



27 – 28 May 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS

Sala degli Stemma, Villa Salviati – Via Bolognese 156, 50139 Firenze

Monday 27 May

Workshop: Repositioning Environmental Colonialism in Current Historiography

9.45 – 10.30, Introduction to the workshop by Marco Armiero (KTH, Stockholm)

10.30 – 11.00, Coffee Break and **Exhibition Opening: *A Place in the Sun? Private Gardening in East Africa*** by Markus Wurzer (University of Graz)

11.00 – 13.00, Session 1: Environment and Fascism - Chair: TBC

Santiago Gorostiza (UAB, Barcelona) - Provisional presentation: *Environmental History of Equatorial Guinea during the autarkic years of Francoist Spain (1939-1951)*

Roberta Biasillo (KTH, Stockholm) - *Fascist colonial ecologies. A human and more-than-human account of the making of Italian Libya (1922-1943)*

Angelo Caglioti (University of California, Berkeley) - *Settler Colonialism without Settlement Colony. Drought, Migration, and Early Italian Colonialism (1870-1896)*

13.00 – 14.15, Lunch Break

14.15 – 15.45, Session 2: Natures in Motion – Chair: TBC

Georgios Vlachos (EUI) - *Slavic Swamp to Promised Land: Social and environmental engineering in a southern Macedonian swamp, 1913-1936*

Gilberto Mazzoli (EUI) - *The Italian Agricultural Diplomacy in the United States during the Age of Migration: Migrants' Agricultural Skills as Colonial Tools, 1890-1924.*

15.45 – 16.00, Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30, Session 3: Colonialism and Natural Resources – Chair: TBC

Giovanni Costenaro (EUI) – *Rationalizing environment: the ECSC and Eurafrikan cooperation in the extraction of North-African mineral resources at the end of colonialism, 1951-1957*

Armel Campagne (EUI) - *Environmental colonialism in French Algeria and Indochina: the case of Coal and Forests*

17.30 – 18.00, Wrap-up Discussion

Discussants: John R. McNeill (Georgetown University), Pamela Ballinger (UMichigan), Stéphane Van Damme (EUI), Lucy Riall (EUI), Pieter Judson (EUI), Regina Grafe (EUI), Alexander Etkind (EUI)

Tuesday 28 May

11.00 – 12.30, Lecture: Trespassing: Environmental History and Migration

Marco Armiero (KTH, Stockholm)

12.30 – 14.00, Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.45, Workshop: Environmental Justice and Epistemic Violence

A conversation between Marco Armiero (KTH, Stockholm) and Saskia Vermeylen (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow)

16.00 – 20.00, Memory Walk in Florence – *Uncovering the Italian Colonial Past*, organized by Markus Wurzer (Uni Graz) and Daphné Budasz (EUI)

Participation restricted to speakers and discussants



With the support of the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ABSTRACTS OF THE WORKSHOPS

27 MAY

REPOSITIONING ENVIRONMENTAL COLONIALISM IN CURRENT HISTORIOGRAPHY

Organizers: Gilberto Mazzoli and George L. Vlachos (EUI, Department of History and Civilization)

The subject that this workshop aims to cover is not new. In fact, environmental colonialism has been around for decades in academic literature, ever since scholars started to narrate histories where imperial or national governance structures succeeded in manipulating a certain environment in order to achieve their goals. The nature of these goals varied a lot as different examples come under scrutiny.

Whether it was about economic modernization, national homogenization or even a straightforward case of asserting dominance over unruly subjects, altering an ecosystem as well as the distribution of the resources that it produced, was proven a very effective way of establishing a status quo. In this light, environmental colonialism seems to be just a new term for an already old notion.

While this is true to some degree, this workshop attempts to re-focus the term within the new historiographical circumstances of the spatial-turn and the rise of environmental history as a disparate school of historiography. In simpler words, this means that one of the tasks of the workshop will be to build histories of domination that both emanate from and revolve around the intentional transformation of an environment at the expense of the population. Ultimately, this collection of case studies will constitute a solid initial core of scholarship, oriented towards social history but having the environment as point of departure.

28 MAY

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EPISTEMIC VIOLENCE

A conversation between Marco Armiero (Director, KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory, Stockholm) and Saskia Vermeylen (Senior Lecturer in Legal Anthropology, Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, Glasgow)

Chair: Marie Petersmann (EUI, Department of Law)

Armiero and Vermeylen's research projects are situated at the intersection of environmental justice theories and critical discourse analysis. Both aim to give voice and visibility to communities whose visions and social praxis have been ignored or 'misframed' in light of environmental concerns.

For both, narratives of injustice play a central role in their research on environmental justice (EJ). While Professor Armiero's latest and ongoing research project on *'Toxic Bios: Toxic Autobiographies – A Public*

Environmental Humanities Project aims to coproduce, gather, and make visible stories of contamination and resistance, Saskia Vermeulen's recent publication on '*Environmental Justice and Epistemic Violence*' attempts at countering liberal conceptions of EJ and the enforced assimilation of western discourses and practices they entail (to the detriment of contextualised and localised understandings of EJ).

On the one hand, Vermeulen approaches EJ from a situated and networked context, by questioning to what extent EJ (as a discourse and praxis) caters for alternative, non-Eurocentric epistemologies and ontologies. Her research is particularly informed by discourses and worldviews of indigenous peoples in a Global North/South context. On the other hand, Armiero's research is informed by stories from resisting or 'contaminated' communities that share a common struggle. While Armiero warns against 'toxic narratives' that silence environmental injustices, Vermeulen denounces a form of 'epistemic violence' as embedded in mainstream discourses and praxis of EJ itself. The objective for both is, in essence, to foster EJ by re-centering narratives around the voices of those who have been ignored or silenced.

Event organized in the framework of the [Environmental Law and Governance Working Group](#): a forum where EUI members and external researchers working on key developments in the theory and practice of environmental law and governance present and discuss their research and interact with other scholars. We invite all researchers and fellows interested in topics relating to environmental law and governance to get involved with the Environmental Law and Governance Working Group