

aseh news

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Resiliencies and Inclusivity: Opening Up Environmental History

[Environmental History Week](#) is a decentralized, member-driven environmental history happening. Our ambition is to foster scholarly connections and share environmental history amongst new audiences. Our vision is something like the original Earth Day, with lots of different activities -- from formal in-person or online mini-conferences to field trips, online film festivals, or days of action -- in lots of different places, organized by environmental historians of all stripes.

The theme, **Resiliencies and Inclusivity: Opening Up Environmental History**, embodies these goals. ASEH invites its members to create virtual and in-person programs (public health guidelines permitting) that consider environmental history and adjacent fields in all periods and places. We envision [Environmental History Week](#) as a platform to launch and sustain ongoing dialogue about environmental concerns by facilitating conversations across disciplines, and incorporating diverse research interests, professional affiliations, geographic regions, and social and cultural backgrounds of participants. We also envision Environmental History Week as an opportunity to engage new audiences and learn from new colleagues.

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ASEH [invites proposals](#) for Environmental History Week that consider environmental history and adjacent fields in all periods and places. Narratives of “sustainability” often privilege narrow conceptions of the relationship between humans and the natural world. The theme of “Resiliencies and Inclusivity” aims to engage approaches that overcome the structural origins of past and present environmental crises. We welcome small and large events, aimed at all audiences – scholarly, public, students – that explore questions such as these: Whose environment and whose Anthropocene gets privileged? Whose strategies for adaptation and mitigation become normative? How are ideas and practices of resilience developed, implemented, and circulated? Where and how do these normative practices originate and become standardized? Which communities have historically produced and consumed dominant discourses on adaptation and mitigation? How have structural inequalities shaped practices and theories of resilience and inclusivity? We hope that your events will interrogate and shift principal environmental narratives into new and more inclusive directions, and reach new audiences.

We welcome [events](#) large and small, from seminars with pre-circulated papers to hands-on projects in collaboration with local non-profits; from virtual poster sessions featuring student research to virtual film series; from presentations of new research to curriculum development programs for K-12 educators; a podcast or video of a symposium you plan to hold before April, or self-guided tours of environmental hotspots in your area.

Our ambition is that [Environmental History Week](#) will sustain and enrich our community even though we cannot meet in person. Environmental History Week is also an opportunity to test out low-carbon alternatives to academic conferences, and plays a crucial role in ASEH’s campaign to diversify our membership and our field. You can contribute to these initiatives by inviting scholars and audiences to participate in Environmental History Week activities who work in adjacent fields or subjects you find interesting, but may not have attended ASEH conferences, or who don’t see themselves as environmental historians, but work in adjacent fields.

Post calls for participants and collaborators on H-Environment, and add your event to the Environmental History Week web page at <https://aseh.org/Environmental-History-Week>

Special thanks to the Boston 2021 Conference Program Committee -- Laura Watt (chair), Vandana Baweja, Steven Corey, Robert Gioielli, Monica Rico, William San Martin, Lise Sedrez, and Jay Turner - for the theme, inclusive vision, and provocative questions for Environmental History Week.

environmental HISTORY

Environmental Justice Virtual Issue

*Editorial Note: In the wake of the protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd, we approached Ellen Griffith Spears, the author of [Baptized in PCBs: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town](#) and [Rethinking the Environmental Movement post-1945](#), about curating a virtual issue of *Environmental History* devoted to environmental justice. We are indebted to her for graciously agreeing to do so and to [Oxford University Press](#) for generously making the articles freely available.*

-Mark and Stephen

[Read "Environmental Justice in Environmental History"](#)

The October issue of [Environmental History](#) is on its way to you!

Access [Environmental History](#) online.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Diversity in Committees

This issue of the newsletter highlights what ASEH is doing to enhance diversity, which is one of my three priorities as president. (The other two are membership and finances.) In this column, I want to report on efforts to diversify our committee membership. Diversity in committees is important for their operations (where a multiplicity of perspectives is essential) and for grooming future leaders of ASEH.

Our committee system was ripe for revision. Over several decades, ASEH appointed committees without any bylaws governing the process, which led to a multiplicity of organizational structures. Many committees had members appointed to indefinite terms, which led to burnout and limited our ability to appoint new, younger, and more diverse members. We had no process that encouraged members to volunteer for committees, so presidents (who appoint committee members) had an incentive to name people they knew. This may have worked fine when the society was small, but it became impossible for presidents to know all the members once the society grew large. Some committees had all members serving identical terms, which erased institutional memory when the next set of members replaced them.

