

Pacific Circle Newsletter

3,16 (31 July 2023)

Early Career Updates

4-year Postdoc Position at EPFL (Lausanne, Switzerland)

The Laboratory for the History of Science and Technology at EPFL is inviting applications for a full-time postdoc position (starting date TBD, late 2023 or early 2024). The position is for a maximum of 4 years and the project can be in any aspect of the history of science and technology (excluding medicine) in the modern period. Full information here:

<https://www.epfl.ch/labs/lhst/laboratory-for-the-history-of-science-and-technology/open-positions/>.

BSHS Engagement Fellowship

Postgrads might be interested in this paid opportunity with St. George's Museum in London to be a BSHS Engagement Fellow in Autumn this year, researching and communicating histories of health and wellbeing, as the museum opens to the public for the first time.

More info here: <https://jobs.sgul.ac.uk/Vacancy.aspx?ref=419-23>

Applications close on the 8 August 2023.

Lisa Jardine Grant of the Royal Society

PhD candidates and early career researchers may be interested in this funding opportunity for travel in support of archival research in history of science and other interdisciplinary studies combining humanities and the natural sciences.

The Lisa Jardine grant of the Royal Society offers funding for:

- Extended research trips for UK and overseas-based researchers to use the Royal Society's own rich historical collections and related London collections (up to £8,000 available for travel and subsistence costs depending on destination and length of research, 1 - 3 months. Up to £2,000 international travel and £2,000/month subsistence).
- International travel and expenses for UK-based scholars to carry out short, exploratory archival research trips (up to £2,000 available for trips up to 1 month)
- International travel and expenses for UK-based scholars to attend conferences and networking or training events (up to £2,000 available for trips up to 1 month)

The deadline for applications is 28 September 2023, 3pm. (Please allow time for completion of references and approval by this deadline). This round, funding is available for research taking place between Jan – Dec 2024. The award panel will meet in November and applicants will be notified of their decision by the end of the month. A further round will open at the end of the year accepting applications for research to take place in summer 2024 onwards. The grant is open to researchers based in cultural organizations such as museums and archives as well as universities.

Full details, eligibility conditions and application information are available on the Royal Society website [https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://bit.ly/LJRSMai_ ;!!PvDODwIR4mBZyAb0!QY59250THBz6CYzVL_9uIn_rn9YWRjrmzdZA8o7r1134svEvFBr8kBhCB2ZpAwLZV1SvVt6boUYGw3gvWLW_oq8luC236JdRU\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://bit.ly/LJRSMai_ ;!!PvDODwIR4mBZyAb0!QY59250THBz6CYzVL_9uIn_rn9YWRjrmzdZA8o7r1134svEvFBr8kBhCB2ZpAwLZV1SvVt6boUYGw3gvWLW_oq8luC236JdRU$)

STAND (Historical Commission on Science, Technology and Diplomacy)

Early Career Research Seminars for 2023-2024

Call for Papers – Deadline: September 8, 2023

The commission and its members examine the broad history of science, technology and diplomacy and are looking for early career researchers (both PhD students and those who have recently achieved their PhD) to present a work-in-progress paper during next year's seminar series. We are looking for researchers who address the history of science, technology and medicine in their broad international contexts. Topics include but are not limited to: science diplomacy, international cooperation in fields related to science, technology and medicine, and the transnational circulation of technoscientific and medical knowledge, materials and expertise.

The seminars will run from October 2023 to May 2024 - dates tbc with organizers - and the usual format entails the circulation of a work-in-progress paper (research article, conference paper, thesis chapter, book chapter...) prior to the seminar itself. Then, during the seminar, a discussion and question/answer session will follow.

Please send any expressions of interest to Grigoris Panoutsopoulos (gpanouts@phs.uoa.gr) or Alice Naisbitt (alice.naisbitt@manchester.ac.uk) in an email which includes your name, short bio and a ca. 200-300 word summary of your research as it pertains to the seminar. We also encourage you to email us if you have any questions, queries or would like to be included in the mailing list for the seminars if you are not already.

Deadline: 8 September 2023

Journal of Pacific History Inc.
Call for applications – JPH Publication Incentive grants

The Journal of Pacific History Inc. invites qualified persons to apply for a Publication Incentive grant. These competitive grants are offered to help support early career Pacific historians to prepare articles for submission to the *Journal of Pacific History*.

See <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cjph> for the journal's Aims and scope, Journal information, and Instructions for authors. Applicants must follow the Instructions scrupulously in preparing their article.

