

aseh news

fall 2019

volume 30, issue 3

in this issue

president's column:
everything has an
environmental history

announcements: final
notice for awards and
fellowships, and more

opportunities

update on ASEH 2020
conference in Ottawa



If you submitted a proposal to present at our 2020 conference - **thank you!** Our program committee will send acceptance and rejection notices in early October.

Theme: "Reparative Environmental History"

Location: Ottawa, Canada -
Delta Hotels Ottawa City
Centre

Dates: March 25-29, 2020

Hosts and Sponsors:
Nipissing University,
Canada Research Chairs,
and Ingenium - Canada's
Museums of Science and

president's column: everything has an environmental history**Welcome to Our Home**

I extend a warm welcome to all those who are new to environmental history. We are glad you are joining our intellectual and professional home, and we hope you will stay with us for the rest of your career.

Everything Has an Environmental History

It is fall, when the leaves turn brown and some graduate students turn red upon being asked what they want to study for their dissertation. Fear not. Here is a simple maxim for finding a topic: "Everything has an environmental history."

That phrase is a variation on "everything has a history," which I first remember hearing from Jim Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association. One of the great things about environmental history is that everything, and I mean everything, exists in an environment. Ergo, everything has an environmental history.

That means everything you see is a candidate topic for environmental historians. As I sat in my office writing this column, I glanced around to see what obvious topics are hidden in plain sight. The list soon became long. Here are a few items.

- Carpeting (on the floor of my office). Why has it been popular? How have materials and goals changed over time? What have been the commodity chains?
- Particle board (in the shelves and desk in my office). When and why did that originate? Where is it used? What are the effects on people and other living things?
- Glass (in my window). Why have people used glass? What is the commodity chain? How has

Innovation

Our 2020 conference will include the following events:

- field trips include Moses-Saunders Dam, Diefenbunker, Central Experimental Farm, Indigenous Walks at Parliament Hill, and more
- large exhibit area
- poster presentations
- more than 100 sessions, including panels, roundtables, experimental sessions, lightning talks, and posters
- networking events and opportunities for students



*Mark Your
Calendars
March 25-29,
2020*

ottawa conference information

For information on the conference schedule, hotel reservations, and more, [click here](#).

travel grants

A limited number of travel grants are available for students and low-income scholars presenting at our 2019 conference. Please note that membership in ASEH is

glass changed experience for people and other species?

- Watches (on my wrist). In what environments have people wanted watches? How have watches changed the way people think about their surroundings?

These examples might not be great topics for a dissertation because they might sound too narrow to impress hiring committees. The next task would be to situate these topics in their social context. If I decided I was fascinated by carpeting, I probably would try to figure out what people have relied on carpeting. Some of those include aristocrats (remember those cold castles that needed insulation on the walls), architects, interior designers, manufacturers, installers, and home owners.

Identifying social groups who cared about carpeting then leads to enterprises and goals, such as maintaining a class hierarchy (aristocrats), designing homes and workspaces (architects and designers), running a business (carpet makers), and providing shelter to family members. These enterprises have a scope worthy for a dissertation. So, for example, you could decide to study the ways in which political, economic, and cultural forces have shaped private spaces, and how those impacts in turn have shaped environments around the world. Then you could look at the carpeting industry as a case study. Your general topic is the impact of broad social forces on private life, and the case study provides a workable focus for your research.

Keep your eyes open, too, for ways in which these topics lead you to unexpected processes. My doctoral research originally focused in insecticides. As I burrowed in archives, I realized I needed to show their relationship with chemical weapons. And chemical weapons, in turn, were part of warfare more broadly. So, what began as a study of pesticides evolved into a study of the interaction between the control of nature and warfare (very broad topics and processes) using the interaction between pesticides and chemical weapons as a case study.

So for all those in search of dissertation topics, have fun hunting. The world around us is full of worthy and unstudied topics.

-Edmund Russell, ASEH President

aseh at the world congress in Brazil

The 3rd world congress of environmental history took place in Florianopolis, Brazil July 22-26, 2019. Many ASEH members joined environmental historians from around the world to participate in a truly great conference.

required for applying. [Click here](#) for more information.
Deadline: November 15, 2019.

presenting a poster at the 2020 conference

If you are interested in presenting a poster at the conference in Ottawa, send your name, affiliation, and poster title to dspatz@aseh.net by **November 15, 2019**. [Click here](#) for more information on the posters.



