

Envirotech Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 2

October 2002

Technology and the Environment ICOHTEC, Granada, 2002

By Jim Williams

For the past five years, the relationship between technology and the environment has been a topic for discussion at the annual symposiums of the International Committee for the History of Technology. The subject was introduced at ICOHTEC in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1998 with a session on “technology and natural disasters,” in which the use of technology to mitigate the impact of technology received scrutiny. A year later, in Belfort, France, a subsequent session investigated the “environment and technological choice,” looking at a number of ways in which people connect with their environment through technological activity. (Some of the papers from these two sessions have since been published in *ICON: Journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology*, 6 (2000) and in *Geojournal*, 52 (July 2001).

The last week of June 2002, ICOHTEC met in Granada, Spain, and Jim Williams (De Anza College, USA) chaired a general session on technology and the environment. Among the contributions were a series of papers addressing societal responses to environmental despoliations. Anna-Katharina Wobse (University of Bonn, Germany) drew her paper “‘Calls for Drastic Action’ - Technology, Environmentalists and Early Oil-pollution” from her in-progress Ph.D. dissertation “Environmental Policies of the League of Nations.” Norman Fuchsloch (Freiberg University of Mining and Technology, Germany) compared responses by London and Los Angeles to air pollution issues, and Anthony Stranges (Texas A&M, USA) discussed some of the first warnings about air pollution problems that emerged in the late-nineteenth century. Michael Toyka-Seid

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Envirotech at SHOT 2002!

Jim Williams and Erik Conway

Envirotech will hold its fall meeting with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) in Toronto, October 17-20. SHOT's annual meeting is being hosted by the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. The main conference hotel will be the Delta Chelsea, Canada's largest hotel, located at 33 Gerrard Street West, between Yonge Street (pronounced Young) and Bay Street, a short walk to some of the town's best theatres, attractions, shopping and dining.

Envirotech will hold a Forza Italia luncheon on Friday October 18th at 11:45 am in the Newton Room of the Delta Chelsea. The price of lunch is \$20(US) per person and includes Caesar salad, rolls & butter, penne with tomato basil sauce & lasagna al forno, tiramisu, regular & decaffeinated coffee & an assortment of teas.

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Environment and Technology at ICOHTEC

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(Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany) also discussed the problem of "pollution" in his paper "The Fight against 'acoustic pollution' - noise as an environmental problem in 19th and 20th Century Germany."

Other contributions included:

- Jim Williams, "Waterpower and nature in California's Sierra Nevada."
- Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Zimbabwe, "Firearms Proliferation in a Transfrontier Wildlife Area: Some Thoughts on the Technology Versus Environment Problematic in the Gonarezhou National Park, South-eastern Zimbabwe, 1900-1993."
- Vitaly Gorokhov, Russia, "Technology and the Environment in Russia."
- Karel Zeithammer, The Czech Republic, "Ecology and Politics – Problems and Discrepancies."
- Jörgen Lennqvist, Sweden, "Changing Wetlands: The case of Hjälmarén and Kvismaren area in central Sweden 1850 – 2000."
- Zdenek Lipský, The Czech Republic, "Technological changes and landscape changes during centuries: examples from the Czech cultural landscape."

Another very interesting session at ICOHTEC that looked at the technology/environment relationship organized by Timo Myllyntaus (Finland). "Clear Sky or Smoke Clouds on the Horizon? Long-term Trends in the Energy Use" focused on changes in energy production and consumption in the long run when European countries went through the transition from traditional agrarian society to an industrial economy. Energy in different forms comprised a prominent factor for Industrialization. Entire centuries have been named on the basis of the energy technology: the 19th century was "the cen-

Envirotech at ASEH By Jim Williams

We had a great meeting in Denver at the ASEH thanks to Betsy Mendelsohn, who chaired the breakfast gathering on "Technology, Urban Environments, and Environmental History." We carried out a couple of items of business that you should know about.

1) Ann Greene at Penn has generously agreed to be our Secretary/Treasurer. So, your dues, payable for the academic year 2001-2002, should go to her. If you have not paid them for this year (quite a few who paid a year ago have not yet paid -- see current list of paid-up members at the end of this message), send your \$5.00 check to Ann N. Greene, 7209 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia PA 19119. Make your check payable to Envirotech/SHOT.