Qualifications

Anyone who has completed a PhD or MA since 2017 in a field relevant to Pacific history, or who is currently enrolled for a doctorate in such a field, can apply for a grant of AU\$3,000 to prepare an article for submission to peer review on a topic of relevance to the *Journal of Pacific History*.

Successful applicants will receive AU\$500 upfront; AU\$1,000 on submission through the *Journal of Pacific History* Taylor & Francis web portal, **before 30 September 2024**, of a manuscript accepted by the editors to send for peer review; and AU\$1,500 when the accepted final article is sent for production by the *Journal of Pacific History*. In the case of multiple authors, the total grant will be AU\$4,000.

Application process

Candidates should submit a recent CV, letters of support from two referees, and a proposal of up to 1,000 words **by 30 November 2023** to the Secretary of JPH Inc (bronwen.douglas@anu.edu.au).

Article proposals should include the following:

Title and 200-word abstract

Outline: rationale of the topic and a brief historiography

Timeline: to submission via the JPH online portal

Applications will be assessed by a sub-committee of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Pacific History*. A mentor may be appointed to assist successful applicants.

Helen Gardner
Chair, JPH Inc.

Publishing and Publication Updates

Science, Technology and Society

University of Bristol Press

The Press is expanding its publishing program in We're expanding our publishing in [Science, Technology and Society](#) and would be delighted to receive enquiries from prospective authors.

For updates on publishing in this area, please sign up to "[Science Technology and Society mailing list and we will send you a free ebook copy of Slow Computing by Rob Kitchin and Alistair Fraser.](#)"

The Press is especially interested in the following areas:

- Digital economies
- Science, technology, medicine and health
- Online culture
- Technology and politics
- New directions in theory, method and methodology

If you would like to speak to our editor about your publishing ideas, please email paul.stevens@bristol.ac.uk.

New and Forthcoming Publications: Articles and Essays

Dmitry D. Zworkykin, “*Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1792), climbing perch (Anabantidae), and its discovery in India,” *Annals of Natural History* 50:1 (2023), 22-34

This paper examines the history of discovery, early research and description of *Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1792) (Anabantidae), an amphibious fish from southern India that was said to climb palm trees and so has been dubbed the “climbing perch”. Amphibious fishes constitute one of the most unusual groups of aquatic creatures since they can spend part of their life in terrestrial habitats. The first reports of such fishes date back to Antiquity, but with the onset of the Age of Discovery, naturalists were able to find actual examples of tropical amphibious fishes and send preserved specimens to Europe. A fish which could move overland and was rumoured to clamber up tree trunks became known to European naturalists through the efforts of a variety of people. Many of them were amateur naturalists whose main activities included politics, commerce and missionary work. The species was described by Marcus Elieser Bloch (1723–1799) in 1792, but this would not have been possible if the Reverend Christoph Samuel John (1747–1813) had not obtained specimens in India and sent them to Berlin. Around the same time, Lieutenant Dagobert Karl Daldorff (fl. 1790–1802) documented the unusual amphibious behaviour of this fish. Thanks to others, *Anabas testudineus* was illustrated (albeit inaccurately) and the first scientific description published.

Luca Ghiraldi, Matteo Ruzzon, Marta Coloberti, and Alessandro Di Meo, “Notes on the birds collected by Giovanni Emilio Cerruti during his journey to New Guinea (1869–1870),” *Annals of Natural History* 50:1 (2023), 149-161

In the later decades of the nineteenth century, some Italian explorers carried out expeditions to the Indonesian archipelago and New Guinea, with the aims of concluding diplomatic agreements, strengthening commercial networks and obtaining territorial concessions. During these expeditions, collecting animal specimens and artefacts, later deposited in several museums, was fairly common, increasing the scientific renown of post-unitarian Italy. Giovanni Emilio Cerruti (fl. 1860–1875) was a traveller, little known today, who visited those then remote lands. He was a merchant and a strong supporter of colonial policies. Through the mediation of government officials, he managed to obtain a commission from the Italian government to identify one or more places close to New Guinea where a penal colony could be established. Although the trip was commissioned exclusively for diplomatic purposes, Cerruti collected some interesting ornithological specimens, which were later donated to Italian natural history museums. We reconstruct Emilio Cerruti’s journey, using his letters to illuminate the most interesting details of its natural history. Fifty of Cerruti’s specimens, extant in the collections of the Museo di Scienze Naturali di Torino and Museo Calderini di Varallo Sesia, are recorded in an annotated catalogue.

