

Paper ID	028
Author(s)	Shen Hou
Title	How to write an environmental history of the Pacific Ocean from a planetary perspective?
Abstract	
<p>Modern world started with ocean crossings. Once the massive gaps separating hemispheres, states, and islands, oceans became the corridors for people, cultures, and other forms of life to communicate in a planetary age. When the modern world entered the 19th century, although the Atlantic crossings were still frequent, it was the Pacific Ocean which became the place where more exciting crossings were happening. We need to study the environmental history of the Pacific Ocean from a planetary perspective in the modern age. On the one hand, modern science and technologies have woven the Pacific Ocean into the evolution of the planetary cultural and ecological exchanges and confrontations; on the other hand, the Pacific Ocean has still been an independent spontaneous planetary force influencing the world. It is especially important for Asian historians to explore the Pacific Ocean environmental history, for it is this ocean which has created new ways for those ancient civilizations to communicate with the modern world and furthermore, change the world and the ocean itself.</p>	
Keywords	water, Pacific Ocean, planetary history

Paper ID	009
Author(s)	Faisal Husain
Title	A Dam Smeared in Blood: Ottoman Expertise and Projecting along the Euphrates River
Abstract	
<p>In December 1701, an Ottoman engineering expedition, dispatched by Sultan Mustafa II, arrived on the banks of the Euphrates River, over 1,000 miles away from the Ottoman capital Istanbul. For four months afterward, the expedition toiled to build a giant dam that would—the Ottoman court hoped—revert the Euphrates to its old course. The overly ambitious idea proved highly controversial, both within government and in public, culminating in the death of 40,000-50,000 peasants and the dam's collapse before its completion. This contribution uses the unpublished manuscript of Esiri Hasan Ağa, an Ottoman military expert who participated in the expedition, to reconstruct the history of Mustafa II's dam project. Though it rose and crumbled in a small, rural outpost, the Ottoman dam's story illuminates three broad issues in the historiography of the early modern world: the concept of expertise, the age of projects, and the knowledge of river channel evolution.</p>	
Keywords	dam, river, expertise, early modern, Ottoman Empire, Euphrates, water

Paper ID	017
Author(s)	Wenjiao Cai
Title	The Frontier as a Living Laboratory: Climate and Knowledge Networks in Late Chosŏn Hamgyŏng
Abstract	
<p>This paper investigates networks of knowledge production regarding the climate and natural environment in the northern frontier province of Hamgyŏng in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Korea. As the north's unfamiliar climate and soil challenged state agro-economic projects modeled after those in the southern heartland, frontier administrators and inquisitive intellectuals sought to refine their understanding of the region's ecology. They applied cutting-edge astronomical and geographical concepts to interpret the frontier's climate, gathered first-</p>	

hand information on its terrain, fauna, and flora through personal excursions, and advocated for developmental schemes tailored to local conditions. These activities integrated the frontier into kingdom-wide knowledge networks and helped to establish the credibility of scholar-officials who advised on policies for its management. Contrary to the conventional portrayal of the northern frontier as an intellectual and economic backwater, this paper highlights its role as a vibrant site for making environmental knowledge.

Keywords	Air
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Paper ID	200
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Author(s)	Rohan Ignatious D' Souza
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Title	Can there be an Environmental History of South Asia in the epoch of the Anthropocene ?
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Abstract

The notion of the 'Anthropocene' has unsettled the focus and the plot lines that have come to characterize writings in the environmental histories of South Asia (EHSA). While the EHSA is unquestionably a robust and sophisticated field, the anthropocene sets up two conceptual predicaments, in particular. First, the quest to identify and debate the periodization of the 'Great Acceleration' — the social and economic forces that initiate the end of the Holocene stability — has opened the conceptual possibility for decentering the role of European colonialism and Western imperialism in degrading global environments. Secondly, the emphasis on the planetary scale and geological time for grasping the implications of the anthropocene could compel us to obscure and side step South Asia's unique experiences with environmental change and resource extraction under colonial conditions. My presentation will explore some of the emerging conceptual faultline between discourses on the Anthropocene and EHSA.

Keywords	Anthropocene, Environmental History, South Asia,
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