

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

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the *Climate History Newsletter*, with the latest events and publications in the field. Once again – and despite the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic – this issue is packed with updates.

Events and meetings are starting to take place again, both online and now, at last, in person. Please read on for some of the latest updates and deadlines for conferences and workshops, including the ASEH, EGU, and PAGES-OSM. And please remember to share your events and news with us on the CHN email list!



Sam White

COVID aside, the pace of new research in historical climatology and high-resolution paleoclimatology has been as strong as ever. The many new publications added to our database in 2021 include a new review article in *Nature* by Dagomar Degroot et al., a new global review of climate indices by David Nash and others in *Climate of the Past*, a special issue on historical climatology in southeastern Europe in *Ekonomska i Ekohistorija*, and a fascinating history of ideas about climatic change, *Les Révoltes du ciel*, by Jean-Baptiste Fressoz and Fabien Locher.

Emma Moesswilde and Dagomar Degroot are continuing to record new episodes of our podcast, *Climate History*, most recently with Debjani Bhattacharyya of Drexel University. Bryna Cameron-Steinke of Georgetown University is now co-director of [HistoricalClimatology.com](https://www.HistoricalClimatology.com), where you can find a series of new updates on exciting projects in the field.

We hope to see many of you soon, virtually or in person,

Dagomar Degroot & Sam White

Climate History Podcast – New Episodes!



Climate History features interviews and discussions about the history of climate change. Conversations consider what the past can tell us about our present and future. It is hosted by Dr. Dagomar Degroot, associate professor of environmental history at Georgetown University, and Emma Moesswilde, a PhD student in environmental and climate history at Georgetown. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the podcast on iTunes. If you don't have iTunes, you can listen [here](#). See below for descriptions of the latest episodes!

Climate Histories and Futures in the Indian Ocean World

In the 21st episode of *Climate History*, co-host Emma Moesswilde interviews Debjani Bhattacharyya, Associate Professor of History at Drexel University. Professor Bhattacharyya is among the most innovative scholars of past climate change, and the histories she uncovers have clear relevance for the future of the Indian Ocean World.

Moesswilde and Bhattacharyya discuss the history of human responses to climate change at sea; the role of environmental disasters in shape urban trajectories; the role of insurance markets in creating weather knowledge; and how transdisciplinary perspectives on the past can inform our understanding of a hotter future.

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson and the Record of Past Climate Change

In the 20th episode of Climate History, co-hosts Dagomar Degroot and Emma Moesswilde interview Jim McClure, General Editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University. Recently, Director McClure spearheaded the creation of a unique digital resource: a repository of Jefferson's abundant observations of the weather and climate of his time.

McClure discusses the creation of the Jefferson Weather and Climate Records; explains what visitors can find using this resource; describes how Jefferson wrote about the weather of his time; and details why scholars and students interested in climate change should put "Jefferson to use without accepting all that he was or did."

Little Ice Age Lessons: How to Better Understand the Societal Impacts of Climate Change

In the 19th episode of Climate History, co-hosts Dagomar Degroot and Emma Moesswilde discuss their work on a major article in the journal Nature. The article coins a new term – the “History of Climate and Society” (HCS) – to refer to the truly interdisciplinary study of the past impacts of climate change on human populations. It offers a detailed critique of the field as it has been pursued to date, presents a new research framework for HCS scholars, and shows how the application of that framework can permit new scholarship into the resilience and adaptability of populations that faced the modest, pre-industrial climate changes of the past 2,000 years. It also identifies five “pathways” that allowed populations to endure and even exploit these changes - pathways from which we might learn today.

Dagomar Degroot, lead author of the study, explains what led him to develop the article, describes its major findings, and reveals what it can tell us about the future of global warming.

Upcoming Events and Call for Proposals

American Meteorological Society

The American Meteorological Society will be hosting the 20th History Symposium as part of its annual meeting. There are five sessions in the History Symposium:

- General Session on the History of Atmospheric and Related Sciences;
- Historical Perspectives on Diversity in Atmospheric and Related Sciences;
- History of Weather Events and Practices;
- Winds of Change: The 2011 Super Outbreaks and the Birth of a Weather Ready Nation.
- History of Environmental Security (JOINT PRESIDENTIAL SESSION).

Abstracts are due by 1 September 2021. There is an option for either in-person or virtual presentation. More information can be found [here](#).

American Society for Environmental History

The American Society for Environmental History will be meeting again in person 23-27 March 2022 in Eugene, Oregon (USA). The conference theme will be “Disaster and Renewal.” For more information click [here](#).

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.

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)—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.

Please note that, due to increased popularity, accepted submissions may be published in later volumes. 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. More information is available [here](#).

