Paper ID	029
Author(s)	Aaron Molnar
Title	"Let them Choose a Place of Good Grass and Water on the Border": Mongol Human-Animal Migration in the Eastern Eurasian Steppe across the Yuan-Ming Transition

Abstract

Pastoral migration requires consideration of animal interests in its calculus in the Eurasian steppe. Yet, histories of the Mongol Yuan Empire (1206-1368) to Ming Empire (1368-1644) transition largely treat Mongol movement from Mongolia to northern China as a function of Ming military pressure and the collapse of Mongol imperial authority. The Ming's subsequent settlement of southerly migrants is part of a narrative emphasizing political disjuncture and environmental transformation as the Han-dominated Ming state emerged. Concurrently, the mid-13th to 15th centuries was a period of climate destabilization between the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age. Global paleoclimatological studies identify swings in temperature and precipitation as aggregate temperatures dropped. Accordingly, considering how animals and people migrated together offers to complicate political narratives by considering climatic and environmental factors (e.g. vegetation and water availability). Evidence from the late Yuan already suggests consistent environmental dislocation and southward migration of Mongol groups. This study places the paleoclimatological data for climate destabilization in the MWP-LIA transition alongside dynastic histories and scholar-official writings recording human-animal migrations from the Mongol steppe south of the Gobi into north China and state policy regarding pasturage c.1250-1450. It argues that southward migration and pasture relocation had their origins in the Yuan period and MWP-LIA transition that began in the mid-13th century and continued into the early Ming period. This evidence for continuity in human-animal migratory patterns challenges the narrative of Yuan-Ming disjuncture in their steppe borderlands and centers animal and natural histories in the study of East Asian empire.

Keywords	Animals, Humans, Land, Climate, Empire

Paper ID	101
Author(s)	Edward Kieran Boyle
Title	Altered State: Carbon economies, ruined communities, and heritage futures

Abstract

This paper will examine the process of memorialization occurring on the former coal-mining island of Takashima, located off the coast of Nagasaki in Japan. While today inhabited by 300 people, for the first two-thirds of the twentieth century, island life was dominated by the Mitsubishi conglomerate. This history was controversially globalised in 2015, as Takashima was inscribed as one of 23 component parts for the Sites for Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution by UNESCO in 2015. Often overshadowed by its smaller uninhabited neighbour of Hashima, the lifeless ruins of which offer a stage for memorial contestation and visions of posthuman futures, Takashima is a site of everyday life into the present, and bears the marks of successive interventions into the lives of the island's inhabitants.

The importance of coal to the "inorganic economy" and industrial revolution is clear, as is the way in which the siting of these islands of extraction reshaped the economic and political spaces of communities. Its infrastructural legacy constitutes an archive of state industrial policies, one which reveals not merely "ruins as memorialized and large-scale monumental 'leftovers' or relics … but what people are 'left with'" (Stoler 2008: 194) in the present. Beyond the ruins of the mine itself, the island's heritage includes the installation of new forms of extractive economic activities atop this rubble, enabling the island's heritage to extend beyond the carbon

economy and Japanese-Korean contestation, sketching out sustainable human futures in the ruins of its past.	
Keywords	Disasters, Waste, Humans

Paper ID	193
Author(s)	You-tien Hsing
Title	Agropastoral dynamics of Eastern Inner Mongolia (1900-2022)
Abstract	
Based on ethnography, oral histories and archival materials, this paper concerns cultivation expansion in East Inner Mongolia (IM) from the early 20th century to the current era of conservationism. East IM boasts the largest concentration of ethnic Mongols in China today. Most of the Mongols in rural East IM today are farmers, not herders. Yet, Mongol farmers hardly exist in the popular imaginary. They are also marginalized in the current policy discourse that focuses on investment and subsidies in pastoral areas. To bring Mongol farmers back to history, I trace the tempestuous resource violence, ethnic massacres and refugees' migration that propelled ethnoterritorial and livelihood mixes and shifts across East IM. With ethnographic materials collected in 2017-19, I zoom in on Horqin Right Front Banner of northern Jerim (today's Hing'an) League, its three sub-banner ecological zones, and two Mongol farming families' strategies to survive not just environmental changes but also the regimes of decollectivization and conservationism. By distinguishing "agro-pastoral" from "pasto-agricultural" livelihoods, I find a multiplied conservational contradiction rising up from the mixed economy in rural East IM.	
Keywords	Inner Mongolia, agropastoralism, ethnoterritorial history, resource violence, conservation contradiction

Paper ID	201
Author(s)	Dhiraj Pradhananga
Title	Shifting Precipitation Phase and Its Implications for Hydrology in Western Nepal Himalayas
Abstract	
The Western Nepal Himalayas, a region characterized by complex topography and fragile ecosystems, is experiencing rapid climate change. A critical aspect of this change is the increasing prevalence of rainfall over snowfall, particularly during the traditionally snow-dominated winter months. This study investigates the spatiotemporal patterns of this precipitation phase shift and its hydrological consequences in the region. By analyzing long-term meteorological data, remote sensing observations, and local knowledge, we will quantify the magnitude and rate of change in the precipitation phase. We will explore the underlying mechanisms driving this shift, including changes in temperature and precipitation patterns. Furthermore, we will assess the hydrological implications of reduced snowfall, including impacts on snowmelt runoff, streamflow regimes, and water availability for downstream communities. This research will provide crucial insights into the vulnerability of the Western Nepal Himalayas to climate change and inform adaptation strategies for water resource	
Keywords	SELECTED TOPICS: Water, Disasters, Floods, Humans; KEYWORDS: Precipitation phase shift; Snowfall reduction; Climate change adaptation; Water availability