

<b>Paper ID</b>	006
<b>Author(s)</b>	Fiona Williamson
<b>Title</b>	Rubber Politics: US-UK Relations and Communism in the Malayan Rubber Industry c. 1945-1960.
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>The Rubber Research Institute of Malaya (RRIM) was founded in 1929, at least two decades after the rubber industry in the British colony had come to dominate the developing market but it quickly came to dominate research into the commodity for Britain's tropical colony. This scientific research was governed chiefly by the needs of the industry and desire to make British rubber not just a global competitor but to retain its position in the face of growing competition from the US and that nation's new ventures in South America and Africa. Once the Malayan plantations had been recovered from the Japanese Occupation of 1942 to 1945, the British government and RRIM pursued a policy that was integrally tied to nationhood, imperialism and, somewhat ironically given the economic rivalry between the UK and US, premised on a shared anti-communist agenda.</p> <p>This paper explores these competing narratives within the Cold War forum. It looks at the pursuit of science as an economic and political tool but also the place of rubber in the US-UK war against communism, specifically in the context of the Malayan Emergency of 1948-1960. It was here that rubber was at the heart of the fight. Rubber plantations were targeted as symbols of British rule by the anti-colonial resistance while buying British rubber was marketed a symbol of patriotic duty. At the same time, the British sought to undercut the American industry while seeking to share the same political goals.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Rubber, colonial Malaya, US-UK relations, Cold War

<b>Paper ID</b>	084
<b>Author(s)</b>	Glenda Sluga and Giorgio Riello
<b>Title</b>	Planetary Histories of Capitalism: Approaches and Environments in Asia's Past
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>This paper addresses the current debate surrounding the imperative and potential for planetary histories. It does so from the perspective of new histories of capitalism, with a specific focus on Asian perspectives, in the past and present. In existing discussions, the global takes the place not only of an existing framing for the writing of history, but for an historically-situated norm that sits in antagonism to planetary provocations. In taking up this debate our paper will address the key theme of this conference, 'Altered Earth' in Asia: Oceans, Landscape, Atmosphere. Capitalism and environment are often seen as antithetical (Saito 2024), yet analytical tools from decoloniality, indigenous studies and new environmental methodologies provide an opportunity to construct histories of capitalism that extend beyond classic Marxist analyses of the exploitation of labour and extraction from nature. The study of the economies of Asia, we argue, offers new evidence to frame ad approach for planetary histories of capitalism. The oceans have a specific significance in our discussion by virtue the research we are currently doing on the place of the non-territorial in conceptualizations of the past.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	water, air, land, planetary

<b>Paper ID</b>	219
<b>Author(s)</b>	Chenyong Wu and Haocheng Sheng

<b>Title</b>	Making Garden Motor City: An Environmental History of Shiyan in the Third Front Construction.
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>Recent research on the environmental history of the Cold War has increasingly focused on the Third Front Construction period, particularly in Panzhihua, where it is widely believed that the construction caused significant environmental damage.</p> <p>However, the accessible archives indicate not all projects had negative environmental impacts. The Third Front project, China's second automobile work (SAW), transferred the Shiyan city located in Hubei Province into a garden city. Before the construction, the Great Leap Forward had severely depleted Shiyan's forest resources.</p> <p>Initially, land acquisition for SAW further damaged these resources. But after the factory was established, its wood needs were met by suppliers from the Northeast and Southwest China, allowing local forests to recover.</p> <p>Meanwhile, under Mao Zedong's "'Greening the Motherland'" initiative, SAW workers engaged in extensive afforestation in Shiyan. Additionally, the "'Hidden'" policy of the Third Front Construction attached a military dimension to urban greening, aimed to hide facilities for avoiding air attacks from the US and the Soviet Union.</p> <p>Furthermore, due to the political demand of "'Combining Industry and Agriculture'", while SAW led the urban development, it meticulously planned road greening, factory greening, and urban parks in Shiyan. This strategic planning distinguished Shiyan from other Third Front cities, leading to its development as a garden city.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Plants; Urban; China; Cold War