2) We discussed how to best use Envirotech's dues and SHOT's matching grant (for any non-food related expenses up to \$300 per year). We agreed to form a Prize Committee and three members volunteered to serve: Hugh Gorman, Frank Uekoetter, and Sylvia Washington. (Many thanks to Hugh, Frank, and Sylvia.) It is up to them to finalize exactly what we will be recognizing, but the sense of the meeting seemed to lean toward an article dealing with technology and environment. They will be developing the guidelines (e.g., prize amount, who's eligible, where and when will it be awarded -- SHOT, ASEH, both, rotating -- and other stuff). As soon as Hugh, Frank, and Sylvia come up with their guidelines and such, they will share them with our current "officers" and we'll share them with all of you. *(Turn to page 4 for more information. --ed.)*

3) We forgot to raise this at the meeting, but we would like to start moving toward rotating our various "officers" (chair/co-chairs; newsletter editor; web editor; secretary/treasurer; prize committee including chair). A 2 or 3 year term is probably good enough, then rotate on/off on some distributed schedule so everyone isn't new at the same time. We haven't

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Environment and Technology at ICOHTEC

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tury of steam” and the 20th century was characterized by “the breakthrough of electricity and the internal combustion engine.” Energy supplies and energy systems integrated societies. Energy-related networks, e.g. railways, telegraphs, telephones, electricity transmission, and gas pipes, became underlying elements, the key infrastructures for modern national states.

In the early 20th century, energy supply systems became symbols of advance but in the late 20th century, they were also regarded as threats to the environment. The complexity of energy issues has required close and extensive investigation. Research has continued for decades and time-to-time it is useful to make an overview of the development in this field.

Among the contributors this session were:

Niels Schulz & Fridolin Krausmann (Austria), “Accounting for the Socio-Economic Energy System: A comparative analysis of the development of socio-economic energy flows in the UK and Austria since the early 19th century.”

Lennart Schön (Sweden), “Energy, Technical Change and Productivity in Swedish Industry since the 1890s”

Timo Myllyntaus (Finland), “Do Growth Paths Twist in the Long Run Analysis? Energy Use in Finland, 1800 – 2000”

Jan Kunnas & Timo Myllyntaus (Finland), “CO2 Emissions from Fossil Fuel Burning – Comparative Case Studies on Austria, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, 1800 – 1998”

Astrid Kander (Sweden), “Does decreasing energy intensity in developed countries imply environmental dumping in developing countries? A Swedish case study”

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News from the Membership

Sara Pritchard is continuing her itinerant academic life. After a year at MIT, she's now Mellon postdoctoral teaching fellow in the humanities in the Department of History at the University of Pennsylvania. Sara is looking forward to joining the faculty at Montana State University in January 2004 where she'll be helping to develop a new comparative and interdisciplinary curriculum in science, environment, technology, and society. In addition to co-authoring with Jim Williams an AHA/SHOT pamphlet on "Technology and Nature in History," Sara is trying to finish several articles and revise her book manuscript. In March, she received the Rachel Carson Best Dissertation Prize for 2001 from the American Society for Environmental History.

Thomas Zeller has started a new position as assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Maryland, College Park. During the academic year 2002/03, he will also work as a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC (www.ghi-dc.org). In June 2002, the Campus Verlag published his monograph "Strasse, Bahn, Panorama," an environmental history of roadways and railways in 20th-century Germany. His new email address is thomas_zeller@umail.umd.edu, he can also be reached at the University of Maryland, Dept. of History, 2115 Francis Scott Key Hall, College Park, MD .

Jordan Kleiman writes: I am revising a manuscript entitled "The Appropriate Technology Movement in American Political Culture," which is under contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press. I anticipate finishing it by October 2003. I am also writing a 2,500-word essay on the AT movement for *The Encyclopedia of American Social Movements* (a four-volume set to be published by M. E. Sharpe in the fall of 2003).

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Reinventing the Factory

Hagley Fellows' Conference, March 28-29, 2003
Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware

The Hagley Fellows at the University of Delaware invite paper proposals for "Reinventing the Factory," the 2003 Hagley Fellows' Conference. Amy Slaton, Professor of History at Drexel University and author of *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900-1930* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001), will give the keynote address.

