

# ICEHO Bulletin 12



International Consortium of  
Environmental History  
Organizations

May 2017

## From the President



### ASEH 2017 Chicago – a few observations

The fortieth anniversary conference for the American Society for Environmental History in Chicago in March was remarkable for several reasons. The program was very strong as usual. The book exhibit took me a full 120 minutes of concentrated browsing to list all the books I would want to order (without chatting to publishers), but in a new development ASEH members discussed, for the first time, in a forum open to all members, the challenges to the free flow of people and ideas that our American colleagues are facing these days. The colleagues expressed concern that they need to advise their international students not to leave the country, in case they might be denied re-entry. Such worries echo earlier times when European scholars working across the Iron Curtain faced similar problems with keeping their international ties alive. It is sad to see how history, if it does not repeat itself, rhymes a lot (as Mark Twain put it). Of course, ASEH cannot take up a formal position on such questions, but the many good ideas that

were circulating will support individuals who have to take decisions in an increasingly difficult space. Several colleagues remarked on the increasing importance for US scholars to attend international conferences abroad to enable them the free exchanges they might find difficult at home. This is where the international community of ICEHO is called to action.



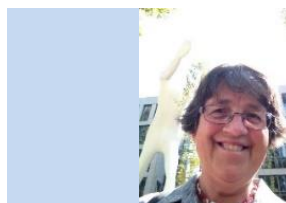
The conference ended on a lighter note with a plenary discussion with Bill Cronon about his magisterial environmental history of Chicago, *Nature's Metropolis*. The 40<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with a cake for ASEH and champagne to toast its future success.

It was a joy to see so many aspiring young scholars giving great papers, and to meet old friends again. From ICEHO, we would like to congratulate Graeme Wynn, the incoming President, who takes up the baton from Kathy Brosnan. Congratulations too, to Ed Russell who has been appointed President-elect.

Verena Winiwarter, President ICEHO



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN 1 July 2017



**Bulletin Editor Libby**

**Robin** is based at the Australian National University, Canberra. She welcomes contributions!

[libby.robin@anu.edu.au](mailto:libby.robin@anu.edu.au)



**The third World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH2019) will run from 23<sup>rd</sup>—26<sup>th</sup> July 2019**



International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations

#### Collaboration for WCEH2019

*To the representatives of ICEHO member organizations (or working groups, etc.) from the president's desk:*

Dear colleagues,

We would like to encourage our partner societies or working groups of such societies to consider whether you would like to hold your regular meeting at the same time as the World Congress – at Florianópolis.

If you decide to do this we would like to take this into account in the program, so we can provide space for business meetings or other meetings the respective societies might need. Such program issues may determine how many papers can be accepted for the conference and may have

implications for 'threads' in the program and also for the sponsorship of plenaries and more. At this point, I invite feedback on the following three questions:

- (1) Does your organization plan to hold a meeting/conference in 2019 independent of WCEH and if so, when is it scheduled? If there is a potential conflict, may we ask you to consider selecting a date for the conference that might be less competitive?
- (2) Does your organization wish to merge their meeting with WCEH and if so, what conditions need to be met by WCEH to enable this? Note that all papers submitted to the conference will be selected by the program committee, but there might be issues of expertise on the committee, threads or necessity of meeting time for executive boards or General Assemblies.
- (3) Will your organization sponsor sessions or people to come to WCEH? If so, please inform us about your plans.

Please send your responses on these questions to [Verena.Winiwarter@aau.at](mailto:Verena.Winiwarter@aau.at).

Verena Winiwarter  
President, ICEHO

### Special report from the Chicago ASEH Conference

From Georgetown University Environmental History/ICEHO officers

Dagomar Degroot, assistant professor of environmental history, Georgetown University, and ICEHO secretary:

I first visited Chicago as a PhD student, while driving to the 2012 ASEH conference in nearby Madison, Wisconsin. Five years later, I returned as a Georgetown University assistant professor for this year's ASEH conference. How quickly life can change! Scholarship, too. This year, I was fortunate to be part of two panels that advanced the frontier of environmental history in ways that, arguably, would have been hard to imagine in 2012. The first panel combined the insights of anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians all struggling to understand the environmental history of the North Atlantic, particularly its Arctic marine ecosystems. Papers drew on everything from oral traditions to protein sequencing to trace the coevolution of natural and human histories. The discussion that followed touched on topics that ranged from the steady disappearance of coastal "natural

archives” in the far north to best practices in multidisciplinary collaboration. The second panel was all about the environmental history of outer space, an area of scholarship that has only recently gained momentum and acceptance in our field. Our papers explored the environmental history of Mars, the consequences of falling orbital debris, and the anthropology of exoplanets. Questions prompted us to think deeply about historical analogies between Earth and other worlds; the place of the Anthropocene in our research; and changing paradigms in science. It was telling that nobody questioned whether environments beyond Earth even belong in environmental history. Something new, it seems, is orbiting the Sun.

