



CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS

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CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS IS THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIMATE HISTORY NETWORK
– A NETWORK OF INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARS STUDYING PAST CLIMATE CHANGE –
TO CONTRIBUTE EMAIL NJCUNIGAN@GMAIL.COM

Letter from the Founders



DAGOMAR DEGROOT



SAM WHITE

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter! We've labeled these newsletter by season, but you'll see that our intrepid editor, Nicholas Cunigan, has now switched us over to a volume/issue format. As Nicholas pointed out, this new format accommodates our Southern Hemisphere members, and is much handier for archival purposes.

In any case, once again much has happened since our last edition. At Georgetown, we debuted the "Climate Tipping Points Project," a student-driven initiative that aims to raise awareness about the local consequences of past, present, and future climate changes. You can find a story about the project [here](#). The project grew out of a new curriculum at Georgetown that introduces students to the study of climate change in many disciplines. As part of the curriculum, Dagomar recently had a chance to discuss the value of history for climate scholarship with Al Gore.



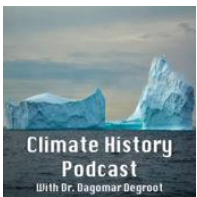
Since our last edition, we released the eighth episode of our Climate History Podcast, featuring an interview between Dagomar and Georgetown PhD candidate Robynne Mellor. A new article at HistoricalClimatology.com also explores the close relationship between meteorology and the military in the Cold War. Once again, we've shared our favorite online articles that deal with climate change, past and present. Meanwhile, our social media editor, Katrin Kleemann, continues to do phenomenal work on Twitter and Facebook to advertise our field.

And of course, as many regions swelter through the warmest summer in their instrumental record, the study of past climates continues to thrive. We'd especially like to draw your attention to a series of articles in *Human Ecology* on climate change and resilience in the Mediterranean, which grew out of the Princeton Climate Change and History Research Initiative, as well as a number of critical review articles on regions and periods of climate history coming out in *WIREs Climate Change*. In high-resolution paleoclimatology, H. Zhang and colleagues have produced a new multi-proxy summer temperature series for the past two millennia that appeared in *Scientific Reports*. Over at our CHN website, ClimateHistory.net, we advertise a brand-new monograph: Joëlle Gergis's *Sunburnt Country: The History and Future of Climate Change in Australia*. Dagomar's *The Frigid Golden Age* was also listed by the *Financial Times* as one of the history books to read this summer.

Best wishes,

Dagomar Degroot & Sam White

Climate History Podcast



In the eighth episode of the Climate History Podcast, Georgetown PhD candidate Robynne Mellor interviews Professor Dagomar Degroot (Georgetown University), the co-director of the Climate History Network, about his new book: "The Frigid Golden Age: Climate Change, the Little Ice Age, and the Dutch Republic, 1560-1720" (Cambridge University Press). Mellor and Degroot discuss the so-called "Little Ice Age;" the contrasting experiences of different societies; resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change; the keys to getting a job in environmental history, and the culture shock of moving from Canada to the United States. You can subscribe to the podcast [here](#).

Upcoming Events

July 2018 – International Conference of Historical Geographers

The upcoming ICHG in Warsaw (July 15-20, 2018) will feature almost continuous panels on climate throughout the conference. The final program and all details are now available on the [conference website](#). We hope to see you there!

October 2018 – First PAGES-CRIAS Workshop

The Past Global Changes (PAGES) Climate Reconstruction and Impacts from the Archives of Societies (CRIAS) working group will hold its first workshop 1-2 October 2018 in Bern, Switzerland. This workshop aims to evaluate and integrate different methodological approaches from historical climatology over all historical periods (including antiquity) and all geographical regions. A particular focus of this and future CRIAS workshops will be to compare methods from European and Chinese historical climatology in order to establish the compatibility of their results and best practices in the field. The workshop aims to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between historical climatologists and (paleo)climatologists, especially by identifying ways to effectively share historical climatology data and combine historical and paleoclimate information in high-resolution reconstructions. Confirmed speakers include: Rudolf Brázdil, Heli Huhtamaa, Rüdiger Glaser, Xiuqi Fang, and Jie Fei. We welcome attendance and discussion from historical climatologists, paleoclimatologists, modelers, and historians interested in advancing the aims of the workshop. You can find more information and registration [here](#) or you can [contact the organizer](#).

Open Calls

Arcadia

Founded as a partnership between the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Rachel Carson Center, Arcadia is an online, peer-reviewed publication platform for short, illustrated, and engaging environmental histories. An Arcadia article tells a short (about 750 words) focused, engaging environmental history about any site, event, person, organization, or species as it related to nature and human society. Your text should focus on a specific problem/case and refer to a specific place and time. You should include 2-5 digital objects (videos, images, maps, or other materials). We are currently seeking submissions for our autumn 2018 volume, the deadline is August 1, 2018. With submissions or any questions, please email Jonatan Palmblad at arcadia@carsoncenter.lmu.de. For more information please visit: <http://www.environmentandsociety.org/arcadia/contribution>.

European Society for Environmental History

The Next ESEH Biennial Conference will be hosted by the Estonian Centre for Environmental History (KAJAK), in Tallinn, Estonia from 21 to 25 August 2019.

To build on the discussions at the 2017 biennial conference in Zagreb, the 2019 Tallinn conference will operate under the notion of “boundaries in/of environmental history”, and will expand the idea of natures in-between to reach out for boundaries between humans and non-humans, environment and technologies, transcorporeality, transboundary agents, planetary boundaries as well as disciplinary boundaries and boundaries of science and arts, activism, popular science, etc. We are excited to have Prof. Finn Arne Jørgensen as the head of Programme Committee. For more information about the conference and the venue [here](#).