Since the early industrial revolution, the factory has been recognized as a visible symbol and an important site for industrial production, technological innovation, labor relations, and political and economic change. This conference seeks to broaden our traditional understanding of what a factory is and how it has operated as a place of work, an architectural structure, and a social and cultural environment, which has evolved historically from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. By making the factory the focus of analysis, we want to expand our understanding of how structures both real and imagined are built and how they have influenced the lives of laborers, managers, and consumers.

We envision papers that expand the definition of the factory as a workspace to include agricultural fields, laboratories, hospitals, universities, and even web-based virtual factories. We are also interested in the role of scale in factory production and its relation to labor and production in addition to studies involving regional and geographic analysis. The design and representation of factories as physical spaces is another area papers might focus on, especially in relation to racial dynamics and gender construction.

We encourage submissions from a broad array of fields including, but not limited to, the history of technology, industrialization, architecture and design, public health, the environment, agriculture, business, labor, and gender.

Proposals, including a 500-word abstract and one-page CV, should be sent by December 1st to Gabriella Petrick at gpetrick@udel.edu. If electronic submission is not possible, please mail materials to:

Gabriella M. Petrick
236 Munroe Hall
Department of History
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716.

Envirotech at ASEH

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come up with such a schedule, but we will try to develop something soon. If you've any thoughts on this, or even better, want to take on some job in the future, please let one of us know.

Finally, please check the list below over. Your name, affiliation (at which conference Jim thinks you paid your dues), and your email address. If that is not there, Jim can't figure it out from the Stanford list -- please send it to him.

Cheers,

Jim & Sara
Co-Chairs

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New Fire Bibliography Available

By Gerald Williams

"References of the American Indian Use of Fire in Ecosystems" compiled by Gerald W. Williams, National Historian, USDA Forest Service.

The bibliography is 71 pages long and growing. It contains around 1,500 book, article, pamphlet, and website references on American Indian (Native American/Indigenous People/First Nations) use of fire in the historic landscape of Canada and the U.S. The reference list is broken into several parts, including a summary of Indian use of fire (3 pages), general references in North America (12 pages), boreal forest references (9 pages), the West references (39 pages), and the East (7 pages). There will probably be further breakdowns of the West literature as time permits. The citations come from sources in the late-1600s to present. The references are semi-annotated with notes, as much as possible, about the tribe and the location of the fires. The list is available through email or hard copy. Send me a note to the address below:

gwilliams02@fs.fed.us

ICOHTEC in Granada

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ICOHTEC's next symposium, its 30th, will convene in St. Petersburg, Russia, 19-24 August 2003. Envirotech members are encouraged to participate, and your experience with ICOHTEC will certainly be well worthwhile. Contact Jim Williams for more information at techjunc@pacbell.net.

History and the Environment

Call for Papers for the 2003 Theme Issue of History and Theory
(deadline: March 1, 2003)

History and Theory wishes to explore the impact of the "new environmentalism" (roughly dating from 1970) on contemporary historiography. The "new environmentalism" includes not only concern for the environment in the narrower sense (that is, with changes in the atmosphere, the lithosphere, the hydrosphere, and so on), but also in the wider sense (with changes in the biosphere, ecosystems, the changing position of humanity in them, and the interaction of the biosphere and the physical environment on which it depends). What impact have these concerns had on history? What impact should they have? And what impact should history have on them?

Of course, historians have long been interested in changing ideas about and attitudes toward nature. Earlier movements to protect or save nature (anti-urban feeling, anti-industrialism, romantic nationalism, populism, etc.) have been investigated by intellectual, cultural, and social historians. However, the new environmentalism forces us to think about our history, ecology, and the environment in new ways. Here, concerns about global warming, epidemics, genetic modification, and nuclear and biological weapons have come to the fore. In sum, the new environmentalism seems to reflect the increasing awareness that our civilization gives us new tools with which to destroy or manipulate the biosphere (including our own genetic makeup). An awareness of interconnectedness reinforced by globalization and better science produces a sense of impending catastrophe unless something is done quickly. What does theoretical history have to offer to all of this?