**Robynne Mellor, PhD candidate in environmental history, Georgetown University, and ICEHO social media co-editor:**

This year’s ASEH was an exciting opportunity for me to engage with scholars interested in the same themes, ideas, and topics as I am. I especially enjoyed all the ways in which the panel participants discussed the history of resource extraction and its effects on the environment and surrounding populations. The panellists addressed the impacts on the environment associated with mines from Ontario and Minnesota to Murmansk, and there is growing interest in creating a network of environmental historians of resource extraction, something about which I am particularly excited. I was also able to participate in conversations about Canadian, U.S., and Soviet environmental history, all areas in which I am interested, and broaden my horizons as part of lively discussions on “new materialism” and what it means for environmental history, from the understanding of carcinogens to dinosaur fossils. Finally, hearing Bill Cronon’s retrospective on *Nature’s Metropolis* while eating Chicago mix popcorn in Chicago was a great way to end the weekend.

**Jackson Perry, PhD candidate in environmental history, Georgetown University, and ICEHO social media co-editor:**

Attending ASEH this year encouraged me to think a lot about questions, answers, and stories, as I move from comprehensive exams to dissertation research this spring. Looking back at coursework and exams, the imperative to reach a conclusion about a debate in historiography or to advance a particular interpretation of history based on original research was strong. The time between question and answer was sometimes as short as a few seconds. The most engaging panels at ASEH meanwhile emphasized questions more than answers. They inspired curiosity and open-ended discussion of, say, the relationship between colonial and post-colonial development policy, or of linear and cyclical aspects of Mediterranean environmental history. What sticks in my mind from the weekend’s

papers were the stories they offered, of a sick cattle herd downwind of a nuclear testing range in New Mexico, or of the dreams of white South Africans about diverting rivers into the Kalahari Desert for agricultural expansion in the early twentieth century. Beyond individual topical insights, the major refrains of my experience at ASEH 2017 were the value of unanswered questions and hypotheses in our research and our collaborative work, and the power of storytelling as a medium of scholarly communication.

Pictured below: *Georgetown University ASEH Team*  
Front left: Jackson Perry. Back center-right: Robynne Mellor. Front right: Dagomar Degroot.



## Women in Environmental History (WEHN)

From Julie Cohn

WEHN links women in environmental history across the globe so that we can share insights and inquiries that further our professional experiences.

To join contact Julie Cohn [cohnconnor@gmail.com](mailto:cohnconnor@gmail.com)

**Recent activities:** We submitted “**Report on Gender and the American Society for Environmental History**,” to the ASEH Executive Committee in February, and it was formally received at the ASEH annual meeting in March **We had a party!!!** The second WEHN reception, held on March 30<sup>th</sup> at the ASEH annual meeting in Chicago, was a big success, with about 100 environmental history scholars in attendance. A feature of the meeting was topic theme signs around the room to help those with common interests to find each other. The room was abuzz with conversation and excitement and we hope to be able to host another similar event next year.

**Big Announcement!!!** An anonymous donor has generously offered to match, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000, all contributions made to support WEHN during 2017. Our modest funds to pay for our networking receptions and for our membership in ICEHO. Please help us meet this challenge by making a contribution to WEHN. Contact Lisa Mighetto to use a credit card, or

mail a check made out to ASEH, with "For WEHN" in the memo line to: Lisa Mighetto, ASEH UW Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, 1900 Commerce Street Tacoma, WA 98406 USA

**WEHN will meet at ESEH in Zagreb – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.**

**Workshop at 2018 ASEH Annual Meeting** – WEHN is planning a workshop about women in environmental history – tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018. This is a very broad topic that encompasses both scholarly work and professional endeavours, so we hope it will have wide appeal to conference-goers.

**ICEHO ELECTIONS 2017: TREASURER AND SECRETARY**

In the last Bulletin, as Election Officer, I announced that two candidates – Steven Anderson and Bo Poulsen – had been nominated for Treasurer and Secretary of ICEHO for the four-year period 2017 to 2021. Further nominations were invited with a deadline date of 28 February 2017. None were received and those who regularly visit the ICEHO website will have noted that a General Assembly will be convened in Zagreb (at the ESEH conference), which, as well as handling other business (see below), will formally confirm the election of these two candidates for the positions. Steven Anderson has been the Treasurer of ICEHO since its inception, and Bo Poulsen will replace founding Secretary Dolly Jørgensen and interim-secretary Dagomar Degroot. As they vacate their posts, we thank both Dolly and Dagomar for their efficient and friendly filling of the secretarial position.