[The Call for Papers is available now](#). The deadline for submittals is October 31, 2018.

News

2400 Year Climate Proxy for Darjeeling, India

A new multiproxy study of pollen data from Darjeeling, India offers insight into the region’s climate history. Climate during the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age was wet in the eastern Himalayas, and the Indian Summer monsoon during the Little Ice Age and post-Little Ice Age stand in marked contrast with peninsular India. The monsoon also increased in strength between 1367

and 1802 CE. Although gaps in the data prevent a finer-grained analysis, this study suggests centennial-scale variations in the monsoon that could shed important light on both the forcing mechanisms governing the Indian Summer Monsoon and the lives of those who have historically depended on it. Read the full article [here](#).

Multiproxy Paleosol Chronology for Crimea

A new paper in *The Holocene* provides a fresh perspective on climate history in its analysis of paleosols on the southern coast of Crimea. Linking archaeological evidence, lake sediments, and dendrochronologies with the soil record, this study offers a finer resolution chronology than records reliant solely on the soil record can provide. The study shows that soil formation was asynchronous across the late Holocene, including a period of unequaled precipitation during the late bronze age with potential consequences for human settlement in the region. Notably, the influence human settlement is not reflected in the soil record and climate change bears sole responsibility for the asynchronous development of soils. Read the full article [here](#).

Sunburnt Country: The History and Future of Climate Change in Australia

A compelling new book informed by cutting-edge climate science narrates showing how climate change and ENSO have profoundly shaped Australia's past over a variety of time scales. Joëlle Gergis explores Australia's prehistoric, colonial, and modern history, exploring not only how the climate affected human behavior, but also how humans understood and planned for it. Both engaging and accessible, *Sunburnt Country* should make an enjoyable read for audiences of all levels.

Feature Articles

Ecological Militarism: The Unusual History of the Military's Relationship with Climate Change

Adeene Denton, Brown University



Many historians have discussed the influence of the Cold War on the development of specific disciplines within the broader field of earth science. However, few have touched on U.S. military's study of climate change, an interest that accelerated during the Cold War. The decades-long studies sponsored by the Departments of Defense and Energy in the Cold War produced led to many attempts to transform the earth itself into a political and environmental weapon. [More](#)

Introducing the Tipping Points Project

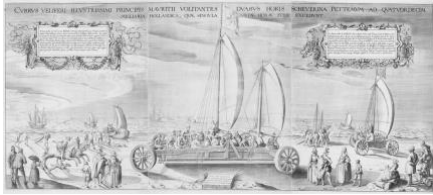
Dagomar Degroot, Georgetown University



In late 2016, [Randall Bass](#), vice provost for education at Georgetown University, asked me to help design and teach a pilot project at Georgetown University that would experiment with a new way of introducing climate change to undergraduate students. The [Core Pathway on Climate Change](#) initiative, as we came to call it, allowed students to mix and match seven-week courses - "modules" - to find their own pathway through the scholarship of climate change. [More](#)

Best of the Web

March 2018



Some Societies Flourished in the Little Ice Age. There Are Lessons For Us Now. [Washington Post](#)

The Frigid Golden Age. [New Books Podcast](#)

A Trip to a Museum for Convincing Americans About Climate Change. [The Atlantic](#)

Does Climate Change Cause More War? [The Atlantic](#)

The 100 Year Time-Lapse Project. [Bifrost](#)

North Korea's 'Millennium Eruption' Flooded the Skies With Sulfur, But Left Little Climate Trace. [Science Magazine](#)

Which Works Better: Climate Fear, or Climate Hope? Well, it's Complicated. [The Guardian](#)

April 2018



Faced With Drought, the Pharaohs Tried (and Failed) to Adapt. [NY Times](#)

These Early Humans Prospered During What Should Have Been a Devastating Volcanic Winter. [Gizmodo](#)

Scientists Find Evidence of Paint, Complex Tools and Climate Chaos at the Dawn of Humanity. [Washington Post](#)

Trove of Documents Shows Historical Ferocity of Recent Storms. [Boston Globe](#)

11,000 Years Ago, Our Ancestors Survived Abrupt Climate Change. [CNN](#)

May 2018



How a Medieval Society Withstood Nearly 60 Years of Drought. [The Atlantic](#)

Battle Against Climate Change Turns to Historic Ship's Log Books. [Newshub](#)

How Climate Change Affected the Outcome of a Roman War With the Goths. [Forbes](#)

Weather and Emotion in James Barry's Diary, 1849-1906. [NICHE](#)

Japanese Monks Recorded the Climate for 700 Years. [National Geographic](#)

Recent Publications

Historical Climatology (including documentary and early instrumental reconstructions, and studies of climate and human history)

- Barrett, Hannah G., Julie M. Jones, and Grant R. Bigg. “Reconstructing El Nino Southern Oscillation Using Data from Ships’ Logbooks, 1815-1854. Part II: Comparisons with Existing ENSO Reconstructions and Implications for Reconstructing ENSO Diversity.” *Climate Dynamics* 50 (2018): 3131–52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00382-017-3797-4>.
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- Lee, Harry F. “Internal Wars in History: Triggered by Natural Disasters or Socio-Ecological Catastrophes?” *The Holocene*, March 25, 2018, 0959683618761549. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959683618761549>.
- Kulkarni, Charuta, Dorothy M. Peteet, and Rebecca Boger. “The Little Ice Age and Human-Environmental Interactions in the Central Balkans: Insights from a New Serbian Paleorecord.” *Quaternary International* 482 (2018): 13–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quaint.2018.04.035>.

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Paleoclimatology (high-resolution studies relevant to human history)

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