
INTRODUCTION

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Three new innovations grace this issue of the *International Review of Environmental History*.

This year marks publication of the first guest-edited section. Alessandro Antonello and Ruth A. Morgan have edited seven papers as part of a themed issue, **'Bodies of Knowledge'**, which follows the regular submissions section. They discuss the papers in their own introduction to the special issue.

In addition to extending the frequency of publication, two other innovations provide flexible means of enabling scholars to meet two of the key aims of the journal: 'to think big and to tackle the challenges of writing environmental histories across different methodologies, nations and timescales'. Both innovations make it easier for scholars to engage with big topics outside the context of a formal article. The first of those innovations is **'Views and Perspectives'**: this encourages short opinion and overview pieces on topical subjects. The second is **'The Letter'**, which invites novel, and very often contentious, perspectives on a major issue.

In our inaugural 'Letter', **'Leaving the Anthropocene, Entering the Nemescene'**, Paul Star provides a fascinatingly provocative piece, in which he questions our use of the term 'The Anthropocene'. In its place, he recommends using 'Nemescene', a concept that, he argues, more accurately reflects the chilling reality that the Earth's systems are now no longer able to accommodate our (destructive) human activities, and that we as humans are now ever-more dependent on natural processes.

The opening article extends understandings of the Anthropocene. David Biggs provides a broader ecological and social picture of herbicide and other chemical use by re-examining the highly contentious military deployment of chemical defoliants dating to the Vietnam War. **'Following Dioxin's Drift: Agent Orange Stories and the Challenge of Metabolic History'** traces the industries that supported its use in the United States (US) and in Vietnam, the chemical herbicides that derived from it and its lingering afterlife in the environment, culture and bodies of people living in Vietnam and the US. This highly innovative article promises to reshape the way in which environmental historians have narrated Vietnam and Agent Orange.

The journal's first '**Views and Perspectives**' is provided by John Dargavel. In '**Why Does Australia Have "Forest Wars"?**', Dargavel provides a personal reflection as both a historian of forestry and forester on conflicts between conservation and timber production in that country. His paper discusses the reasons for such ongoing tensions, and ends with a sense of hope for the finding of a resolution of such seemingly intractable positions.

'Bodies of Knowledge' special issue, 2018, issue 2

Later this year (volume 4, issue 2), we will have a special issue on '**Fast and Slow Disasters: The Temporality of Hazards in Environmental History**', guest edited by Chris Courtney and Fiona Williamson.

New board members

I'm very pleased to welcome two new board members: Associate Professor David Biggs, University of California, Riverside, and Dr Simone Müller, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität.

Submission details

See preface.

Call for papers

I would particularly like to encourage submissions on topics related to history and energy, the atmosphere and water, especially in relation to Africa, South America and Asia. Please also contact me if you are interested in guest editing a special issue.

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James Beattie, Editor
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