

The global environment is an idea that permeates the loosely connected cluster of disciplines referred to as environmental or earth sciences. From the second half of the 19th century onwards, geology, meteorology, climatology, oceanography, ecology, and seismography, among others, have shared a common commitment to obtaining images and representations of the earth at the supra-anthropic scale. It is the scale of global circulation models, systems ecology, the biosphere, Spaceship Earth, and "big data". This workshop seeks to write the human scale back into the history of the global environment by looking at individual and collective ways of experiencing nature in the work of practitioners in the environmental sciences.

There are at least two fundamental ways in which experiences of nature coevolved with the global environment. First, practices of data gathering confronted practitioners with perceptions of their local environment mediated by new technologies. This opened the way to new phenomena, from previously unheard sounds to newly discovered entities, such as radioactive minerals. Second, notions of an interconnected, global environment provided new conceptual frameworks with which to interpret and give order to particular experiences, from climatic variations to earth's tremors.

In this workshop, we would like to turn our attention to the ways in which individual and collective experiences of nature have been transformed within the environmental sciences. The "body of the artisan" has at times been assumed to fade before the immensity of planetary sciences. Acknowledging the presence of experience in the production of sciences of the global promises new ways of exploring this blossoming field. While the question of how local practices gave way to global knowledge has been central to the history of science and related fields in recent decades, we endeavor to focus on the coexistence and coproduction of local perception and sensory experience with global universal models and frameworks.

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Boltzmannstrasse 22 D-14195 Berlin
Telefon (+4930) 22667-0
Telefax (+4930) 22667-299
www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de



Restaurant Il Gattopardo
Schorlemerallee 5, 14195 Berlin
Telefon (+4930) 8242352

Illustrations:

front: Roald Amundsen on skis, 1909 ;
back: U.S. Surveillance Station, Teufelsberg, Berlin ;
inside: Camille Flammarion, 'L'Atmosphère: météorologie populaire', 1888: 173.

flyer design: Mala Shah

Experiencing the Global Environment

February 4 - 6, 2016
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Organization: Lino Camprubí, Philipp Lehmann



Thursday, February 4

15.00 Welcome and Introduction

15.30-17.15 Exporting and Enlarging the Field

Jeremy Vetter Experiential and Cosmopolitan Knowledge: The U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey During the Railroad Era

Emily Brock The Inconvenient Richness of the Philippine Islands: Tropical Forest Commodification between the Local and the Global

Etienne Benson Sensor Networks and the Transformation of 'the Field' in the Environmental Sciences

19.00 Dinner for presenters at Restaurant Il Gattopardo



Friday, February 5

09.00-10.45 Scales of Climate

Philipp Lehmann Sensing the Weather and Collecting Climate Data in Colonial Africa

Dania Achermann & Matthias Heymann Negotiating Epistemic Shift: From Human-Scale Climatology to Global-Scale Climate Science

Mark Carey Ice Cores, Time, and the Re-envisioning of the Global Environment

Coffee Break

11.00-12.45 Bounding Spheres

Giulia Rispolli Rethinking Boundaries: Soviet Cybernetics across the Biosphere, the Ecosphere, and the Noosphere Dimensions

Javier Pérez-Jara The Oblivion of Nature as Nature in the Anthropocene Epoch

Sebastian Grevsmühl The Local in Global Environmental Images

12.45 Catered Lunch at MPIWG

13.45-15.30 Submerged Environments

Helen Rozwadowski 'Homo Aquaticus', Evolution, and Knowing the Ocean in the 1950s and 60s

Lino Camprubí A Global Underwater Ear: Collective Experience and Historical Perception

Nils Hanwahr Mediating Ocean Environments Through Satellite Tagging of Marine Animals - A Recent History

Coffee Break

15.45-17.30 From the Ground Up

Daniela Ruß An Analysis of the World Power Conferences' Minutes

Conevery Valencius Hydraulic Fracturing and Induced Earthquakes in a Small Southern U.S. State: Local Hunches, Global Science, and the Underground Connections Between Them

Elena Aronova Seismic Sensors vs Animal Senses: Earthquake Prediction With and Without Models in the Second Half of the 20th Century

Saturday, February 6

10.00-11.45 From Global to Local?

Sabine Höhler Local Disruption, Global Condition: El Niño as Weather and as Climate Phenomenon

Ruth Morgan Experiencing Global Phenomena in the Eastern Indian Ocean

Elaine LaFay The Character of the Wind: Climate, Public Health, and the Body in the Antebellum U.S. Gulf Coast

11.45 Catered Lunch at MPIWG

12.45-15.00 General Discussion

Lorraine Daston
Hans-Jörg Rheinberger