A key theoretical issue revolves around the nature of the project implied by environmental history. One way to conceive this project is one with which scientifically oriented historians might typically identify, namely, one that aims at an all-species perspective in which interdependence and mutual impact are highlighted. Another way to conceive the project is one with which politically engaged historians might more easily identify, namely, one that examines environmental problems with theoretical apparatuses that are designed to show abuses of power and system flaws that produce not only victims, but impending catastrophe. How does the scientific stance of the former relate to the politically engaged stance of the latter? Can environmental or ecological historians be value-neutral in their endeavor? Should they be?

Another theoretical issue concerns the role of human agency in the study of the environment. So-called "ecological history" has provided histories of the development of our planet, or of important niches in it; in so doing it has tried to show the way various habitats have evolved over time, and the impact this evolution has had on human (and other) life. So-called "environmental history" has instead focused more on the ways various human groups have influenced their environment and its changes. Is there a conflict between these two approaches? Are there strengths or weaknesses of one or the other? What can one approach take from the other?

A third theoretical issue concerns the role of various categories in environmental or ecological history. Such categories might include gender, labor, technology, culture, popular culture, and urbanity. In recent years historians have begun exploring the relationship between humans and their material world by means of concepts and ideas that might at first appear to be of only indirect relevance. An examination of the role these categories have, or ought to have, in environmental and ecological history might yield a more sophisticated view of this sort of history, and consequently on history as a discipline.

The Journal wishes to highlight these and perhaps other related issues in its pages in its Theme Issue of December 2003.

Essays should be between 6,000 and 8,000 words, and should be submitted for consideration by no later than March 1, 2003. They should follow the History and Theory style (for a copy of the journal's style sheet, go to <http://www.historyandtheory.org/histjrn1/stylesht.htm>). Send submissions to:

Julie Perkins, Administrative Editor
History and Theory,
Wesleyan Station
Middletown, CT 06459, USA.

Please do not submit by fax or email.

Envirotech listserv instructions. . .

Sara Pritchard

Thanks to Erika Monahan, doctoral candidate in History at Stanford University, for serving as Envirotech's listserv coordinator

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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 listserv is more low tech than we would like. It doesn't have as many features as many listservs do (or rather, our listserv owners haven't had time to figure out these features!). Thanks for your patience in dealing with the listserv'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!

Notable New Scholarship

Astrid Kander. "Economic Growth, Energy Consumption and CO2 Emission in Sweden" (Lund Studies In Economic History 19, Lund 2002).

Eva Friman. "No limits : the 20th century discourse of economic growth." (Skrifter från Institutionen för historiska studier; 2. Umeå 2002).

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner. *Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution* (University of California Press/Milbank Memorial Fund, October, 2002). The book looks at the history of childhood lead poisonings and the development of the plastics industry as issues of environmental pollution.

Suzanne Marshall. *Lord, We're Just Trying to Save Your Water: Grassroots Activism and Dissent in Southern Appalachia.* (University Press of Florida. Fall 2002)

J. Donald Hughes. *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life* (Routledge, 2002), \$31.99.

Joel Tarr. "The Metabolism of the Industrial City: The Case of Pittsburgh," *Journal of Urban History* 28 (July 2002): 511-545.

Joel Tarr. "Industrial Waste Disposal in the United States as a Historical Problem," *Ambix: The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*, 49 (Mar. 2002): 4-20.

Thomas Dietz and Paul C. Stern. 2002. "New Tools for Environmental Protection: Education, Information and Voluntary Measures." Washington, D.C: National Academy Press.

Elinor Ostrom Thomas Dietz, Nives Dolsak, Paul C Stern, Susan Stonich, and Elke Weber. 2002. "The Drama of the Commons." (Washington, D.

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Call For Papers

Monitoring the Environment: Scales, Methods, and Systems in Historical Perspective

Efforts to manage human uses of the environment often depend on a society first reaching consensus on what to measure and then putting systems in place to monitor the desired indicators. Mature indicators often become tightly linked with relatively formal decision-making procedures and give rise to specialized instruments, methods, and networks. The quantity being measured and the scale at which measurement occurs varies widely, ranging from microscopic to global and from the chemical and physical to the biological and cultural. Examples include the concentration of chemicals in air or water, satellite-based geophysical measurements, noise levels, aquifer levels, risk indexes, the reaction of test organisms, and the ratio of paved to unpaved surfaces in urban areas.

