

Seminar ('Historical Contextualization'):

Resource-use in the Americas, 1500 to Present

Summer Semester 2017, May 18 to July 06, 2017, Room X A2-105

Guest lecturer Prof. Dr. Ted Beatty (Notre Dame), Asst. Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland

This course serves as a contextualization of the Seminar „Wood in the Americas, 1750 to present - Tracing a Resource from the Solar to the Fossil - to a New Solar? - Age“ (co-taught with Prof. Dr. Joachim Radkau) as well as of the Seminar "'Development' in Latin America: Theory and Practice" (taught by Dr. Tobias Reu). Furthermore, it can also be studied as an optional course in the BGHS Graduate Program. In a mix of reading and research-based classes we will work towards an overview of the evolution of resource and energy use in both North and Latin America from 1500 to the present. We will retrace the ruptures and continuities in this process that lead up to our present troubled age of global climate change, 'Energiewende' and the 'Anthropocene'. Our approach will be an economic and environmental historical one. Expect a mix of primary source-reading, empirical studies and theoretical texts. The course will be held in a 9 hour introductory block taught by Asst. Prof. Dr. Eleonora Rohland (Bielefeld) and in a 15 hour block co-taught with international guest lecturer Prof. Dr. Ted Beatty (Notre Dame), Prof. Rohland will head the 6 hour summary block of the course.

Course Requirements: Readiness to converse and read in English; active participation in the group and plenary discussions of the seminar

Date	Session Theme	Reading Assignment	Lecturer	Hours
05/18	Energy Regimes and Energy Transitions in History	Burke, Edmund. "The Big Story: Human History, Energy Regimes, and the Environment." In <i>The Environment and World History</i> , edited by Edmund Burke and Kenneth Pomeranz. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009, 33-53. Smil, Vaclav. <i>Energy Transitions. History, Requirements, Prospects</i> . Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2010, 17-25, 48-61.	Rohland	3 9-12 am
05/31	Conceptual Approaches I: The Columbian Exchange	Crosby, Alfred W. <i>The Columbian Exchange. Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492</i> . 30th anniversary ed. Westport: Praeger, 2003, chapter 1: The Contrasts. (or) Mann, Charles C. <i>1493. Uncovering the New World Columbus Created</i> . 1st ed. New York: Knopf, 2011: Introduction.	Rohland	3
	Animals and Plants:	Crosby, Alfred W. <i>The Columbian Exchange. Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492</i> . 30th anniversary ed. Westport: Praeger, 2003, chapter 3: Old World Plants and Animals in the New World.		9-12 am

Date	Session Theme	Reading Assignment	Lecturer	Hours
06/01	Conceptual Approaches II: Guns, Germs, and Steel	Diamond, Jared M. <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel. The Fates of Human Societies.</i> New York: Norton, 2005, chapter 18: hemispheres colliding: 354-75.	Rohland	3
	Plants I: Agriculture/ Cash Crops	Zappia, Natale. "Revolutions in the Grass: Energy and Food Systems in Continental North America, 1763–1848." <i>Environmental History</i> 21, no. 1 (2016): 30-53.		2-5 pm
06/13	Plants II: Deforesting the Amazon	Dean, Warren. <i>With Broadax and Firebrand. The Destruction of the Brazilian Atlantic Forest.</i> Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995, chapter 5: Gold and Diamonds, Ants and Cattle: 91-116.	Beatty, Rohland	3
	Mineral resources: Silver Mining in colonial New Spain and 19th-Century Mexico	Studnicki-Gizbert, Daviken, and David Schecter. "The Environmental Dynamics of a Colonial Fuel-Rush: Silver Mining and Deforestation in New Spain, 1522 to 1810." <i>Environmental History</i> 15, no. 1 (2010): 94-119. (or) Beatty, Edward. "Cyanide and Silver." In <i>Technology and the Search for Progress in Modern Mexico</i> , edited by Edward Beatty. 134-53. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.		9-12 am
06/14	Human labor: Slavery in the Caribbean	Klein, Herbert S., and Ben Vinson. <i>African slavery in Latin America and the Caribbean.</i> 2nd ed. Oxford ; New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, chapter 3: Sugar and Slavery in the Caribbean: 18-47.	Beatty, Rohland	2 10-12 am
		Engerman, Stanley L., and Kenneth Lee Sokoloff. "Factor Endowments, Institutions, and Differential Paths of Growth Among New World Economies. A View from Economic Historians of the United States." Chap. 10 In <i>How Latin America Fell Behind</i> , edited by Stephen Haber. 260-304. Standford: Standford University Press, 1997.		
06/21	Mineral resources: Coal Mining	Jones, Christopher F. "A Landscape of Energy Abundance: Anthracite Coal Canals and the Roots of American Fossil Fuel Dependence, 1820–1860." <i>Environmental History</i> 15, no. 3 (2010): 449-84. (or)	Beatty, Rohland	2 10-12 am