Above: poster session at ASEH's 2017 conference in Chicago.

future conferences

Ottawa, Canada
March 25-29, 2020

Boston
April 20-26, 2021

Interested in hosting a future ASEH conference? Contact dspatz@aseh.net

aseh equity fellowship

ASEH Equity Graduate Student Fellowship

The American Society for Environmental History offers the Equity Graduate Student Fellowship to recognize and support a Ph.D. student from an underrepresented group for his or her achievements in environmental history

We thank our friends at [ICEHO](#) for organizing a fantastic meeting. And thank you to the the hosts at Universidade Federale de Santa Catarina - Eunice Nodari and the many helpful students.

ASEH, along with the Forest History Society and Oxford University Press, hosted a reception. Congratulations to Fabiana Jacomel, who won the ASEH Best Poster Award at the conference. Finally, last but not least, best of luck to Graeme Wynn, ASEH past president, as he assumes the presidency of ICEHO.



announcements

Final Notice - [ASEH awards submissions](#)

ASEH will offer the following awards in 2020. Click on the links for application requirements - **all submissions are due on November 15, 2019**.

Outstanding Scholarship:

[Click here](#) for information on the George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history

[Click here](#) for information on the Alice Hamilton Prize for best article outside journal *Environmental History*

[Click here](#) for information on the Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation in environmental history

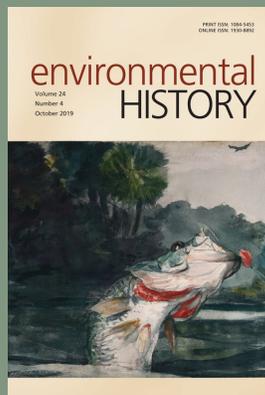
Please note that authors published in our journal *Environmental History* will automatically be considered for the Leopold-Hidy Prize for best article; no need to submit anything.

Service and Achievement Awards:

research. This fellowship provides a single payment of \$1,000 for dissertation research and travel in the field of environmental history, without geographical restriction. Students must be ASEH members at the time of their application to be eligible. **Applications are due November 15, 2019.**

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 ASEH welcomes applications from Ph.D. students from any underrepresented group at any university. For full details, please visit: <https://aseh.net/awards-funding/equity-fellowship>.

journal



The October issue of *Environmental History* includes a forum on commodifying the "wild," and articles on nature and technology in Seoul, oil pollution in the Virgin Islands, and more. [Click here](#) for additional information.

aseh signs AHA statement

In August, ASEH signed on to the American Historical Association's statement on domestic terrorism, bigotry

ASEH is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Scholar Award, the Lisa Mighetto Distinguished Service Award, and Public Outreach Project Award. [Click here](#) for a link to the brief form to submit for nomination (scroll down).

Final Notice - ASEH [Samuel P. Hays Fellowship Applications](#)

It is open to practicing historians (either academic, public, or independent). Graduate students are ineligible. A Ph.D. is not required. Funding is for 2020.

To apply, please submit the following items:

- A two-page statement (500 words) explaining your project and how you intend to use the research funds.
- A c.v. no more than two pages in length.

All items for the Samuel P. Hays Research Fellowship must be submitted electronically to dspatz@aseh.net by **November 15, 2019.**

Final Notice - ASEH [Hal Rothman Fellowship Applications](#)

Students enrolled in any Ph.D. program worldwide are eligible to apply. Funding is for 2020.

To apply, please submit the following three items:

- Two-page statement (500 words) explaining your project and how you intend to use the research funds.
- A c.v. no more than two pages in length.
- A letter of recommendation from your graduate advisor

All items for the Hal Rothman Research Fellowship must be submitted electronically to dspatz@aseh.net by **November 15, 2019.**

Final Notice - ASEH [J. Donald Hughes Research Fellowship Applications](#)

Students enrolled in any Ph.D. program worldwide are eligible to apply. Funding is for 2020.