We seek papers that examine the process by which a measurable quantity comes to be accepted as a legitimate indicator of environmental quality. What concerns gave rise to use of the new indicator? To what extent did the resulting system of measuring and monitoring depend on new technology and those who developed that technology? How was the adoption process for the measurement regime affected by institutional considerations within regulatory agencies, research laboratories, or activist organizations? In general, what insight does the case provide into ongoing efforts to select indicators and develop socio-technological systems that allow societies to monitor and manage environmental change?

Papers will be presented at a seminar conference held at the Hagley Museum and Library on July 18, 2003. One goal of this conference, sponsored by the Society for the History of Technology, is to encourage discussion among historians working at the intersection of technology and the environment. Graduate students are encouraged to participate, and travel expenses will be subsidized. Please send electronic copies of your paper proposal and a brief vita to Hugh Gorman (hsgorman@mtu.edu) and Erik Conway (e.m.conway@larc.nasa.gov) by Dec. 1, 2002.

The 3rd conference of the International Water History Association

Cairo, Egypt

11th - 14th December 2003:

1st CALL FOR PAPERS:

The third conference of the International Water History Association will take place in Cairo, Egypt on the 11th-14th December 2003. The IWHA exists to promote the understanding of the history of water resources; to bring together those with an interest in water history from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds; and also to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between historians and those involved in the practice of water resource management. There will be three major themes at the conference:

The Ideas of Water

The History of Water: Science and Technology

The History of Water: Law, Economics and Politics

These themes reflect IWHA involvement in the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme's major book series on Water and Civilisation. Papers presented at the conference, or an elaborated version of their contents, may be considered for inclusion in this book series at a later stage. These themes are not exclusive. Papers on other areas of water history will be welcomed. The conference will also host a special symposium entitled "The Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin". Proposals are also welcomed for papers related to this topic. Conference language: English

The second annual conference of the IWHA, held in Bergen in August 2001, attracted participants from over 70 countries. It is hoped to repeat the success of that conference in bringing participation from a wide range of disciplines and regions. The IWHA is currently seeking funding to enable financial support, which will be targeted towards participants who may have difficulties raising funding from their home institutions.

Abstracts, approximately 300-500 words in length, plus a short accompanying CV, should be sent by 15 November 2002 to post@iwha.net (attachments should be Word, Word Perfect or RTF-files only)

ESEH Publication Prize

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) is soliciting submissions for its publication prize. The prize is intended to identify superior research in the environmental history of Europe carried out by younger scholars from all countries. The prize will be awarded for the best article published in an academic journal since the year 2000 and will be awarded at the next ESEH meeting in September 2003 in Prague.

The ESEH publication prize is intended for an article on any subject in European environmental history published by a graduate student or scholar whose Ph.D. was not awarded before 2000. The winner will receive a complete copy of the Encyclopedia of World Environmental History, worth \$450. Applicants are asked to submit one copy of their published article by mail, together with a one-page curriculum vitae, to each member of the prize committee (addresses below.) The article can have been published in any European language. If the article was not published in English, however, applicants are required to submit a one-page summary in English of their article with their applications. Complete applications must be received by May 1, 2003. Further information on the European Society for Environmental History is available on its website: <http://www.eseh.org>

The ESEH publication prize committee:

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Notable New Scholarship

continued

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C.: National Academy Press).

Jonathan Coopersmith. "Humans in Space: Is the Cost Too High?" *AAS Space Times* July-August, 2002, 3.

Jonathan Coopersmith. "Taking Up the Garbage," *Ad Astra* 14:4 (July-August 2002): 36-39 (people.tamu.edu/~jcfax1/ResearchArticles/nuclear_waste.pdf), which proposes disposing of high-level nuclear waste in solar orbit.

Jonathan Coopersmith. "Membership Has Its Partisans," *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* 24:2 (April-June 2002), 103-04 (<http://www.computer.org/annals/an2002/pdf/a2104.pdf>).

