18 June 2021

Environmental History & Public Policy

This will be the first in a series of stakeholder workshops organised by the newly-established Princeton-Max Planck Advisory Panel on Environmental History and Policy (EnvHist4P).

DATE & TIME

9:00 - 14:00, Friday 18 June 2021

WHERE

Online – a Zoom link will be provided to the invited participants in due course

ORGANISERS

Martin Bauch, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe

Adam Izdebski, Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History

CHAIR

Luke Kemp





Societies of the 21st century are confronted with the challenges that were long believed to be a matter of history: pandemics and meteorological extreme events induced by environmental change. Predicted by scientists, but some of them a surprise to decision-makers, these challenges require smart adaptation from our societies and a strong focus on resilience from public policy. Environmental historians study exactly these topics for several decades and it is high time they contribute this expertise to building a better future for European societies. Our workshop will explore selected historical case studies that have direct relevance to contemporary policy issues.

PROGRAM

9.30-9.40 INTRODUCTION

9.40-10.40 SESSION 1: RESILIENCE

John Haldon: What permits 'resilience' in a pre-modern state system? The Eastern Roman Empire Adam Izdebski & Piotr Guzowski: Resilience to climate and epidemics as a dynamic process: the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Gerrit Schenk: Building resilience by learning from past disasters – the Arno floods (1333-2016): slow onset disasters and shifting baselines

10.40-11.00 BREAK

11.00-12.20 SESSION 2: CLIMATE

Martin Bauch: Central European precipitation extremes in the Middle Ages: Historical and contemporary strategies of memory and visualization

Katrin Kleemann: Icelandic Volcanism and Its Impacts on Europe

Eleonora Rohland: A Critical Perspective on Climate Change Adaptation through Historical Hurricane Impacts in New Orleans 1718 to the Present Franz Mauelshagen: The Colonial Roots of Manipulating the Climate

12.20-12.30 BREAK

12.30-13.30 DISCUSSION