To apply, please submit the following three items:

- Two-page statement (500 words) explaining your project and how you intend to use the research funds.
- A c.v. no more than two pages in length.
- A letter of recommendation from your graduate advisor

All items for the J. Donald Hughes Research Fellowship must be submitted electronically to dspatz@aseh.net by

and history. The text of the statement and its signatories can be read [here](#).

see you in Ottawa in 2020!



November 15, 2019.

Equity Fellowships

Several years ago ASEH launched a new fellowship to encourage and support underrepresented students. A full description is in the side panel. Please help us circulate the information on the [equity graduate student fellowship](#). **Deadline: November 15, 2019.**

Newberry Library Fellowship

ASEH has partnered with the Newberry Library in Chicago to offer an annual research fellowship. Membership in ASEH required. [Click here](#) for more info. **Deadline for application: December 15, 2019.**

opportunities

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Environmental History - MIT

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's History Section seeks to appoint a full-time, tenure-track assistant professor in the field of environmental history effective July 1, 2020. Candidates working on any time period and area of the world are invited to apply.

Applications should be submitted through the interfolio website: apply.interfolio.com/65449. Please do not send material by email.

Deadline - October 1, 2019

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in US and North American Environmental History - Pitzer College

Pitzer College seeks applicants for a tenure-track position, at the level of assistant professor, in U.S. and North American environmental history. We are interested in candidates whose work engages such areas as environmental health, racial justice, racial capitalism, urban life, and forms of resistance. Time period of a candidate's research is open, inclusive of colonial histories.

To apply, go to <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/14117>.

Full consideration will be given to complete applications received by **October 1, 2019**.

Environmental Humanities, Assistant Professor, Tenure Track - Princeton Environmental Institute

The Princeton Environmental Institute invites applications



aseh news

Published quarterly by the American Society for Environmental History. If you have an article, announcement, or an item for the "member news" section of our next newsletter, send to dspatz@aseh.net by December 13, 2019.



Florianopolis, Brazil.

at the assistant professor level from scholars specializing in the Environmental Humanities. Princeton University is committed to undergraduate as well as graduate teaching and advising, and the successful candidate will teach at all levels and supervise doctoral research. This is a joint position between the Princeton Environmental Institute and a partnering humanities department.

Please apply online at <https://www.princeton.edu/academic/positions/position/13221>.

For full consideration, please submit your application by **October 5, 2019**.

Sonoma State University - Dean, School of Social Sciences

Sonoma State seeks a visionary and collaborative scholar leader to serve as Dean of the School of Social Sciences (SSS or the School). This is a distinctive opportunity to provide essential leadership at a public institution poised to become a national model for student success.

The full job description and application process can be found here:

<https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S6-802>

University of California, Berkeley - Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies

The Comparative Ethnic Studies Program in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley is recruiting for an Assistant Professor. Fields and areas of specialization are open. The Comparative Ethnic Studies Program pursues intersectional research and teaching about race and Indigeneity through comparative, relational, and transnational frameworks. Potential areas of expertise might include interdisciplinary approaches to digital cultures, labor and migration, the politics of race and space, sexuality studies, environmental justice, and/or philosophy.

For more information about the position, including required qualifications and application materials, go to <https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF02305>.

The deadline to apply is **October 22, 2019**.

New York University - Assistant/Associate Professor in Science Studies

The Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University (NYU) invites applications for the position of Assistant or Associate Professor in Science Studies to



Museu do Amanhã in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



View of Christ the Redeemer from Jardim Botânico de Rio de Janeiro.



Florianópolis, Brazil

Photos courtesy of Ottawa Tourism and David Spatz

stay connected



commence September 1, 2020.

NYU seeks an interdisciplinary scholar in the humanities or social sciences with expertise in biology, medicine or science-related studies of the body. Examples of disciplinary fields that would fit this position include History; History of Science; Science and Technology Studies; Feminism; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Philosophy; Literature; Anthropology; Sociology; Geography; Visual Studies; and Environmental Studies.

All application materials must be submitted electronically. To apply, please visit: <http://apply.interfolio.com/68171>

Review of applications will begin on **November 1, 2019**, and will continue until the position is filled.

More opportunities [here](#).

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