Jonathan Coopersmith. "Humans in Space: Is the Cost Too High?" *AIAA Horizons Newsletter*. (February 2002), 3-4 (www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa/horizons/feb02/feb02.pdf).

Harold Platt. "Chicago, The Great Lakes, and the Origins of Federal Urban Environmental Policy," *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, vol. 1, no. 2(April 2002): 122-53.

Steven A. Moore. *Technology and Place: Sustainable Architecture and the Blueprint Farm*. (University of Texas Press, 2001).

About this newsletter. . .

This newsletter is put together by Erik Conway, 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: Garthilion@cox.net

Rutgers University Press

seeks innovative book manuscripts at the intersection of the history of technology and environmental history. We are particularly interested in projects that explore the relationship of technology and environment to the city. Single-authored projects are preferred, but edited volumes will be given due consideration. Manuscripts should be between 80,000 and 115,000 words, and may include up to 15 black and white illustrations. Please send proposals, including a project synopsis, chapter outline, 1-2 sample chapters, audience description, and a CV, to: Audra Wolfe, Science Editor, Rutgers University Press, 100 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Member News

continued

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Ed Russell of the University of Virginia is at Cambridge University on an NSF grant this year (August 2002-August 2003) researching a book on dogs as a case study of evolutionary history and organisms as technology. His email is epr23@cam.ac.uk.

Erik Conway has completed the manuscript for his first NASA project on supersonic transport research and it is undergoing NASA's peer review process. He has started a new project, a history of NASA's atmospheric science research.

The Second International Conference on **Nature and Progress: Interactions, Exclusions, Mutations**

8 - 9 November 2002

University of Paris IV-Sorbonne

The Center for Western US and Asia / Pacific Studies

Does Nature promote or impede Progress? Can the one be envisioned independently from the other, or encouraged at the expense of the other? Is concern for Nature and the environment an incentive to initiate changes in our present day society? Can, in any way, future progress fail to consider the fate of the natural world?

Such questions should be addressed not merely as part of a philosophical debates; they relate to a careful assessment of our living conditions in this modern world, and require from us an effort to discern the historical changes that have affected the often critical relationship between Nature and Progress.

This cross-disciplinary conference will attempt to examine the terms of the interaction, between Nature and the needs for economic growth and social advance. Special attention will be given to conditions in America and the Asia/Pacific zone, yet other geographical areas may be investigated, to allow for comparisons and provide alternative approaches to the problem.

Nature and natural resources, over time, have been made auxiliary to the tremendous growth of industrial societies; large-scale policies have been devised which served a predatory conception of human progress and saw Nature as a mere instrument of expansion. Power has been the key to this approach and the power struggle has been conducted on different planes: it has surfaced as a philosophical and ideological issue, as a scientific one, as a problem of public or private management of natural resources, and in many other cultural forms in community and national life. The results have been a succession of quiet and critical phases, of peaceful coexistence and mutual exclusion.

This conference will attempt to give a clear and global account of the problems that confront those who sought, and still seek, to impose a triumphant vision of Progress and those who advocate a more efficient and rational covenant between humans and their natural environment. It will also engage debates on the cultural evolutions, ideological changes, social mutations, new researches, new theories, initiatives, policies, attitudes, practical solutions, etc., which would seem to indicate that a different relation to Nature might or should emerge in societies that were traditionally founded on the cult of Progress.

Among the main topics to be considered in this conference the following might be included:

- How the idea of Progress influenced social development and individual behavior, particularly in America and the Asia/Pacific area.
- The concept and rhetoric of environmentalism.
- Public interest, private interests and the natural environment.
- Nature in the urban/industrial order : from environmental to social crises.
- Nature as healer, Nature as danger.
- Nature and the consumer society.
- Environmental concerns in a mass culture.
- Nature and technology : the evolution and future of environmental sciences; scientists and policy-makers.
- Ecoactivism.

In addition, more specific issues could be examined like industrial pollution (both private and public); nuclear waste; National Parks; wilderness and wildlife; urban sprawl in the desert; availability and management of water resources; agribusiness and the environment; Nature in native cultures; Nature and the law; global economy vs. global ecology; the commercial use of ecological themes; Nature and mysticism; Nature writing; popular images of Nature

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