Over the next several months, we have done three things to improve our

Over the past several months, we have done three things to improve our committee system. First, we regularized committee structures by adopting bylaws governing them. Most committees now have three members appointed for staggered three-year terms, and we aim for the membership of committees as a whole to reflect the diversity of the larger membership. Term limits ensure that we have openings for new, diverse, energetic members every year. Staggered terms ensure institutional memory.

Second, we solicited self-nominations for committee members, with the option for volunteers to explain how they would enhance diversity. We circulated the call for self-nominations to the entire membership, and we sent the call a second time to members of the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity. We hoped that self-nominations would both enhance diversity and, at the same time, help us avoid overburdening members of underrepresented groups with unwanted service.

Third, I appointed new committee members with quality, diversity, and self-nomination as the main criteria. I was impressed by the uniformly high quality of volunteers and the willingness of people at all career stages to help ASEH. Of thirteen new appointees, four identified with a group other than White. Two said or implied they were immigrants. Five are full professors, four are associate professors, three are assistant professors, and one is a high school teacher. One identified as a queer woman, and one as pansexual. I estimate that about five might identify as male and about six as female. The committees with new members are below.

I am pleased that our new system attracted volunteers who were diverse in a number of ways and, at the same time, highlighted where we need to improve. The new appointees are impressive in their achievements, and they are diverse with regard to ethnicity (to some extent), national origin, career stage, and gender. In the future, I hope we attract more members to ASEH who identify as African American, Latinx, and Native American (among other identities) so we can further diversify committees as well as environmental history as a field.

I thank all those who volunteered to serve—both those appointed and those for whom there was no room. ASEH is a volunteer organization, and I appreciate all those willing to pitch in for the common good.

Edmund Russell
President

ASEH Committees with new members

New members identified with *.

Samuel P. Hays

Charge: Selects the winner(s) of the Samuel P. Hays Fellowship.

Mart Stewart, Western Washington University	2021*
Karl Appuhn, New York University	2022
Casey Lurtz, Johns Hopkins	2023*

Hughes/Rothman

Charge: Selects the winners of the J. Donald Hughes and Hal Rothman Fellowships.

Adam Sundberg, Creighton University	2021
Debjani Bhattacharyya, Drexel University	2022
Kelly Enright, Flagler College	2023*

Hamilton

Charge: Selects the winner of the Alice Hamilton Prize.

Jessica van Horssen, Leeds Beckett University	2021
Molly Warsh, University of Pittsburgh	2022
Sumit Guha, University of Texas at Austin	2023*

Conference site selection

Charge: Evaluates proposals for locations for conferences, solicits proposals if appropriate, and recommends locations to Council.

Raechel Lutz, The Wardlaw + Hartridge School	2021*
Christopher Tong, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County	2022*
William Tsutsui, Harvard University	2023*

Membership

Charge: Ensures ASEH recruits new members, retains members, and serves the interests of all constituencies (especially K-12 teachers, public historians, independent scholars, higher education faculty, and graduate students). It

carries out its own activities, advises ASEH leaders, and coordinates with other committees with related missions (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Women's Environmental History Network; Graduate Student Caucus).

Rachel Gross, University of Colorado Denver 2021*

Vandana Baweja, University of Florida 2022*

Joan Cashin, Ohio State 2023*

Sustainability

Charge: Advances the sustainability of ASEH operations, including conferences. It advises the Executive Director and Council, and it may plan and carry out initiatives.

James Schwoch, Northwestern University 2021*

Sarah Hamilton, Auburn University 2022*

Michelle Mart, Penn State University-Berks 2023*

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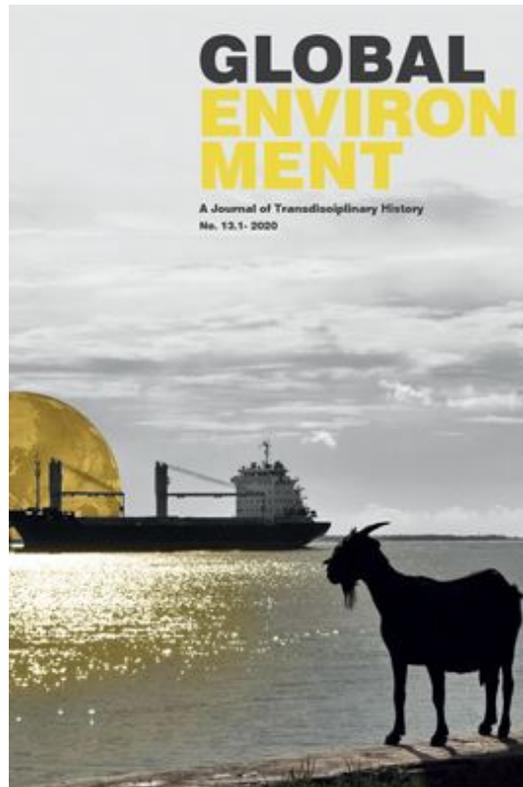
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As a Leading Level Member of the [International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations](#), (ICEHO),

