

Envirotech Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 2001

New Ph.D. Program Announcement Paul Israel writes. . .

The History Department at the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in association with the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), announces a new Ph.D. program in the History of Technology, Environment, and Health (HTEH), commencing Fall 2001. Drawing together faculty from each of the Rutgers campuses and NJIT, the program emphasizes cross-disciplinary preparation for original research, along with mastery of key literatures in these three areas of historical studies. Though centered in the history faculty, this program involves specialists in areas as diverse as urban studies, public policy, human ecology, and anthropology, and draws on faculty in global and comparative history. Students will also be invited to participate in a two-year seminar (2001–2003) in Industrial Environments at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

The program will prepare students for academic careers and work in public history—policy research in the public and private sectors, ar-

SHOT 2001 Meeting Info By Sara Pritchard

Envirotech has another big presence at this fall's SHOT conference.

Thursday's field trips include an "environmental tour" (a trip to Big Basin and the Monterey Bay Aquarium) and a "San Francisco Bay tour" that includes a visit to the Army Corps of Engineer's hydraulic model of the Bay Area, a trip to the Corps's projects on the Bay, and a historic trek through The City.

An official SHOT special interest group (SIG), Envirotechers will meet for lunch on Friday, October 5th at 11:45 am at the Gordon Biersch Brewery.

Panels of special interest at this year's SHOT conference include:

- Ecology and Technology
- Rivers as Technology: The Intersection of Human Design and Nature
- State-Sponsored Technologies of Power and Modernity in the Rural Landscape
- Tracked, Piped, and Paved: Infrastructures of the Modern City

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Envirotech an Official SIG

By Jim Williams

Envirotech is now the official technology and nature special interest group (SIG) of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). At its spring meeting, SHOT's executive council conferred this SIG status on Envirotech. With it comes the right to sponsor a session at annual SHOT conferences and matching fund support for activities such as newsletter publication and so forth. Envirotech also can have its treasury held by SHOT.

While co-chairs, Sara and Jim, still see Envirotech as a group belonging to both SHOT and the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), the special standing that official SIG status with SHOT gives Envirotech should benefit our efforts to further all our scholarship dealing with technology and the environment.

Rutgers Ph.D. program (continued)

chives, and museums. The IEEE History Center and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research are among several Rutgers centers offering opportunities in policy research. The Thomas A. Edison Papers and the Rutgers Library Archives provide training in archives and scholarly editing. The extensive connections between scholars in HTEH and the museum world, as well as the Edison Papers' connections to the Edison National Historic Site, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Henry Ford Museum, provide opportunities for training in museum work.

Applicants will be eligible for five-year tuition and stipend fellowships.

Website: <http://hteh.rutgers.edu/>

Inquiries: Dr. Paul Israel, Thomas A. Edison Papers (732/932-8511); pisrael@rci.rutgers.edu

Applications: Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions, 18 Bishop Place, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (732/932-8231)

http://history.rutgers.edu/grad/app_info.html

Dues. . . .

By Erik Conway

At the founding meeting of Envirotech, the members voted to establish annual dues at \$5 to pay for activities of its members, including the newsletter. The list of members who are paid up for the 2000-2001 academic year are listed on page 3. We'll be collecting dues for the 2001-2002 academic year at the SHOT meeting in San Jose and at the ASEH meeting in Denver in March 2002, or send payment in the form of a check for 5 USD payable to Jim Williams. Mail to him at 790 Raymundo Avenue, Los Altos CA 94024-3138. Thanks!

At our SIG lunch meeting in San Jose, we'll be discussing and outlining plans for using our 2000-2001 funds, which amount to \$315. The Society for the History of Technology will match non-food & drink expenses up to \$300 /year. Your ideas on the subject are welcome!

Envirotech listserv instructions. . .

By Sara Pritchard

To SUBSCRIBE:

Send a message from your preferred email account to majordomo@lists.stanford.edu with 'subscribe envirotech' (without quotation marks) in the first line of your message.

