

[External] ASEH News Fall 2023

American Society for Environmental History <admin@aseh.org>

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aseh news

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ASEH Annual Conference 2024

Denver, Colorado

April 3-7, 2024

ASEH's annual conference is about six months away. The conference will feature over 100 roundtables or panels, a plenary session, and field trips on Friday afternoon and Sunday. We are planning receptions, breakfasts, early career and student events, and the ceremony for ASEH awards.

The program committee is completing its review of submissions. Those of you who submitted papers and panels will receive notifications in the next couple of weeks.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all in Colorado in the Spring.



ASEH 2025 is going to be in Pittsburgh!

The 2025 ASEH Annual Conference will take place April 9-13, 2025 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Downtown Pittsburgh

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

ASEH Connects

ASEH members agree: the spring meetings are wonderful. Still, in-person meetings don't serve all our needs. They last only a few days. Some colleagues can't travel. Getting there can be expensive and the carbon footprint adds to concerns. If travel is too costly, members miss out. The pandemic also taught us that sometimes we'll be forced to connect remotely. More engagement with online networking will make us a stronger organization with thicker relationships and better contingency plans.

I'm very pleased to announce **ASEH Connects**, a series of online events in 2023 and 2024 that will showcase research and pedagogy. It will put far-flung environmental historians in touch with each other. It will build on the success of Environmental History Week with the priority of strengthening relationships *within* the ASEH and with members of its sibling organizations. If you haven't attended a conference recently or you're lonesome for ASEH contact during the off-season, ASEH Connects will interest you.

ASEH Connects is led by an *ad hoc* Remote Programming Committee, chaired by Daniel Macfarlane of Western Michigan University. The committee is planning monthly events including research presentations, discussions, and networking. **The first will be ["Introducing ASEH Connects and 'Meet the Pets'"](#) on September 28 at 3:00pm EDT.** It will be an interactive check-in to discuss our aspirations for the ASEH. As an added bonus we will feature furry friends as special guests; bring yours! **Join us at [this link](#).**

We're thinking of ASEH Connects as an experiment that can inform us what sort of online connection will be most useful to the intellectual and social life of the ASEH. A second *ad hoc* committee will monitor the experiment. The Remote Community Committee, led by Liza Piper of the University of Alberta, will ask ASEH Connects organizers and participants for feedback. It will also survey ASEH members about their interests and experience of online programming. The Remote Community Committee will foreground questions of equity by assessing who benefits from which type of events. Finally, it will examine the potential of both in-person and online programming in collaboration with other organizations with the aspiration of serving the intellectual and professional needs of our global community. The Remote Community Committee will submit a report to the Executive Council in the fall of 2024.

If you'd like more information, or if you have ideas about online programming and the ASEH, feel free to contact me at President@aseh.org. Please join in this experiment and let us know how we can better connect you to your colleagues.

Nancy Jacobs
ASEH President

“Introducing ASEH Connects and «Meet the Pets»” Inaugural Event

September 28 at 3:00pm EDT.

Zoom link: <https://brown.zoom.us/j/92167506628>

It will be a virtual gathering to discuss ASEH Connects and allow participants to offer insights on what they would like to see from this initiative. And in keeping with widespread interest in more-than-human history, everyone is encouraged to bring their pets to the meeting!



The [second ASEH Connects event is planned for October 17 at 5:00pm EDT](#). This will be a roundtable focused on Latin American environmental historians doing work in and/or about the United States. For November, a pedagogical roundtable is in the works.

ASEH Connects is a new experimental initiative that seeks to virtually connect environmental historians with each other year-round to discuss research, pedagogy, networking, professional development, etc. Led by the recently-created Remote Programming Committee, *ASEH Connects* is planning a series of monthly online events for 2023-24. Another new committee, the Remote Community Committee, will examine the potential of *ASEH Connects* to fulfill the intellectual and professional needs of the ASEH.

DEI at ASEH

Change, as we know, has a way of happening slowly, then all at once. For years, the ASEH annual meeting was an event I enjoyed going to, but persistently had many of the same old (white and male) faces, discussing many of the same (worn out) topics. But in February 2020, it finally looked like a major shift was afoot. As I read the program for the upcoming conference in Ottawa, Canada it included numerous panels on race, gender and indigeneity. There were new presenters who I had never seen at an ASEH meeting. The local arrangements committee had worked diligently with First Nations communities and scholars to organize an innovative series of “circle sessions” that could be a model for decolonizing environmental history.

After the conference was cancelled, the unique strengths and structure of the 2020 program initially had me feeling that this was a missed opportunity to really put ASEH on a different path. What I soon learned, however, was that the program was the product of very intentional efforts by the program committee. They experimented with new ways of organizing panels and recruiting presenters, adopted the innovative theme of “reparative environmental history,” and made sure it was backed up with plenaries and special sessions. All of this was done with the larger goal of creating a more diverse, inclusive and vibrant annual meeting.