ASEH members receive online access to [Global Environment](#).

Log in as a member at aseh.org to [access the journal](#).



ASEH Accepting Prize Nominations

Each year, the ASEH awards the following four prizes for **outstanding scholarship** in the field of environmental history. The instructions for submitting your work for consideration for each prize are listed below. [FULL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS HERE](#):

George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history

The prize committee will evaluate published books that appear between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020. **Deadline for submission: November 20, 2020.** 3 hard copies are required - and anyone can submit a book (authors and publishers).

Please send one copy of **each** book submission to **each** of the committee members listed [here](#).

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

Articles that appear in our journal, *Environmental History*, are automatically considered by our journal's editorial board, and there is no need to submit entries for the Leopold-Hidy Prize.

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

Eligibility: Articles published between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020.

*Deadline: **November 20, 2020.***

Instructions: Please submit a pdf file of the published article that clearly indicates the author's name, the article title, the name of the journal, the issue number, and the date of publication through [THIS FORM](#).

Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation in environmental history

Eligibility: Dissertations approved between Nov. 1, 2019 and Oct. 31, 2020.

Deadline: **November 20, 2020.**

Instructions: Submit in pdf format as a file less than 5 megabytes in size through [THIS FORM](#).

Join Us in Eugene, Oregon for ASEH 2021



Delta ponds in Eugene



Plank Town Brewing Company



Three Sisters

Apply for ASEH Research Fellowships

ASEH is now accepting applications for all four different [research fellowships](#) for use in 2021. They are:

- **Samuel P. Hays research fellowship** - ASEH created this fellowship to recognize the contributions of Samuel P. Hays, the inaugural recipient of the society's Distinguished Scholar Award, and to advance the field of environmental history, broadly conceived. The fellowship provides a single payment of \$1,000 to help fund travel to and use of an archive or manuscript repository, or to collect related research material. It is open to

practicing historians (either academic, public, or independent). Graduate students are ineligible. A Ph.D. is not required. [APPLY HERE](#).

- **Hal Rothman dissertation fellowship** - The Hal Rothman Research Fellowship was created to recognize graduate student achievements in environmental history research in honor of Hal Rothman, recipient of ASEH's Distinguished Service award in 2006 and editor of *Environmental History* for many years. The fellowship provides a single payment of \$1,000 for Ph.D. graduate student research and travel in the field of environmental history, without geographical restriction. Students enrolled in any Ph.D. program worldwide are eligible to apply. [APPLY HERE](#).
- **J. Donald Hughes graduate research fellowships** - The J. Donald Hughes Research Fellowships were created to recognize graduate student achievements in environmental history research in honor of J. Donald Hughes, recipient of ASEH's Distinguished Service award in 2000 and editor of *Environmental History* from 1983 to 1985. The fellowships provide a single payment of \$1,000 for graduate student (master's or doctoral) research and travel in the field of environmental history, without geographical restriction. Students enrolled in any graduate program worldwide are eligible to apply. [APPLY HERE](#).
- **Equity Graduate Student Fellowship** - ASEH created this fellowship to recognize graduate students from an underrepresented group for their achievements in environmental history research, to expand ASEH membership, and to broaden the topics of study in the field. The fellowship provides a single payment of \$1,000 for Ph.D. graduate student research and travel in the field of environmental history, without geographical restriction.

The ASEH Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity will review the applications and select the recipient. Students enrolled in Ph.D. programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions are strongly encouraged to apply, although the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity will consider applications from students from any underrepresented group. Students must be members of ASEH at the time of their application to be eligible for this award. [APPLY HERE](#).

The deadline for all applications is November 20, 2020.