To UNSUBSCRIBE:

Either 1) send a message from the email account from which you originally subscribed to majordomo@lists.stanford.edu with 'unsubscribe envirotech' in the first line of your message or 2) if you no longer have access to that account, send a message to majordomo with 'unsubscribe envirotech yourname@server.edu' (example: jane-doe@bebopuniversity.edu). Note: for option #2, your name and server name must exactly match your original subscription.

To POST a message:

Send your message to envirotech@lists.stanford.edu. Please use the subject line to identify the topic of your message. Please be sure and use a format that is accessible to most computers. If you have lengthy reports, highly formatted files, or other data-heavy messages, we suggest that you send a shorter message pointing interested individuals to an appropriate website.

A small caveat: The Envirotech list serv is more low tech than we would like. It doesn't have as many features as many list servs do (or rather, our list serv owners haven't had time to figure out these features!). Thanks for your patience in dealing with the list serv's quirks and limitations.

A gentle reminder: As you change email accounts (or change primary email accounts), please unsubscribe and resubscribe as necessary. Also, if you do not have email access for extended periods of time, please unsubscribe and resubscribe so that the list owner does not get "inbox full" messages. Thanks again for your patience and cooperation!

News from the Membership

Compiled by Erik Conway

Buck Foster writes: I am currently working on my dissertation about the Meridian Expedition using remote sensing techniques. I completed a NASA fellowship in the Spring, and ASEH has accepted my paper about The American Civil War and the Weather for the Denver meeting. Email: btfl@ra.msstate.edu

Eva Jakobsson reports that her address has changed to: RF - Rogaland Research Company, Postboks 8046, 4068 Stavanger, Norway. E-mail: eva.jakobsson@rf.no

Betsy Mendelsohn started a postdoc in the history of technology and environment at University of Virginia this fall. She may be reached at btm5d@virginia.edu.

Sara Pritchard reports that she received her Ph.D. in History from Stanford University in June 2001. She is now a postdoctoral associate in environmental and agricultural history at MIT for the 2001-2002 academic year. Email: spritch@mit.edu

Marty Reuss writes: I will be a Dibner Fellow at MIT from the beginning of September to the third week in January. My office address will be: Dibner Institute, MIT E56-100 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA

New Members

Frank Popper writes: I am a city planner, teach at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, and in fall 2001 will be a visiting professor at the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Princeton University. My wife Deborah Popper and I invented the concept of the Buffalo Commons to describe the likely environmental future of much of the rural Great Plains. Email: fpopper@rci.rutgers.edu

Kim Todd is an associate editor at the national headquarters of the Sierra Club in San Francisco and also works as a freelance science and environmental writer. Her book, *Tinkering with Eden, a Natural History of Exotics in America*, was published in January

02139. E-mail: mreuss@dibinst.mit.edu (I will also tap into my Corps e-mail site once in a while, but the MIT e-mail address will get during the day). Office phone: 617-253-3970.

Adam Rome reports that his book, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*, came out this spring. He's hard at work now as the editor-to-be of the journal [Environmental History](#). Of course, he would welcome good manuscripts on technology and the environment, about all periods and places! Email: axr26@psu.edu

Frank Uekoetter, Bielefeld University, Germany, has completed his dissertation "From the Smoke Nuisance to the Environmental Revolution: Air Pollution Control in Germany and the United States of America, 1880-1970". Email: frank.uekoetter@web.de

Thomas Zeller has moved to Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where he is assistant professor for the history of science and technology.