So 2020 was a turning point. It showed that detailed, focused work is needed to accomplish the goals of making a more diverse society that truly reflects the exciting scholarship being done in all corners of the field of environmental history. But also that work must continue. And as Bill Tsutsui, the long-time chair of the society’s diversity committee, reminded me a few years ago, it never really stops.

ASEH has made some progress as a scholarly society, but we still have a ways to go. Perhaps most importantly, we want to weave a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion into the fabric of everything we do. This is one of the reasons we recently restructured our diversity committee. We now have a permanent, standing [DEI Leadership Committee](#) of incoming chair (William San Martín), current chair (myself), and outgoing chair (Kathy Brosnan), as well as an early career representative (Kyuhyun Han). This leadership committee works closely with the Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (CODIE), which is open to all ASEH members, encouraging robust dialogue and connection to the broader constituencies within the society.

With stronger infrastructure in place, we can focus on deeper investments towards diversity and inclusion. For example, this spring incoming chair William San Martín and CODIE members researched and proposed a new set of travel grants and fellowships for environmental history faculty at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI’s), which includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Asian American and American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions. These funds will help these faculty attend our annual meeting, but also provide support for a scholarly, pedagogical or public engagement projects. These grants and fellowships respond to long-term concerns

engagement projects that address environmental issues raised by CODIE members about how inequalities in our profession tend to expand from college to graduate school and job placement, and how the lack of diversity impacts the ability of our field to respond to complex and unequal socioecological experiences. The benefits here are multifaceted. Not only do we provide better pathways for more diverse faculty to be a part of the ASEH community, but by supporting the research and teaching of environmental history at these schools, we seed the ground for the next generation, who will bring their unique perspective and experience to our field.

The ASEH Executive Council approved the creation of this program over the summer. But we need your support to make it happen. These MSI fellowships and grants will be funded through the [Together With ASEH Campaign](#). This is a bold effort to raise \$150,000 to fund these and other initiatives over the next ten years, ensuring that ASEH is a diverse, vital and dynamic scholarly society. Please join me and the rest of the CODIE community by [donating today](#).

Rob Gioielli



Our [Together with ASEH](#) campaign will to 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

Apply for ASEH Prizes, Awards and Fellowships

ASEH is now accepting applications for research fellowships, and submissions and nominations for prizes and awards. Click on the links below for more information and instructions about how to apply and submit nominations.

All deadlines are November 20, 2023.

PRIZES

Each year, ASEH awards [five prizes for outstanding scholarship](#) in the field of environmental history. Please read [the instructions for submitting your work](#) for consideration for each prize listed below.

George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history

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

Leopold-Hidy Prize for best article in journal *Environmental History* (with Forest History Society)

Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation in environmental history

ASEH-FHS Graduate Student Essay Prize

FELLOWSHIPS

The ASEH currently offers [four research fellowships](#): the **Hal Rothman Dissertation Fellowship**, the **J. Donald Hughes Graduate Research Fellowship**, the **Equity Graduate Student Fellowship**, and the **Samuel P. Hays Fellowship**.

The Rothman, Hughes, and Equity Fellowships are reserved for graduate students; the Hays Fellowship is open to all non-student practicing historians.

In addition, the ASEH co-sponsors the [ASEH–Newberry Library Fellowship](#) for scholars who will work with the Newberry's extensive holdings in Chicago.

AWARDS

ASEH will also award its annual **Distinguished Scholar Award** and **Lisa Mighetto Distinguished Service Award**, along with the **Public Outreach Project Award**.

You can nominate candidates for these awards [here](#)

Notes and Opportunities

- Welcome to Steve Hausmann, the new Assistant Director of ASEH! Steve teaches at the University at St. Thomas and has served on ASEH committees in the past.
 - Congratulations to [Environmental History Now](#) on five years of great work. Consider [donating](#) to support them.
 - Congratulations to Steve Anderson, longtime President of the Forest History Society, who retired earlier this month. Best of luck, Steve. Welcome to new FHS President Tania Munz.
 - [The University of California at Berkeley seeks applications](#) for a full-time tenure-track faculty appointment at the level of assistant professor of environmental history.
 - The Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) invites [applications for a tenure-track position in environmental history](#), at the rank of assistant professor.
 - The Department of Landscape Architecture at the Stuart Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania, welcomes highly qualified individuals [to apply for an Assistant or Associate Professor position](#) to offer graduate-level instruction in the area of the history and theory of landscape architecture.
 - Carnegie Mellon University [invites applications for a full-time teaching-track Assistant Professor in Environmental Humanities](#).
 - The University of Vermont's Department of History [invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track member in Global Environmental History](#), at the rank of Assistant Professor.
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We'll See You in Denver for ASEH 2024



Confluence Park



City Park



Rocky Mountain National
Park

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