Join Us in Boston for ASEH 2022



Massachusetts State
House



Granary Burying Ground



Boston from above

Race and Environment

Nancy J. Jacobs

2020 is not short of topical matters. If the ASEH has been a space for delving into some of them, environment, climate, health, and governance, it has given less attention to race. The March 2020 [Ottawa conference](#), with its theme of “Reparative Environmental History” was intended to foster thinking on race, among other issues. The planned plenary, “Black and Indigenous Arts for Reparative Environmental Histories” featured Associate Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, [Edda Fields-Black](#), who is executive producer and librettist for an orchestral and choral piece “[Unburied, Unmourned, Unmarked: Requiem for Rice](#),” and the celebrated Nishnaabekwe visual artist [Aylan Couchie](#) (Nipissing First Nation). The audience would have heard a recording of the musical performance, seen images of artworks, and considered them as narratives about the past. Also at the Ottawa conference, the Circle Sessions would have highlighted Indigenous histories from the academy and beyond by connecting Indigenous scholars, researchers, community activists, artists, and allies in historical discussions. Finally, many panels would have examined racial and ethnic diversity, and racism itself.

Since COVID-19 required a cancellation of the ASEH conference, we have been isolated from each other but found a possibility of connection through webinars. Since May, we have seen outrage and activism about anti-Black racism. This fall, the American Society for Environmental History will offer an opportunity to take up the pressing topic of race and racism in a series of three webinars on “Race and the Environment.” The webinars will capture and expand a few of the exciting sessions from the Ottawa meeting. The 2020 Program [Committee and the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity](#) have organized the webinars. We are eager to participate in this transformative cultural moment by engaging new scholarship and discussing its larger implications.

[Race and Environment Webinar Series](#)

Sponsored by the Initiative for Environmental Humanities at Brown (EHAB) under the auspices of the Cogut Institute for the Humanities at Brown University.

Please watch the ASEH website for information about how to register for the events.

New Perspectives on Black Ecology Roundtable

October 13, 7:00-8:30 pm

Rob Gioielli, University of Cincinnati (moderator)

Justin Hosbey, Emory University

Tony Perry, University of Virginia

Allison Puglisi, Harvard University

J.T. Roane, Arizona State University

Teona Williams, Yale University

Human Race and Non-Human Species: New and Forthcoming Books

October 27, 7:00-8:30 pm

Nancy Jacobs, Brown University (moderator)

Benedict Boisseron, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, "Afro-Dog:Blackness and the Animal Question."

Yuka Suzuki, Bard College, "The Nature of Whiteness: Race, Animals, and Nation in Zimbabwe."

Saheed Aderinto, Western Carolina University, "Animality and Colonial Subjecthood in Africa: The Human and Nonhuman Creatures of Nigeria."

Environmental Histories of Anti-Black Racism

November 17, 7:00-8:30 pm

Nancy Jacobs, Brown University (moderator)

Kevin Dawson, University of California-Merced, "Waterscapes and Wet Bodies: Racializing Enslaved African Salvage Divers."

Matthew Himel, Mississippi State University, "Hidden Labor at the Village of Pinehurst: Golf, Environment, and Middle-Class Expectations."

Rebecca Johns. USFSP. "Not your Grandpa's Sierra Club: Examining Racism

Rebecca Collins, University of Minnesota, "Planting Gardens, Cultivating Segregation: Real Estate and the Garden Club of Minneapolis, 1910-1925."

Hannah Ramer, University of Minnesota, "Planting Gardens, Cultivating Segregation: Real Estate and the Garden Club of Minneapolis, 1910-1925."

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- ASEH was an original signatory to [AHA's Statement on the Recent "White House Conference on American History"](#)
 - Carnegie Mellon University has been appointed ASEH President Edmund Russell as the David M. Roderick Professor of Technology and Social Change.
 - Sherri Sheu, graduate student at University of Colorado-Boulder and former ASEH Grad Caucus President, was elected as a Councilor at Large for the American Historical Association.
 - Congratulations to the Tania Bride, who was named the 2020-21 [Newberry Library-ASEH Fellow](#). She will conduct research for the project: *Discursive Histories of the Nahualli: Dialogues of metamorphosis, human-animal relations, and the indigenous sacred in New Spain, 1521-1770*.
 - The deadline for the call for papers for ESEH 2021 in Bristol, UK 5-9 July 2021 is October 31. More information [here](#).
 - If you would like stop receiving the print version of *Environmental History*, log into your member profile on [aseh.org](#), and check to box "Receive Online Journal ONLY."
 - ASEH's Nominating Committee is taking nominations this winter's elections until October 5, 2020. To make a nomination, you can use the [online Nomination Form](#).
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