2001 by W.W. Norton. Email: ktodd@saber.net

Terence Young writes: I am a geographer investigating the impact of transportation technology on ideas about nature. In particular, I'm researching a book on camping in America. I just started work at California State University, Long Beach but have taught also at Clemson University, George Washington U, Mary Washington College, UCLA, and University of Southern California. I teach urban, environmental, and recreational courses. Email: tyoung@csulb.edu

2000-2001 Dues Paid

Apsey, Mike
 Black, Michael
 Booker, Matthew
 Boxer, Baruch
 Castonguay, Stephane
 Conway, Erik
 Cooper, Alix
 Coopersmith, Jonathan
 Cutcliffe, Stephen
 Dell, Twyla
 Elkind, Sarah
 Foster, Buck
 Freiburger, Dana
 Gorman, Hugh
 Greene, Ann
 Huggard, Chris
 Hughes, Don
 Kaup, Martina
 Kirsch, David
 Knowles, Anne
 Laird, Frank
 Lang, Bill
 Little, Kim
 Loeb, Alan
 MacCleery, Doug
 Melosi, Marty
 Mendelsohn, Betsy
 O'Conner, Richard
 Platt, Harold
 Pritchard, Sara
 Quivik, Fred
 Reuss, Marty
 Rome, Adam
 Russell, Ed
 Schmid, Sonja
 Schneiders, Robert
 Scranton, Philip
 Serchinger, Reihnard
 Spinelli, Erica
 Stine, Jeffrey
 Tarr, Joel
 Tassava, Christopher
 Taylor, Joseph
 Thorsheim, Peter
 Todd, Ed
 Todd, Kim
 Tornlund, Erik
 Uekoetter, Frank
 Wheeler, Jerry
 Williams, James
 Wilson, Robert
 Zeller, Tom

**Environment,
Culture and Community**

**2-5 July 2002
The University of Queensland**

How do we deal with the environmental challenges of the 21st Century?

Exploring the role of social and cultural processes in relation to environmental awareness is critical to the development of ecologically-situated relationships among people and between people and the earth.

This conference will bring together those whose scholarly and artistic work addresses ways in which people create, challenge and sustain relationships with the natural environment.

We invite presentations on a wide range of topics, approached from a diversity of cultural perspectives, from across the humanities and related areas. We hope the suggested topics will encourage a mingling of disciplines and practices and we welcome suggestions of further topics.

Suggested topics:

making contact with our environment: how we speak, write, make art and music about our relationships with the non-human world, past and present

valuing our environment: issues of ethics, laws, economies, science, "deep" ecological and spiritual values; animals and the environment; environmental education; historical perspectives on culture and ecology

shaping our environment: technologies; designing, building, farming, gardening; art practice in the environment

saving our environment: social and cultural aspects of environmental activism

inhabiting our environment: concepts of time and space in relation to the environment; identity, community and ecology; lifestyle; tourism and the environment.

Please register your presentation or your interest in attending by 1 March 2002

For further information, please contact:

Ruth Blair

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The University of Queensland
Queensland 4072

Telephone: + 61 7 33652590
Email: r.blair@mailbox.uq.edu.au

<http://emsah.uq.edu.au/conferences/ecc/>

Supported by the Faculty of Arts, The University of Queensland.



**Industrializing Organisms:
Plants, Animals and Technology**

A Conference sponsored by the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis project -- Industrial Environments: Creativity and Consequences, April 4-5, 2002

While the breeding and manipulation of plants and animals for human purposes has been occurring for millenia, efforts to produce standardized and more efficient organisms suitable for large-scale agricultural and industrial processes are more recent phenomena tied to the rise of modern industrial societies. When, where, and how have industrializing humans sought to "improve" plants and animals in order to better integrate them into technological processes and systems? To what extent was the modification of organisms an essential element of modern technology? What kind of design considerations were unique to living organisms and what kind of obstacles did these present to human efforts at redesign? What have been the consequences of such modifications?

The Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis in connection with the Industrial Environments project invites paper proposals for a conference on these and related themes at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, April 4-6, 2002. We invite a broad range of papers concerning agricultural and industrial experiments, appropriations, and commercial developments, provided they are focused within the modern era beginning about 1750. (Spatial units may be local, regional, national, cross-national or global.) Proposals presenting theoretical studies with historical grounding or empirical research having conceptual/theoretical bases and implications are especially welcome. RCHA will provide some measure of support for travel and local expenses for those joining the conference program. Advanced graduate students and colleagues in social and biological sciences are warmly invited to join historians in this venture.

Kindly send a cover letter, a one-page paper abstract, and a brief vita by December 1, 2001 to: Philip Scranton and Susan Schrepfer, Co-directors, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, 88 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Materials may also be emailed directly to scranton@crab.rutgers.edu and schrepfe@rci.rutgers.edu. Notifications will be sent to all applicants by December 20, 2001.

Are Animals Technology?

During July, the Envirotech mailing list hosted a fascinating thread centered on the question of whether animals could be considered technology. This went on for about a week and raised some thought-provoking issues. Jim Williams compiled all the messages into an archive that's available at:

[Http://www.geocities.com/erech/](http://www.geocities.com/erech/)

News from ASEH 2001

By Sara Pritchard

Envirotech had a strong presence at this year's conference of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) in Durham, NC in March 2001.

Envirotech sponsored one of the themed breakfasts, a new and promising ASEH tradition. Over sixty conference participants (of 400 total at the conference!) attended the Friday morning breakfast despite the early hour. After everyone introduced themselves, the first Envirotech newsletter was distributed, and a few announcements were made, we tried to have a general conversation about the intersection of environmental history and the history of technology. However, the noisy air-conditioning, room layout, and wonderfully large turnout made it difficult to converse. Most of breakfast was then devoted to getting acquainted with colleagues at each table. Halfway through the breakfast, everyone rotated seats in an academic version of musical chairs in order to get to know more people. Over the course of the conference, a number of conference participants said that they liked having the opportunity to mingle and meet others with similar interests. Envirotech plans on hosting another breakfast at next year's conference in Denver, CO.

Several ASEH panels of particular interest included:

- Breaking the Knowledge Barrier: Experts as Environmental Advocates in Technological Controversies
- Cars, Consumers, and the Environment
- Mining the Past: Mining and Social Movements in the 20th Century
- Nature and Technology: A Roundtable Commentary
- Nature's Discarded Bounty: Conflict and Consolidation in the American Waste Trades, 1800-2000
- Unruly Rivers: Human Causes of and Responses to Urban Flooding

ICOHTEC 2002 CFP

"Technology, Cultural Interchange and Globalization," the 29th Symposium of ICOHTEC - The International Committee for the History of Technology, June 22-26, 2002, Granada, Spain.

ICOHTEC <http://www.icohtec.org/> is an international scholarly organization associated with the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science and UNESCO. ICOHTEC's aim is to foster cooperation in the history of technology among scholars from all parts of the world, and to that end holds an annual symposium and publishes the annual journal *ICON*.

The ICOHTEC Program Committee welcomes proposals for individual PAPERS and SESSIONS (3 or more papers) for its 29th Symposium in Granada, Spain, June 22-26, 2002. In recognition of the unique place that Granada holds in the history of the Mediterranean, we have chosen the general theme of "Technology, Cultural Interchange and Globalization" for the Symposium. ICOHTEC invites members as well as non-members to organize sessions for the Granada Symposium or to offer individual papers.

The Program Committee especially encourages proposals dealing with the history of technology within this general theme. But, as is common with ICOHTEC Symposia, papers and sessions on other themes of interest to the history of technology also are welcomed. Proposals must conform to the length limitations listed below (references, tables, etc. may be appended).

PAPERS: Submit 500-word abstract and a one-page c.v.

SESSIONS and SYMPOSIA: Submit an abstract (250 words) describing the session or symposium as a whole, an abstract (500 words each) from each of the participants, and a one-page c.v. for each participant and for the session chairperson.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 15, 2002. Please submit abstracts and c.v.'s by email. If you cannot submit your proposal electronically, you may submit four copies by regular mail postmarked not later than January 10, 2002.

