



UWA History Public Lecture Series

Environment and History

July-October, 2009

Our notions of the planet's future, as well as humanity's place on it, are currently shaped by a keen awareness of the relationship between people and the environment. Understanding of the past is equally enriched by a consideration of the interactions between nature and culture. Indeed, historians have always thought and written about the relationship between humans and the environment – well before the advent of modern environmentalism and the birth of 'environmental history' as a distinct field of inquiry.

This lecture series provides a thought-provoking entry into current approaches to environment and history in a wide range of settings, stretching from the medieval to the modern periods, and including Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, the Pacific Islands and Antarctica. Some lectures focus on the tensions between economic development, state formation and environmental protection. Many examine the impact of colonial expansion and European exploration on shaping environments and histories. Several use representations of the environment in visual culture (film, paintings and photography) and textual sources (fiction, treatises, encyclopedias) to shed new light on a range of problems and debates in history.

All the lectures examine, in one way or another, how reflections on environment have shaped the way in which we understand historical change, explain differences between peoples, and chart the development of nations.

Lecture Schedule

July 22 - The environment in history; history in the environment

Andrea Gaynor, The University of Western Australia

July 29 - How muddy roads and small cows created autocracy: Environmental determinism in Russian history

Mark Edele, The University of Western Australia

August 5 - Hunting and the appropriation of Africa in two Italian films: *The Path of the Wild Beasts* (1932) and *Goodbye Africa* (1966)

Daniela Baratieri, The University of Western Australia

August 12 - Sacred and secularized landscapes in twentieth-century Pacific Islands history and historiography

Debra McDougall, The University of Western Australia

August 19 - Tropical landscapes and colonial discourses of abundance: Dutch still lifes from the Netherlands Indies

Susie Protschky, The University of Western Australia

August 26 - Don't fence me in: Barbed wire around the American West

Ethan Blue, The University of Western Australia

Sept 2 - Disney, deer, porpoises, penguins, and bears: How nature films shape environmentalism and society

Richard White, Stanford University



A pioneer settler. From The Powerhouse Museum Collection

September 16 - Deserts, prophets and savage scarlet hills: Ecology, resilience and global change

Libby Robin, The Australian National University

September 23 - Discovering the continent of ice: Antarctica and world history

Tom Griffiths, The Australian National University

September 30 - Against the grain: Reading the 'Book of Nature' in the European Middle Ages

Philippa Maddern, The University of Western Australia

October 7 - Police and the built environment in urban Scotland, c.1785–1833

David Barrie, The University of Western Australia

October 14 - Developmental dreams and dam disasters: The 'economic miracle' and the Italian environment, 1950s–1960s

Giuseppe Finaldi, The University of Western Australia

All lectures will be held in Webb Lecture Theatre at 6pm, Room G21, Ground Floor Geography Building, UWA. The nearest parking is P20 off Fairway Entrance 1

Lectures are free and open to the public, no RSVP necessary.

More Information about the lectures can be found on the IAS website: www.ias.uwa.edu.au/lectures

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