



# 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](mailto:NJCUNIGAN@GMAIL.COM)

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## Letter from the Founders



DAGOMAR DEGROOT



SAM WHITE

The last four months have seen many exciting new publications in the field of climate history. At long last, the *Palgrave Handbook of Climate History* came out in August, providing the first comprehensive textbook in the field! CHN member Rudolf Brázdil and colleagues have published several new studies on climate variability and extreme weather in the Czech lands, as well as new publications on the state of the field in historical drought reconstruction and impacts. *WIREs Climate Change* has recently published a series of reviews on climate history by CHN members, including articles on climate and colonialism, climate in the early modern world, climate in Russian history, and climate in US history and culture. *Climatic Change* is currently releasing articles for a special issue on “historicizing climate change.”

This month also brought our first meeting of the PAGES-CRIAS working group in Bern, where we discussed current methods and innovations in historical climatology. Thanks so much to Chantal Camenisch and Christian Rohr for organizing the meeting and to PAGES and Oeschger Centre for their support! Also thanks to David Nash and others who tweeted highlights of the conference, available [here](#). Please look out

for news of the next workshop, tentatively planned for Germany in fall 2019.

Meanwhile, our online efforts keep humming along. Thanks to social media editor Katrin Kleemann, we’ve never had more followers on Twitter (where you can find us at <https://twitter.com/ClimateHist>) and Facebook (where we’re at <https://www.facebook.com/climatehistory>). We also have new feature articles at HistoricalClimatology.com, on topics that range from the relationship between climate change and caribou to the IPCC’s worrisome new report on warming of 1.5° C. Have a look!

Best wishes,

Dagomar Degroot & Sam White

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## Climate History Podcast



If you missed it, the eighth episode of the Climate History Podcast is now available. 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](#).

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## Upcoming Events



### PAGES CVAS

3rd workshop: Spatio-temporal scaling of forced and unforced variability across the Holocene: from proxies to process

Seattle, USA

24-25 January 2019

Deadlines: TBA

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1806-cvas-scale-wshop18>

### PAGES Extremes Integrative Activity

1st workshop: Climatic and hydrological extremes: linking the instrumental period of the last decades with the more distant past

Koblenz, Germany

18-20 February 2019

Deadlines: TBA

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1827-extremes-wshop-19>

### PAGES LandCover6k

European Land-use at 6000BP: transforming on-site data to land use units distributed in space

Hemmenhofen, Germany

28-30 January 2019

Registration deadline: **31 October 2018**

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1884-landcover6k-landuse-wshop-19>

### PAGES SISAL

3rd workshop: Analyses of the SISAL database: regional patterns in isotope signatures

Agadir, Morocco

8-12 October 2018

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1762-sisal-3rd-wshop-18>

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## PAGES Thresholds and Tipping Points Integrative Activity

AIMES/PAGES joint workshop: Abrupt changes, thresholds, and tipping points in Earth history and future implications

Hamburg, Germany

14-16 November 2018

Registration closes: **9 November**

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1833-aimes-pages-wshop-18>

## PAGES VICS

4th workshop: Volcanic Impacts on Climate and Society: The Common Era and beyond

Cambridge, UK

13-16 April 2019

ECR financial support deadline: **20 October 2018**

Registration and abstract submission: **1 November 2018**

<http://pastglobalchanges.org/calendar/upcoming/127-pages/1828-vics-4th-wshop-191>.

## 20th INQUA Congress



[Registration](#) for the conference in Dublin, Ireland, from 25-31 July 2019, is now open.

The [full list of sessions](#) includes many topics in climate history, including the session "Advances in Historical Climatology and Climate History" convened by David Nash, Georgina Endfield, and Linden Ashcroft.