Several theme sessions already are being organized, which include:

- I. Gunpowder and explosives: recent research and future themes (Org: Brenda Buchanan)
- II. The cultural landscape of technology (Org.: R. A. Buchanan)
- III. Creativity: science, technology and the arts (Org: H. J. Braun)
- IV. Women and technology (Org: Eva Vámos)
- V. Technology and the environment (Org: J. Williams)

(Individuals wishing to participate in one of these sessions should contact the Program Committee Chair by email to be put in touch with the session organizer.)

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS: In cooperation with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), ICOHTEC has some funds available to help defray travel expenses of students who present papers. If you wish to be considered for an award, please indicate if you are a student and a current member of SHOT and/or ICOHTEC.

PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS:

James C. Williams, Chair
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Email: techjunc@pacbell.net
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ICOHTEC welcomes new members. Annual dues are 25US\$ or 30 Euros. Student dues are 10US\$ or the equivalent in Euros. Submit dues to the ICOHTEC Treasurer:

Prof. Wolfhard Weber
Historisches Institut Ruhr-Universität Bochum GA 4/60
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Germany
Tel.: +49 234 70 02 548
Fax: +49 234 70 94 128
Wolfhard.Weber@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS: CREATIVITY AND CONSEQUENCES

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (RCHA)
2001-2003 Project

2001-2002 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

All seminars take place from 11 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays in the Seminar Room at 88 College Avenue (unless otherwise noted) and are followed by a catered lunch.. Papers for Tuesday luncheon seminars are available at 88 College Avenue one week prior to the seminar date and may be obtained by stopping by the Center or contacting the RCHA at 732-932-8701 or rcha@rci.rutgers.edu

FALL 2001

September 19 (Wed., 4:30 pm) INAUGURAL Keynote Address: Christopher Sellers (SUNY-Stony Brook) The Many Faces of the Factory in Post World War II Suburbia: An Eco-Cultural Perspective

(Assembly Room, Winants Hall, College Avenue Campus).

September 25 Neil Maher (NJIT-Rutgers, Newark/RCHA) Remaking Industrial Environments: Nature, Labor, and Body Politics in the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps

October 2 Roger Balm (Rutgers) The Iron Muse: Art, Evidence, and the Geoaesthetics of Industry

October 9 Carla Yanni (Rutgers) The Architecture of the Insane Asylum: Victorian Psychiatry and the Environmental Cure

October 16 Sandra Sufian (RCHA) Pathological Landscape: Malaria and the Sanitization of the Land in Mandatory Palestine, 1920-1947

October 23 John Cumbler (Univ. of Louisville) Water--How Much, Where Is It, and What's It Like: Riparian Rights in Nineteenth Century New England

October 30 Julie Kimmel (Philadelphia University/RCHA) Adjusting to Industry: Psychology Answers the 'Labor Question,' 1900-1940

November 6 Susan Smith (RCHA) Statistics and the Industrial Landscape in Nineteenth-Century Russia

November 13 Will Jones (Rutgers) How "Black Folk" Survived in the Modern South, or the Exoticization of African American Working Class History

November 20 (Thanksgiving week) no seminar

November 27 Dorothee Brantz (University of Chicago) Death and Pollution in Urban Space: Slaughterhouse Reform in 19th-Century Paris and Berlin

December 4 Jadwiga Pieper (Montclair State University/RCHA) Industrialization, Modernization, and Urban Environments in Chile: Gendered Spaces, Changing Duties, and Women as Saviors of the Nation

SPRING 2002

January 22 James Webb (Colby) Industrialized Rainforests: The Ecological Transformation of the Highlands of Sri Lanka, 1820-1900