Date	Session Theme	Reading Assignment	Lecturer	Hours
		Wendt, Helge. "Coal Mining in Cuba: Knowledge Formation in a Trans-colonial Perspective." In <i>The Globalization of Knowledge in the Iberian Colonial World</i> , edited by Helge Wendt. 261-96. Berlin: Edition Open Access, 2016. (or) Valverde Pérez, Nuria. "Underground Knowledge: Mining, Mapping and Law in Eighteenth-Century Nueva España." In <i>The Globalization of Knowledge in the Iberian Colonial World</i> , edited by Helge Wendt. 227-60. Berlin: Edition Open Access, 2016.		
06/22	Conceptual Approaches III: The Great Divergence	Pomeranz, Kenneth. <i>The Great Divergence. China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy</i> . The Princeton economic history of the western world. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2000.	Beatty, Rohland	3
	Mineral resources: Oil	Bebbington, Anthony, and Jeffrey Bury. <i>Subterranean struggles. New Dynamics of Mining, Oil, and Gas in Latin America</i> . Peter T Flawn series in natural resources. First edition ed. 2013. (or) Cote, Stephen. "A War for Oil in the Chaco, 1932–1935." <i>Environmental History</i> 18, no. 4 (2013): 738-58. (or) Vasquez, Patricia I. <i>Oil Sparks in the Amazon. Local Conflicts, Indigenous Populations, and Natural Resources</i> . Studies in security and international affairs. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2014, chapter 1: Tracing Oil- and Gas-related Conflicts, 11-35.		1-4 pm
06/28	Conceptual Approaches IV: The Great Acceleration or The "1950s Syndrome"	McNeill, John Robert, and Peter Engelke. <i>The Great Acceleration. An Environmental History of the Anthropocene Since 1945</i> . Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014, 1-63. Pfister, Christian. "The "1950s Syndrome" and the Transition from a Slow-Going to a Rapid Loss of Global Sustainability." In <i>The Turning Points of Environmental History</i> , edited by Frank Uekötter. 90-118. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010.	Beatty, Rohland	2 10-12 am
06/29	Neo-Extractivism in Latin America and the Global Economy	Richards, John F. "Towards a Global System of Property Rights in Land." In <i>The Environment in World History</i> , edited by Edmund Burke. 54-80. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009.	Beatty, Rohland	3 2-5 pm

Date	Session Theme	Reading Assignment	Lecturer	Hours
07/05	Conceptual Approaches V: The Anthropocene	Steffen, Will, Jacques Grinevald, Paul Crutzen, and John McNeill. "The Anthropocene. Conceptual and Historical Perspectives." <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences</i> 369, no. 1938 (2011): 842-67.	Rohland	3 9-12 am
	The Anthropocene in Latin America I	Wendt, Helge. "Epilogue: The Iberian Way into the Anthropocene." In <i>The Globalization of Knowledge in the Iberian Colonial World</i> , edited by Helge Wendt. Berlin: Edition Open Access, 2016, 297-311.		
07/06	The Anthropocene in Latin America II	Howe, Cymene. "Latin America in the Anthropocene: Energy Transitions and Climate Change Mitigations." <i>The Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology</i> 20, no. 2 (2015): 231-41.	Rohland	3
	Course Summary			2-5 pm