Climate of the Past Special Issue

The Climate of the Past special issue "International methods and comparisons in climate reconstruction and impacts from archives of societies" now has 8 articles. It is open for new submissions until 30 November 2021. [More](#)

The Climate of the Past special issue "Interdisciplinary studies of volcanic impacts on climate and society" now has 9 articles and is open for new submissions until November 2021. [More](#)

European Geophysical Union

The EGU General Assembly 2022 will be back in person in Vienna 3-8 April 2022 "with online components provided to enable virtual attendance". The call for sessions is open until 6 September 2021. [More](#)

Launching the Atmospheric Humanities Conference

The Launching the Atmospheric Humanities conference, originally scheduled to take place in July 2020 in Hermoupolis, Greece will now take place online from 3-5 August 2021.

For a full programme including all abstracts please click [here](#). If you are interested in attending as a non-presenting delegate, please get in touch with [Vladimir Jankovic](#) as soon as possible.

The International Commission for the History of Meteorology would also like to share the following commemorative [video](#) made by Robert Naylor in celebration of the ICHM's 20th Anniversary.

PAGES OSM/YSM

PAGES' 6th Open Science Meeting (OSM) and 4th Young Scientists Meeting (YSM) will be held in May 2022 in Agadir, Morocco. The new tentative dates are YSM: 15-17 May 2022; OSM: 17-21 May 2022. Field trips start from 22 May. The events were postponed from May 2021 because of coronavirus health and travel restrictions. These tentative dates will be reassessed again in mid-2021. You can keep up to date with all announcements and find out more about the program [here](#).

If the OSM goes forward as planned, we should look forward to a number of sessions on the history and archaeology of climate and society. We are tentatively planning a side meeting for the PAGES-CRIAS working group and Climate History Network at the conference.

PAGES Working Groups and Affiliated Organizations

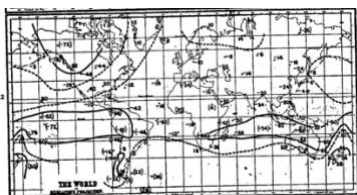
PAGES continues to send news on meetings for its working groups and affiliated organizations. Some events continue to take place online while others have been postponed. Some recent updates of possible interest to CHN members:

- The LandCover6k working group's 4th General Workshop to be held at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, from 2-4 December 2021. New information including plans to hold the workshop as a hybrid event is available [here](#).
- The Volcanoes in Climate and Society (VICS) working group's next workshop in Aarhus, Denmark, has been postponed, most likely until 2022. [More](#)
- Felix Riede (Risk-KAN past4future working group convener; Department of Archaeology and Heritage Studies/Center for Biodiversity Dynamics in a Changing World, Aarhus University, Denmark) and Phil Riris (Risk-KAN past4future working group convener; Institute for the Modelling of Socio-Environmental Transitions, Bournemouth University, UK) discuss the Knowledge Action Network on Emergent Risks and Extreme Events (Risk-KAN). Watch "Mutual interests, potential synergies, and an invitation to get involved" on [PAGES' YouTube channel](#).
- The PAGES-endorsed 19th International Swiss Climate Summer School will be held from 29 August to 3 September 2021 in Monte Verità, Ascona, Switzerland. [More](#)
- The PAGES-supported Carpathian-Balkan Paleoscience Workshop will be held online and in Sacel, Maramures, Romania, from 5-10 October 2021. [More](#)

Research Highlights

What El Niño teaches us about the importance of climate history

George Adamson, King's College London



When Gilbert Walker codified the Southern Oscillation in the 1920s, he did not define a causal mechanism that could explain weather variability in other parts of the world. Rather, Walker's Southern Oscillation was the application of a branch of statistics that Walker himself developed, his analysis revealing a co-relationship in pressure between weather stations in the eastern and western Pacific. Walker's Southern Oscillation wasn't tied to a particular place – the meteorological stations from which the analysis was taken were in locations as diverse as

Cape Town and Southeast Canada – and it had no underlying mechanism, although he tentatively suggested a role for the Pacific Ocean. [More](#)

Bringing Past Weather Observations into Current Climate Change Research: the McGill DRAW (Data Rescue: Archive and Weather) Project

Victoria Slonosky, McGill University



As readers of HistoricalClimatology.com know, there's nothing new about observing the weather and worrying about climate change. We are fortunate to have a legacy of hundreds of years of observations bequeathed to us by our scientific forebears. But it is a daunting task to find, catalogue and transcribe this vast trove of past observations, so that we might better understand climate dynamics and high impact weather events. Researchers are increasingly turning to the public for help. McGill University's [DRAW \(Data Rescue: Archives and Weather\) project](#) is a web-based platform that allows us to ask the public to work with us to rescue weather observations by becoming citizen scientists. [More](#)