January 29 Lynn Swartley (RCHA) Agrarian Land Use and Tenure in the Lake Titicaca Basin of Bolivia in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Feb 5 Jill Payne (Univ. of St. Andrews) Re-creating Home: British Colonists in 19th Century South Africa

Feb 12 Greg Hise (University of Southern California/RCHA) "so that the forest will not be ruthlessly destroyed or the appearance of the place injured": Converting Common Land into "Productive Property" in Nineteenth-Century Los Angeles

Feb 19 Paul Sutter (University of Georgia) Pulling the Teeth of the Tropics: Environment, Disease, Race, and the U.S. Sanitary Program in Panama, 1904-1914

Feb 26 Deborah Popper (CUNY-College of Staten Island/RCHA) Unsettling America: Population Flows and Environmental Change in the Upper Midwest

Mar 5 Donna Rilling (SUNY-Stony Brook) Airing Dirty Linen: Industrial Waste and Responses in the Nineteenth-Century Textile City

Mar 12 Michele Rotunda (Rutgers) Exploring Human Nature and Human Environments: Inebriety in the Industrial Era

Mar 19 (Spring Break) no seminar

Mar 26 Rudy Koshar (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) Organic Machines: Cars, Drivers, and Society in Interwar Germany

Apr. 2 Joseph Gabriel (Rutgers) Between Heaven and Hell: Psychoactive Drugs and the Geography of Desire in America, 1877-1933

April 4-6: SPRING CONFERENCE: Industrializing Organisms: Plants, Animals and Technology (University Inn and Conference Center, Douglass Campus)

Apr. 9 Joseph Melling (University of Exeter) Bargaining with the Body? The Roles Played by Employers, Workers and Doctors in the Battle with Industrial Silicosis in the United Kingdom, 1890-1939

Apr. 16 Stephen Meyer (Univ. of Wisconsin—Parkside) The Degradation of Work Revisited: The Inhuman Work Environments of American Auto Plants, 1920-1940

Apr. 23 Scott Bruton (Rutgers) Expropriating Native American Prehistory: Archaeology, Civic Mythology, and the Narrative of Human Industrial Progress in St. Louis, 1869-1914

Apr. 30 Richard Greenwald (US Merchant Marine Academy) Defining the Shop: Workers, Health, Reform and the Protocols of Peace in the Ladies Garment Industry of Progressive Era New York City

May 7 Lisa Herschbach (NJIT-Rutgers, Newark/RCHA) Immunities of Industry: War, Work, and the Making of the Modern Mind

May 14 Matthew Guterl (Washington State University) Sugar, Labor, and Disease in Cuba, Natal, and Louisiana, 1850-1880

Notable New Books

Martin Charter and Ursula Tischner, *Sustainable Solutions: Developing Products and Services for the Future* (Greenleaf: March 2001). Order at <http://www.greenleaf-publishing.com/catalogue/sussol.htm>

Hugh Gorman, *Redefining Efficiency: Pollution Concerns, Regulatory Mechanisms, and Technological Change in the U.S. Petroleum Industry* (University of Akron Press, 2001).

J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (London: Routledge, July 2001).

Timo Myllyntaus and Mikko Saikku, eds., *Encountering the Past in Nature : Essays in Environmental History* (Ohio University Press, February 2001, revised ed.)

Edmund Russell, *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001).

International Water History Association News

By Marty Reuss

I want to report that the International Water History Association, which met in Bergen, Norway, in early August, was a tremendous success, with around 250 attendees and over 200 papers. Representatives came from over 70 nations. The members approved by-laws and "elected" (there was no competition!) officers and the Executive Council. Richard Coopey from the University of Wales is the first President. Donald Jackson is serving as Treasurer, and I am on the Executive Council.

About this newsletter. . .

This newsletter is put together by Erik Conway of NASA, primarily for electronic distribution in Adobe Acrobat format. If you'd like to receive it printed on bleached dead plant fibers or know someone who would, please contact the editor:

Erik: Olorin@att.net