at BPL and the Friday night discussion of Requiem for Rice. Thank you all of attending and making ASEH 2023 great!

Scenes from Boston



Walden Pond field trip



Boston Harbor boat tour



Deer Island

Environmental History

The April issue will arrive soon!

Members can access [*Environmental History*](#) online.



The April issue (Volume 28, Number 2) of *Environmental History* is available online and on the way to members from the [University of Chicago Press](#).

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

For my final presidential column, I would like to share my sense of where ASEH is now, and what we have achieved the past couple of years. I say "we," because everything I'm about to describe required teamwork.

First, ASEH weathered the pandemic without much loss of membership or momentum. This I attribute to the urgency of our field in this moment, but also to David Spatz's savvy, and to the many creative, online activities that ASEH members around the world undertook to bring our community together despite cancelled conferences, lock-downs, and travel bans.

[Environmental History Week](#) (EHW) is just one of these activities. Ed Russell suggested we create a Day of EH when we cancelled our 2021 conference. The 2021 EHW steering committee and I organized a vibrant, free-form "happening" with events around the world – largely by simply asking people to organize *something* in April, and post it to the ASEH website. The results exceeded our wildest dreams; I was especially thrilled at the opportunities that video conferencing offers for international collaboration and conversation. David Spatz leveraged this success into a grant from the American Historical Association and National Endowment for the Humanities to transform EHW into a public history event. The infrastructure he is building this year will help ASEH and our international partners publicize and celebrate the work of the public historians amongst us this year and into the future.

Second, ASEH is in pretty good financial shape because of David Spatz's careful management, the revenue that we receive from the journal, and also your generosity in donating registration fees when we cancelled the Ottawa conference and in endowing the Rachel Carson Prize. But keeping ASEH in good shape has required us to keep our projects small, and our travel grants and fellowships modest. This is why Nancy Jacobs proposed the ambitious [Together with ASEH](#) fundraising campaign. Your donations will expand our fellowships and travel grant programs, provide more dependent-support at our conferences, and endow the rest of our major prizes.

Third, I am thrilled to announce that ASEH and the Forest History Society have reached agreement on a new memorandum of understanding to govern our journal partnership going forward. It's a good agreement, that will serve both ASEH and FHS very well. I am grateful to Ed Russell, Ellen Stroud, Paul Sutter, and Matthew Booker for their help. I also want to thank two chairs of the Forest History Society Board of Directors, Bob Izlar and Lynn Wilson, who have been thoughtful and thorough negotiators. The ASEH Executive Council and the FHS Board of Directors vote on this agreement in a few weeks.

Fourth, we held two terrific conferences for which I can take no credit at all

Fourth, we held two terrific conferences for which I can take no credit at all.

Both the Eugene and Boston meetings were welcoming and intellectually stimulating. And it was such a joy to meet in person again. I am keenly aware that not everyone can attend conferences, so over the next year or so, we will be asking for your help to figure out if there is a way to combine some of the accessibility and flexibility of online conferencing with in-person meetings, without taking on more administrative work or cost than we can afford.

As I said at the start of this column, all of these accomplishments were team efforts. I am proud of what we have done over the last two years, and grateful for the chance to help ASEH grow and thrive in spite of the pandemic. If you value ASEH too, please contribute by [nominating yourself for an ASEH committee](#), by donating time or money to Together with ASEH, and by finding events in your community to post on the Environmental History Week calendar either this year or next. Thank you!

Sarah Elkind
ASEH President



Our [Together with ASEH](#) campaign will support research fellowships and conference travel grants for students and underfunded and underrepresented scholars, prizes and awards, and dependent care during our conferences. **Together with ASEH** will make the organization more inclusive and will support innovative research.

We greatly appreciate your generous support.

Donate to ASEH

Renew your ASEH Membership

Want to get involved in shaping the future of ASEH? [Nominate yourself for an ASEH committee](#).

We thank AHA and NEH for their support of Environmental History Week

AMERICAN
HISTORICAL
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NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Joel Tarr



Paul Sutter



Jenny Price

ASEH Prize, Award, and Fellowship Winners

At the awards ceremony on Saturday night March 25th in Boston, ASEH announced the winners of its [annual awards, prizes, and fellowships](#).

Congratulations to this year's winners:

The ***Distinguished Scholar Award*** is given every year to an individual who has contributed significantly to environmental history scholarship.

Joel Tarr

The ***Lisa Mighetto Distinguished Service Award*** is given every year to an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of ASEH as an organization.

Paul Sutter

The ***Distinguished Career in Public Environmental History*** is presented every two years to an individual who has promoted environmental history to the public over time.