**We would like as many member organisations as possible to attend the ICEHO General Assembly so please diarise the following and attend if you can.**

- **Date: 28 June 2017**
- **Time: 11:00 to 12:30**
- **Venue: to be advised**

**Agenda:**

1. Ratification of the minutes of the previous General Assembly Meeting (2016)
2. Report on current status of 2019 congress (program committee).

3. Report on open Board Meeting in Chicago at ASEH 31 March 2017: matters arising.
4. General

If there are other items for discussion, please advise the current interim secretary, Dagomar Degroot [Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu](mailto:Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu)

**Jane Carruthers**

**Past President. Election Officer 2017**

**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.

**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 2009. Bo is a widely published and highly regarded environmental historian with special interest in marine and maritime studies. Bo's latest book is *Global Marine Science and Carlsberg* (Leiden, 2016)



**Congratulations!**

To **Christof Mauch** and **Carolyn Merchant** on their respective awards at the recent ASEH Conference.

Carolyn received the Distinguished Service Award, and Christof, the Public Outreach Career Award.



**Christof Mauch (left) and Carolyn Merchant**

Thanks to Kathy Brosnan who provided the picture and short speech she made for each of them:

#### **Distinguished Service Award**

Carolyn Merchant has received many academic honors, including ASEH's *Distinguished Scholar* award in 2010. But her award tonight recognizes service to ASEH specifically. Carolyn Merchant is only the second person to receive both the Distinguished Scholar and Distinguished Service awards from ASEH.

Carolyn joined ASEH in 1980, and was involved in our first ASEH conference at UC Irvine. Since then, she has contributed to ASEH operations not only by serving as president from 2001 to 2003, but also by serving on the Executive Committee for many years. She served as associate editor of *Environmental Review* from 1984 to 1989, and on the editorial advisory board of *Environmental History* from 1990 to 2010. She has contributed her expertise and insight to everything from journal editor searches to fund raising and prize committees. She was instrumental in reorganizing the structure of ASEH by helping set up the office of executive director, a change that has made the organization stronger, more effective, and more efficient. She also established and raised critical funding for the ASEH travel grants, including the Ellen Swallow Richards travel grant, and others intended to increase diversity and inclusion at our annual conferences. More recently, she brought her considerable energy, creativity, and contacts to bear while co-chairing the local arrangements committee for the 2014 ASEH conference in San Francisco, for which she helped raise a record \$60,000. *It is difficult to imagine where ASEH would be were it not for Carolyn.*

**Public Outreach Career Award from the American Society for Environmental History**

Christof Mauch has greatly enriched the international engagement of our field, promoted a more global awareness of the role of the humanities, and served the membership of the environmental history community in numerous and vital ways.

As director of the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Christof has provided funding for ASEH plenary speakers and sessions at recent conferences. Moreover, our members have profited enormously from the rise of the RCC as an inspiring place for scholarly work and as a place for making connections with historians from all over the world. Nearly 50 professors and post-doctoral students from the US and Canada have been awarded residential fellowships at the RCC. Their work as RCC fellows has greatly enriched our conferences, our scholarship, and in the broadest sense, our historical imaginations.

Moreover, the RCC's many partnerships and digital projects have strengthened the role of the humanities in current political and scientific debates.

Professor Mauch is a visionary leader in promoting international, transnational, and comparative environmental history. Without his energy and vision the ASEH's recent growth in international awareness and outreach would be greatly diminished. Please join me in thanking and celebrating Christof Mauch.



Congratulations to the Editors, **Estelita Vaz, Cristina Joanaz de Melo and Lúcia M. Costa Pinto** on this wonderful publication of so many of the papers from our last Congress.

## **Other News**



### **News from the White Horse Press**

The White Horse Press will be publishing a Virtual Special Issue entitled *Natures In Between* to coincide with the 2017 ESEH conference in Zagreb. Comprising papers selected to reflect the conference theme, with an introduction by Karen Jones and commentaries by Marco Armiero

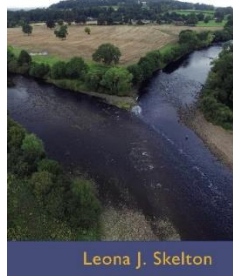
(Conference Programme Committee Chair) and Dolly Jorgensen, this electronic edition will be available free to access for three months from late May. Further details will be posted on our website - [www.whpress.co.uk](http://www.whpress.co.uk) and Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/thewhitehorsepress-> soon.

We have recently started publishing a blog - <https://whitehorsepress.blog/> - where authors and editors of our publications ruminate informally on aspects of their research. We welcome pitches for blog items. Recent subjects have ranged from the River Tyne to the Aral Sea, from philosophising environmental policy to doing environmental history.