Erosion, Flooding and Climate in Yellow River History

Ruth Mostern, University of Pittsburgh



A river is not simply a tidy channel of water traversing dry land. It is a complex system that carries organic and mineral material out of higher altitude locations and deposits them on a floodplain or estuary. The Yellow River, situated near the northern perimeter of the East Asia Summer Monsoon, is currently the most sediment laden river in the world. It carries sediment from the Loess Plateau, located primarily northwestern China, and deposits it on the North China Plain. [More](#)

Best of the Web

June and July 2021



Small Climate Changes Can Have Devastating Local Consequences – It Happened in the Little Ice Age. [The Conversation](#)

Poseidon's Wrath [Aeon Magazine](#)

Building Just Climate Futures From Our Environmental Past. [NICHE](#)

What the Ottoman Empire Can Teach Us About the Consequences of Climate Change – and How Drought Can Uproot Peoples and Fuel Warfare. [Climate History Australia](#)

May 2021



The Myths That Hint at Past Disasters. [BBC Future](#)

Holy Water: Miracle Accounts and Proxy Data Tell a Climate Story. [Eos](#)

We Found a Secret History of Megadroughts Written in Tree Rings. The Wheatbelt's Future May be Drier Than We Thought. [The Conversation](#).

March and April 2021



Did Climate Change Cause Societies to Collapse? New Research Upends the Old Story. [Grist](#)

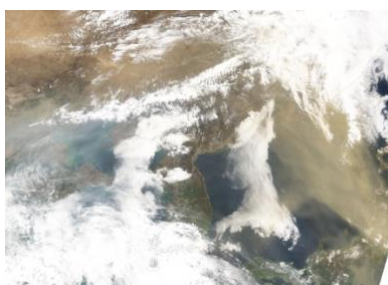
'Our Biggest Challenge? Lack of Imagination': The Scientists Turning the Desert Green. [The Guardian](#)

How Early Sci-Fi Authors Imagined Climate Change. [JSTOR Daily](#)

1848: Floods in Adelaide. [Climate History Australia](#)

Japan's Kyoto Cherry Blossoms Peak on Earliest Date in 1,200 years, a Sign of Climate Change. [Washington Post](#)

February 2021



Dust on the Wind. [Eos](#)

How Indigenous Oral Tradition Is Guiding Archaeology and Uncovering Climate History in Alaska. [Discover](#)

Climate Change and the Humanities: A Historical Perspective. [Items](#)

Historical Climate Data Can Improve Our Assessment of Future Climate Risk. [Climate History Australia](#)

The Terrifying Warning Lurking in the Earth's Ancient Rock Record. [The Atlantic](#)

December 2020 and January 2021



Preserving Cultural and Historic Treasures in a Changing Climate May Mean Transforming Them. *The Conversation*

Can We Restore Nature? *Aeon*

Will Humans Ever Reverse Climate Change? *The Science of Fiction*

The Marshall Islands Could be Wiped Out by Climate Change – and their Colonial History Limits their Ability to Save Themselves. *The Conversation*

Recent Publications

Historical climatology

Botić, Katarina. “Historical Weather Data from Chronicon Conventus Franciscani Brodii in Savo (1706–1932): An Attempt to Reconstruct Microregional Weather Patterns and Their Influence on Daily Life.” *Ekonomika i Ekohistorija : Časopis Za Gospodarsku Povijest i Povijest Okoliša* 16, no. 1 (2020): 97–115.

Boyden, Michael. *Climate and American Literature*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Büntgen, Ulf, and Clive Oppenheimer. “The Importance of ‘Year Zero’ in Interdisciplinary Studies of Climate and History.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117, no. 52 (December 29, 2020): 32845–47. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2018103117>.

Camuffo, Dario. “Key Problems in Early Wine-Spirit Thermometers and the ‘True Réaumur’ Thermometer.” *Climatic Change* 163, no. 2 (November 1, 2020): 1083–1102. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-020-02910-3>.

Camuffo, Dario, Francesca Becherini, and Antonio della Valle. “Daily Temperature Observations in Florence at the Mid-Eighteenth Century: The Martini Series (1756–1775).” *Climatic Change* 164, no. 3 (February 14, 2021): 42. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-021-03004-4>.

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Camuffo, Dario, Antonio della Valle, Francesca Becherini, and Valeria Zanini. “Three Centuries of Daily Precipitation in Padua, Italy, 1713–2018: History, Relocations, Gaps, Homogeneity and Raw Data.” *Climatic Change* 162, no. 2 (September 1, 2020): 923–42. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-020-02717-2>.

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