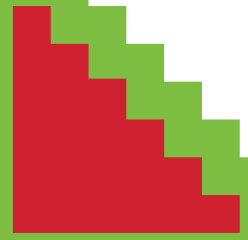


infoclio.ch Conference
23 November 2018



Archives of the Environment

Natural Sciences and History

Venue: PROGR – Zentrum für Kulturproduktion
(Centre for the Production of Culture)

Waisenhausplatz 30, Bern

The irreversible effects of global warming raise new questions for the humanities within science too: where did earlier societies stand in relation to their environment, and what impact did this have? The 2018 infoclio.ch conference focuses on the human and non-human traces that bear witness to our relationship with the environment.

The first session introduces the burgeoning field of environmental history. Historians present the story on which their discipline is based with crosscutting interdisciplinary connections and current trends.

Our environment's past is not only a topic for historians. The natural sciences are also increasingly interested in learning how, and for how long, societies have been shaping their environment. In the second session, scientists will present their data and the methodology used to track the long-term impact of human activity on the environment.

The ecological footprint left by humanity over this period has now become so deep that there is talk of a new geological era. Should the natural sciences now come together with historical researchers in a new chapter of our planet's history? In his keynote, renowned historian Dipesh Chakrabarty will outline his theses on the future of history in the Anthropocene era. The questions raised by his presentation will then be discussed in the round-table session.

Beetles, meteorological data, chronicles and soil samples: the third session focuses exclusively on the multitude of sources employed in environmental history. Examples taken from traditional archives, natural history collections and scientific databases will highlight the challenges of preservation, access and exploitation associated with archiving the various source types.

Event cost: CHF 30.-/15.- for students. The conference fee includes lunch and coffee.

Simultaneous interpretation from German and French into English will be available during the conference.

Register online at: www.infoclio.ch/en/inscription

Program

- 8:45 am Registration
9:10 am Welcome address – [Matthieu Leimgruber](#) (University of Zurich) and [Enrico Natale](#) (infoclio.ch)
- Session 1 Introduction to Environmental History**
Chair: Melanie Salvisberg (University of Berne)
9:15 am [Jon Mathieu](#) (University of Lucerne) – Sacred mountains in Europe? Perception of the environment in transition to the modern age
9:45 am [Christian Rohr](#) (University of Berne) – Anthropogenic Historical Sources and Their Use for an Interdisciplinary Environmental and Climate History
10:15 am [Jean-Baptiste Fresoz](#) (Centre de Recherche Historique, EHES) – The birth of historical climatology 1770 – 1830
10:45 – 11:15 am *Coffee break*
- Session 2 Natural Sciences as Historical Sciences?**
Chair: Marcus Hall (University of Zurich and Environmental Humanities Switzerland)
11:15 am [Nicole Boivin](#) (Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History) – Archaeological Perspectives on the Anthropocene
11:45 am [Oliver Heiri](#) (University of Basel) – Paleocological environmental reconstruction: approaches, assumptions and examples
12:15 – 13:15 pm *Lunch break*
- Keynote**
13:15 pm Moderation: Marianne Sommer (University of Lucerne)
[Dipesh Chakrabarty](#) (University of Chicago) – The Human in Natural and Humanist Histories: Towards a Fragile Rapprochement
14:00 pm Round-table session
14:45 – 15:15 pm *Coffee break*
- Session 3 Environmental Sources and Archives: Preservation, Exploitation and Access**
Presented by: Enrico Natale (infoclio.ch)
15:15 pm [Stefan Brönnimann](#) (University of Berne) and [Franziska Hupfer](#) (ETH Zurich) – Historical weather data: Climatological and historical perspectives
15:45 pm [Christoph Scheidegger](#) (WSL) – Natural History Collections in Switzerland
16:00 pm [Denis Reynard](#) (State Archives of Valais) – Environmental archives in the canton of Valais
16:15 pm [Alexandre Elsig](#) (University of Fribourg) – Expert knowledge, amateur knowledge. Exploring sources in the history of industrial pollution.
16:30 pm *End of the event*