Lastly, we have just published a major new monograph, Leona Skelton's *Tyne After Tyne: An Environmental History of a River's Battle for Protection 1529–2015*. Further details may be found here: <http://www.whpress.co.uk/Books/Skelton.html>

### Tyne after Tyne

An Environmental History of a River's Battle for Protection, 1529–2015



Sarah Johnson  
Publisher



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)

<https://solcha.uniandes.edu.co/index/index.php/simposios/simposios-solcha>.

see latest **CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS** here:  
<http://www.climatehistory.net/news2/2016/10/6/chn-fall-newsletter-published>

## Supporting Diversity across ICEHO: Florianópolis WCEH2019

On the occasion of ASEH's yearly conference at the Drake Hotel on the shores of Lake Michigan in

Chicago, several ICEHO member representatives met to discuss the prospects for the Third World Congress in Florianópolis to be held **JULY 23--26 2019**.

Please join the discussion. You do not need to be a representative of an organization to be part of this conversation, indeed, **we need all the members of our member organizations, and indeed, anyone interested in the broad field of environmental history, to participate.**

It has always been difficult for **scholars from economically disadvantaged backgrounds**, to attend and participate in conferences

**ICEHO strives to be inclusive and to represent the world community of environmental historians (broadly speaking), so as an organization, we want to do as much as we can to help scholars, for whom it is difficult to attend for economic reasons, and make it possible to hear their voices in Florianópolis.**

We will table a motion at the Zagreb General Assembly during the ESEH conference (see ICEHO website for details) to use a substantial portion of our funds for bursaries, *but this will only be a small sum of money compared to what we would like to achieve.*

Therefore, we seek alternative ways of funding and this is where you become so important: As one of the fundraisers, I shall work with the local organizers in Zagreb and with Lisa Mighetto at the ASEH 2018 conference in Riverside, CA, to set up silent auctions for an 'ICEHO bursary fund'.

What, then, is a **silent auction** and how can you participate?

- (1) We need items to auction off, items that can be transported on airplanes and will have some value for your colleagues, to encourage them to participate. Signed copies of your books, environmental material from your earlier days with nostalgic value (e.g. I still have a bag from the St. Andrews Conference), or any other stuff you think will work. For those of you who have met me in person it will come as no surprise that I will try to make and donate as many presidentially-knitted socks as possible, hoping that they become collectors' items bringing in a lot of cash.

Our publishers can of course, donate books, too 😊.

- (2) We want you to participate in the auction by bidding for one thing, or two or three ... or more. Bidding will be done by incremental amounts, and “silent”, that is, during the entire conference, as you walk by the auction stand, you record a bid. There will be a short final action where everyone who participated is asked to come and see if they “made it” and pick up their new belongings and pay off their bids. We will try to make this a fun occasion and a time to meet old and make new friends.
- (3) We need volunteers at the stands during the conference and we will eventually put a list up where you can sign up.



If you organize a conference or workshop where you can set up a silent auction or other fundraiser between now and the beginning of 2019, please do so and let us know so we can feature you in the Bulletin. We will update you regularly on progress about the conference bursary funds.

Please help to make World Conference III in Florianopolis as inclusive as possible!

Verena



Check out our website:

<http://www.iceho.org>

There is always something new happening here!

Make sure your organization is part of the

ICEHO Family...

From as little as \$US100/year

Information online:

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

Contact Valerie Bass:

[Valerie.Bass@foresthistor.org](mailto:Valerie.Bass@foresthistor.org)

#### Contacts for ICEHO Executive Board

President: *Verena Winiwarter*

[Verena.Winiwarter@aau.at](mailto:Verena.Winiwarter@aau.at)

Vice-President: *Claudia Leal*

[claleal@uniandes.edu.co](mailto:claleal@uniandes.edu.co)

Secretary: *Dagomar Degroot*

[Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu](mailto:Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu)

Treasurer: *Steven Anderson*

[steven.anderson@foresthistor.org](mailto:steven.anderson@foresthistor.org)

Past President/Bulletin Editor: *Libby Robin*

[libby.robin@anu.edu.au](mailto:libby.robin@anu.edu.au)

#### Board Members

*Alan MacEachern* [amaceach@uwo.ca](mailto:amaceach@uwo.ca)

*Claudia Leal* [claleal@uniandes.edu.co](mailto:claleal@uniandes.edu.co)

*Daisy Onyige* [chioma2nv76@gmail.com](mailto:chioma2nv76@gmail.com)

*James Beattie* [jbeattie@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:jbeattie@waikato.ac.nz)

*Mucha Musemwa*

[muchamusemwa@wits.ac.za](mailto:mucha.musemwa@wits.ac.za)

*Shen Hou* [houshen@ruc.edu.cn](mailto:houshen@ruc.edu.cn)

*Sidd Krishnan*

[siddhartha.krishnan@atree.org](mailto:siddhartha.krishnan@atree.org)