Jenny Price

George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history:

Winner:

Ruth Rogaski, *Knowing Manchuria: Environments, the Senses, and Natural Knowledge on an Asian Borderland* (University of Chicago)

Finalists:

Abigail Agresta, *The Keys to Bread and Wine: Faith, Nature, and Infrastructure in Late Medieval Valencia* (Cornell)

Andy Bruno, *Tunguska: A Siberian Mystery and Its Environmental Legacy* (Cambridge)

Laura Martin, *Wild by Design: The Rise of Ecological Restoration* (Harvard)

Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation in environmental history:

Scott Doebler, "Arboreal Apogees: Maya, English, And Spanish Ecologies In Lowland Yucatán And Guatemala, 1517-1717" (Penn State University)

Alice Hamilton Prize for best article outside journal *Environmental History*:

Simone Schleper, "Caribou crossings: the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, conservation, and stakeholderism in the Anthropocene"

Leopold-Hidy Award to honor the best article in the journal *Environmental History*:

Emily Brownell, "Reterritorializing the Future: Writing Environmental Histories of the Oil Crisis from Tanzania"

ASEH-FHS Graduate Student Essay Prize

Ethan Barkalow, "Empire Underwater: Seaweed and Technology on a Korean Littoral, 1907-1945"

The EH editors selected three *Environmental History* Fellows who will also participate in the Graduate Essay Prize workshops. These fellows are:

Camden Elliott, "Nursery of Empire: Trees, Time, and Native American Resistance in the Colonial Northeast, 1675-1765"

Chandra Laborde, "Building a Country Women's Commune: Spatializing Ecological Feminism in Northern California during the 1970s"

Hayden Nelson, "'Saw-Mills and Liberty!': Timber Resources, Property, and Removal in Territorial Kansas"

Hal Rothman Dissertation Fellowship

Anjuli Webster for "Fluid empires: histories of environment and sovereignty in nineteenth century southern Africa"

J. Donald Hughes Graduate Research Fellowships

Andrew Craig for "Obnoxious Odors, Dead Vegetation, and Irritated Lungs:

Nuisance Lawsuits and Community Mobilization against Fertilizer Production in the US South 1910-1920”

Weijia (Vicky) Shen for “Plants, Insects, and the Making of the 20th century Asia-Pacific”

Equity Graduate Fellowship

Donal Thomas for “Knowledge Transfer from the Natural World of the Western Ghats: Indigenous Voices and the making of Imperial Metropolitan Institutions, 1770-1905”

Samuel P. Hays Research Fellowship

Diana Alejandra Méndez Rojas for “Mario Payeras And The Ecological Critique Of Civilization”



Scott Doebler



John Wineglass, Edda Fields-Black, Tiya Miles



Sarah Elkind and Nancy Jacobs

ASEH 2023 Election Results

In the election held in February 2023, the membership elected the following candidates:

Vice President/President Elect:

Jay Turner

ASEH Council:

Faisal Husain

Melanie Kiechle

Ramya Swayamprakash

Christopher Wells

ASEH Nominating Committee:

Jennifer Bonnell

Michelle Mart

ASEH thanks for their service outgoing Members of the Council:

Ellen Arnold

Mike Dockry

Catherine McNeur

Marsha Weisiger

Graeme Wynn (Past President)

And outgoing members of the Nominating Committee:

Michael Egan

Ling Zhang

New members' terms began at the conclusion of the ASEH Council Meeting on April 8.



WORLD CONGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

WCEH4 - OULU, FINLAND

AUGUST 19-23, 2024

<https://wceh2024.com/>

Transitions, Transformations and Transdisciplinarity: Histories beyond History

Call for Papers Deadline April 24, 2023

Environmental issues are typically cast in present and future terms – the current climate crisis, or goals for 2030 or 2050. Yet the past is prelude – it informs our current situation and shapes our capacity to imagine future choices. The fourth World Congress in Environmental History will centre history in the global discussion about critical environmental challenges. In choosing *Transitions, Transformations and Transdisciplinarity* as key themes of the conference, the organizers aim to emphasize both the arc of time and the importance of bringing diverse approaches to bear on contemporary problems; the conference will thus illuminate the value of historical understandings that go far beyond the discipline of history. In other words, the organizers understand environmental history to be an evolving practice, one that is created *in conversation* across multiple fields, concerns, and communities. Environmental historians have much to contribute to multiple audiences; but they should wisely seek points of critical connection with other disciplines that value historical evidence and thinking. Similarly, the social sciences and humanities outside of history have much to learn from historically rich understandings of environments. Held in Finland in 2024, WCEH4 will showcase the historical and human dimensions of environmental change, working closely with the Biodiverse Anthropocenes Research Programme, co-funded by the Academy of Finland and the University of Oulu.

World Congresses are spaces for connecting and communicating, they form catchments for ideas. Inspired by the natural diversity at Oulu – an estuarine city of forests and farms on a northern coastline, whose etymology has been linked to the Sami term for melted snow or floodwater – we encourage participants to consider questions of difference and co-existence, and our place in scholarly as well as social landscapes.

WCEH4 will be an exciting, inclusive, and encouraging event. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, we envisage a conference centred on its Nordic venue and promoting a variety of in-person exchanges that will reinvigorate the human dynamic outside the digital. In reflection of the global mandate of the International Association of Environmental History Organizations (IAEHIO) we

INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY ORGANIZATIONS (ICEHO), we will also develop innovative programming to cultivate involvement from colleagues around the world.

Submission Guidelines

Submission for panels and papers is a two-stage process designed to build a robust conference programme that encourages collaboration and diversity. **The Call for Panels is now open and will close at 23:59 EET (Finnish time) on 24 April 2023.**

Full details and guidelines for submission are available at <https://wceh2024.com>

We'll See You in Denver for ASEH 2024

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