

Expertise for the Future: Histories of Environmental Prediction and Policy

Workshop 4 Stockholm

The fourth and final Workshop in the series was held at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Sweden on 1 December 2010.

It opened with an introduction by **Carole Crumley**, co-convenor of IHOPE, about the 'archipelago' of IHOPE projects. It is one of five key case studies in the IHOPE portfolio:

- Expertise for the Future: Histories of Environmental Prediction and Policy
- SW USA-Northern Mexico Native American polities and regional drought history
- Environment And Society in Mayan Central America from 1000 BCE to 1000 CE
- Environment and Society in Europe from 1000 BCE to 1000 CE
- The Urban Mind: Long-term Urban Resilience around the World 10,000 BCE-Present

Sverker Sörlin then introduced **Paul Warde** and **Libby Robin**, and thanked the sponsors of the workshop series:

- School of History, University of East Anglia (Workshop 1)
- Center for History and Economics, University of Cambridge & Harvard University (Workshop 2 and website hosting)
- Centre for Environmental History, Australian National University; Fenner School of Environment and Society, ANU; Centre for Historical Research, National Museum of Australia (Workshop 3, Canberra)
- Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University (Workshop 4)
- Division for History of Science & Technology, KTH (Workshop 4)
- Leverhulme Foundation; Australian Research Council; Formas (research funding to team)

Sverker Sörlin briefly introduced the two key elements in the *Expertise for the Future* project:

- *Environmental Futures* an **anthology** of sources about historical predictions for policy making from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century.
- *Predicting Nature's Future* a **monograph** about the rise of expertise in predicting over four centuries.

The anthology will involve contributions from many of the speakers at the four workshops. The monograph will be written by Robin, Sörlin and Warde.

The **keynote presentation** for the day was delivered by **Mike Hulme** (School of Environmental Science, UEA, Norwich UK) on '**Predictions, Expertise and Audience**'.

Other papers presented were:

- 'Growth as a Problem' **Paul Warde** (UEA/ Centre for History and Economics, Cambridge)
Commentary by **Gro Birgit Ween** (SIA, University of Oslo)
- 'One World/One Climate' **Sverker Sörlin** (KTH/SRC)
Commentary by **Sarah Cornell** (University of Bristol, UK)

'Resilience: A geography and history' **Libby Robin** (ANU/NMA, Canberra)

Commentary by **John Sheail** (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, UK)

Panel discussions:

1. Span and Scale of histories of environmental prediction

Garry Peterson (Stockholm Resilience Centre) and **Carole Crumley** (Stockholm Resilience Centre) provided introductory remarks on ecologies of scale.

2. Doing Integrated History on the Anthropocene – the role of Expertise

Panelists: **Paul Sinclair** (Stockholm Resilience Centre/ University of Uppsala), **Sarah Cornell**, **Eric Paglia** (KTH), **John Sheail**, **Astrid Kander** (University of Lund), **Gro Birgit Ween**

Discussants: **Stephan Barthel** (SRC), **Maria Bohn** (KTH/SRC), **Nina Wormbs** (KTH), **Philippe Forêt** (SU/ETH Zürich), **Cathy Wilkinson**, SRC, **Uno Svedin** (IHOPE, SRC)

The day concluded with a launch of the poster *Environmental Futures* and drinks at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

OUTCOMES of the Expertise for the Future Workshop Series

1. Proposed special issue *Ecology and Society*, showcasing papers presented at various workshops
2. Preliminary proposal and discussions with Jean Black (publisher Yale University Press) about Anthology, *Environmental Futures*.
3. Preliminary outline for monograph, *Predicting Nature's Future*.
4. Other Publications to date (based on papers presented at earlier workshops):

Brown, Karen (2010) 'Rabid Epidemiologies: The Emergence and Resurgence of Rabies in Twentieth Century South Africa' *Journal of the History of Biology* Special Issue on Environmental History (edited by Libby Robin and Jane Carruthers) doi.org/10.1007/s10739-010-9241-9

Strange, Carolyn (2010) "The Personality of Environmental Prediction: Griffith Taylor as 'Latter-day Prophet'" *Historical Records of Australian Science* 21(2): 133-148