## AGU Fall Meeting



Washington, DC, USA, from 10-14 December 2018. Register before 7 November for a discount. In order to qualify for AGU member rates, you must have joined AGU or renewed by **15 October**: <https://fallmeeting.agu.org/2018/registration/>

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## Open Calls

### Arcadia

*Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History* is an open-access, peer-reviewed publication platform for short, illustrated, and engaging environmental histories. Embedded in a particular time and place, each story focuses on a site, event, person, organization, or species as it relates to nature and human society. By publishing digitally on the Environment & Society Portal, *Arcadia* promotes accessibility and visibility of original research in global environmental history and cognate disciplines. Each peer-reviewed article includes a profile of the researcher, links, and suggested readings.

We also welcome proposals for inter-connected contributions by individual authors or research groups. Let us know if you are interested in having your submission linked to an existing thematic *Arcadia* collection or if you would like to edit a new one.

Existing *Arcadia* collections include: *Disaster Histories*, *National Parks in Time and Space*, *Global Environmental Movements*, *Water Histories*, *The Nature State*, *Rights of Nature Recognition*, *Diseases and Pests in History*, and *Terms of Disaster*.

To submit, simply send a filled-out version of this [form](#) together with your draft submission to *Arcadia*'s managing editor, Jonatan Palmblad ([arcadia@carsoncenter.lmu.de](mailto:arcadia@carsoncenter.lmu.de))—guidelines are included in the form. Your email should also include 2–5 images and/or multimedia (with permissions if necessary) and a profile photo. Complete submissions are assigned to two anonymous peer reviewers chosen for their expertise in a field related to the submission, often at the suggestion of the board. We also encourage authors to suggest potential reviewers as an option—they may or may not be contacted. We ask for reviewers to send feedback within one month. If reviewers request revisions, we will ask you to address these within two weeks. For accepted manuscripts, copy editing will be provided.

For full consideration for the spring volume, please submit your draft by 1 December 2018. While submissions can be made at any time, we are concentrating the review process around three seasonal volumes. *Arcadia* requires no submission fees or article processing fees, and is published open-access under a Creative Commons CC-BY license. With submissions or any questions, please email Jonatan Palmblad at [arcadia@carsoncenter.lmu.de](mailto:arcadia@carsoncenter.lmu.de).

## 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

### The Palgrave Handbook of Climate History



The newly-minted *Palgrave Handbook of Climate History* promises to be a valuable tool to climate historians across all regions, periods of study, and disciplinary backgrounds.

Providing fresh analyses of methods and source materials, updated overviews of regional chronologies, investigations into how climate and society interact, relevant case studies,

and a history of climate science, the book is comprehensive in its scope and will prove an invaluable resource for researchers.

### Whaling and Climate Change in the Arctic



A new report about ongoing research into the historical relationship of whaling and climate change in the Arctic was released by an interdisciplinary team from Denmark, Norway, and Greenland. Their report correlates the decline of whaling near Greenland with changes in sea ice cover and climate regimes locally and in the rest of Europe. At the same time, changes to whaling practices near Svalbard may have driven whales or whalers to new

areas. Further developments promise new perspective on these charismatic creatures and how they, alongside humans, adapted to climate change. Read more about the project [here](#).

### Understanding Chinese Climate Sources



A new article in the journal *Environmental History* offers insight into classical Chinese sources on climate history. Although Chinese annals contain a wealth of weather data, putting this data to use meaningfully requires a careful understanding of the context in which the often-qualitative data were produced. As Pei and Forêt argue, Confucian

“heaven-human induction theory,” in which the heavens communicated their displeasure with society or a ruler by sending weather omens, provides the fullest account of their intellectual underpinning.

### Symposia on the history of meteorological knowledge transfer in colonial contexts



Two linked symposia on “(Dis)Continuity Between the East and the West: The History of Meteorological Knowledge Transfer in Colonial Contexts”, sponsored by the International Commission for the History of Meteorology, took place in London this month during the conference of the European Society for the History of Science (14-17 September 2018).

Read more about it [here](#).

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## Feature Articles

### Two Decades from Disaster? The IPCC's "Global Warming of 1.5° C."

*Dagomar Degroot, Georgetown University*



International climate change agreements have [long aimed](#) at limiting anthropogenic global warming to 2°C Celsius, relative to so-called “pre-industrial” averages. Yet in early 2015, more than 70 scientists contributed to a report that warned about then-poorly understood dangers of warming short of 2° C. Several months later, Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) met in Paris and reached an agreement to keep global warming to “well below” 2° C. The Paris Agreement invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to prepare a special Assessment Report. [More](#)

### Is There a Better Way To Do Climate History? Testing a Quantitative Approach

*Dagomar Degroot, Georgetown University*



Until recently, it was notoriously difficult to connect today’s extreme weather with the gradual trends of climate change. Scientists shied away from saying, for example, that catastrophic droughts or severe hurricanes reflected the influence of anthropogenic global warming. [More](#)

### Are Woodland Caribou Doomed by Climate Change?

*Nancy Langston, Michigan Technological University*



In May 2018, woodland caribou were declared functionally extinct in the United States. Across the Canadian north, woodland caribou have disappeared from roughly half their 19th century range. Is climate change dooming woodland caribou? Or are managers using climate change as an excuse to avoid making difficult policy decisions? [More](#)



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## Best of the Web

### June 2018



How Our Colonial Past Altered the Ecobalance of an Entire Planet. [The Guardian](#)

Sam White, the Little Ice Age. [Ben Franklin's World](#)

How Do We Process Doom-and-Gloom Climate News? How Should We? [PRI](#)

Here's Every Volcano that has Erupted Since Krakatoa. [Axios](#)

Newspaper Reports in Romania – What Do They Tell Us about Extreme Meteorological Events of the Early 19th Century? [The Early Pages](#)

### July 2018



Dry Weather Is Helping Archaeologists Discover Ancient Sites. [The Economist](#)

Dreaming of the Designer Climate: Inside the Controversy Surrounding the Question of Climate Engineering. [The Otter](#)

The City of my Birth is Becoming a Climate Casualty. [New York Times](#)

Climate Change is Supercharging a Hot and Dangerous Summer. [Washington Post](#)

Global Warming May Be Twice What Climate Models Predict. [Phys.org](#)

### August 2018



The Eruption Of Krakatoa Was The First Global Catastrophe. [Forbes](#)

How Indigenous Knowledge Might Inform Our Response To Climate Change. [Australian Geographic](#)

When The World Was Cold: Five Questions For Dagomar Degroot. [Undark Magazine](#)

Archaeologists Use Ancient Dirty Dishes To Reconstruct Climate Shifts. [Ars Technica](#)



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## Recent Publications

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

- Balasch, Josep Carles, David Pino, Josep Lluís Ruiz-Bellet, Jordi Tuset, Mariano Barriendos, Xavier Castelltort, and Juan Carlos Peña. "The Extreme Floods in the Ebro River Basin since 1600 CE." *Science of The Total Environment* 646 (2019): 645–60. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.07.325>.
- Ballesteros-Cánovas, Juan Antonio, Markus Stoffel, Gerardo Benito, Mario Rohrer, David Barriopedro, Ricardo García-Herrera, Martin Beniston, and Stefan Brönnimann. "On the Extraordinary Winter Flood Episode over the North Atlantic Basin in 1936." *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, July 2, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.13911>.
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## History of Climate Science and Ideas

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- Sörlin, Sverker, and Melissa Lane. "Historicizing Climate Change—Engaging New Approaches to Climate and History." *Climatic Change*, September 14, 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2285-0>.
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### **Paleoclimatology (high-resolution studies relevant to human history)**

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## Contact Information

### Co-Founders

Sam White – [white.2426@osu.edu](mailto:white.2426@osu.edu)

Dagomar Degroot – [Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu](mailto:Dagomar.Degroot@georgetown.edu)

### Newsletter Editor

Nicholas Cunigan – [njcunigan@gmail.com](mailto:njcunigan@gmail.com)