Richard Levy, et al. “Melting Ice and Rising Seas—Connecting Projected Change in Antarctica’s Ice Sheets to Communities in Aotearoa New Zealand,” *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* (2023)
DOI: 10.1080/03036758.2023.2232743

Aditya Sarkar, “Pandemics, Labor Relations, and Political Regimes: The Bubonic Plague and COVID-19 Crises in India,” *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas*, 20:2 (2023), 50-73.

This article investigates the possibility of comparisons between the COVID-19 crisis in India and an earlier episode of pandemic crisis: bubonic plague in Bombay at the end of the nineteenth century. There are numerous apparent parallels. In both cases, Indians experienced an unprecedented and sweeping use of state authority to enforce minute regulations of everyday life. These regulations, on both occasions, were nominally universal in their scope but in practice bore most heavily on the working classes and specifically the urban poor. During both pandemic crises, the immediate consequence of the strategy of state control chosen was a massive flight of the urban poor: from Bombay between 1896 and 1898, and from many of India's major urban centers in the summer of 2020. The parallels and convergences mentioned above provide a basis for comparison. But they do no more than that: the emphasis of the analysis that follows is on the *contrasts* between the two pandemic crises. It is these contrasts between the two episodes, rather than the superficially more striking similarities, which offer a basis for reflection on the character of the respective crises. These reflections focus, at their core, on the mode of authoritarian state policy deployed in the two cases, and on the predicament of laboring classes during the two cycles of pandemic crisis.

Seabourne Rust and Jeffrey H. Robinson, “Revisiting *Eothyrsites*

holosquamatus Chapman (Trichiuroidea: Gempylidae), an Eocene gemfish from the Burnside Mudstone, Dunedin, New Zealand,” *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Special Issue: Fossil Vertebrates from southern Zealandia*

- <https://doi.org/10.1080/03036758.2023.2228211>

nearly a century. I argue that since the very basis and structure of the social collective invoked and reflected in these stories changed in the period, it is better to think of the collectives as multiple *spectral communities* sharing the same historical trauma rather than a single, unchanging society. Finally, I urge historians to rethink when epidemics end by paying greater attention to their long mnemonic and social afterlives that continue to unfold long after the cessation of the biological events.

Alexandra Ludewig, “John Staer (1850–1933): the patronym behind *Eucalyptus*

staeri, the Albany Blackbutt,” *Historical Records of Australian Science* 34:2

(2023), 123-135 <https://doi.org/10.1071/HR23003>

Millennia of evolutionary ecology have seen Australia become one of the driest and flattest continents on Earth—and in the process, home to more than 700 species of *Eucalyptus*. Colonial scientists named them using a binomial system, thereby overwriting local vernaculars that had persisted for tens of thousands of years. This paper traces the man commemorated in the Albany Blackbutt, *Eucalyptus staeri*, a tree unique to the Great Southern region of Western Australia, traditionally the land of the Menang Noongar people. Using a biographical lens, the paper examines the intersection of Western science and commerce in plant collection and naming, and the ways in which these processes exclude or discount Indigenous knowledge. The paper argues that a more holistic and inclusive historical interpretation of herbarium specimens of *E. staeri* is achieved by correcting and re-analysing information about the German settler after whom it is named, John Staer, while at the same time acknowledging the Noongar people’s deep knowledge (*kartijin*) of plants that has been passed down over many thousands of years.

New and Forthcoming Publications: Books and Chapters

Adam Bobbette, *The Pulse of the Earth Political Geology in Java*, Duke University Press, 2023.

In *The Pulse of the Earth* Adam Bobbette tells the story of how modern theories of the earth emerged from the slopes of Indonesia's volcanoes. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, scientists became concerned with protecting the colonial plantation economy from the unpredictable bursts and shudders of volcanoes. Bobbette follows Javanese knowledge traditions, colonial geologists, volcanologists, mystics, Theosophists, orientalists, and revolutionaries to show how the earth sciences originate from a fusion of Western and non-Western cosmology, theology, anthropology, and geology. Drawing on archival research, interviews, and fieldwork at Javanese volcanoes and in scientific observatories, he explores how Indonesian Islam shaped the theory of plate tectonics, how Dutch colonial volcanologists learned to see the earth in new ways from Javanese spiritual traditions, and how new scientific technologies radically recast notions of the human body, distance, and the earth. In this way, Bobbette decenters the significance of Western scientists to expand our understanding of the evolution of planetary thought and rethinks the politics of geological knowledge.

Stevan Harrell, *An Ecological History of Modern China*, Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2023

- ISBN: 9780295751719
- US\$35.00

Is environmental degradation an inevitable result of economic development? Can ecosystems be restored once government officials and the public are committed to doing so? These questions are at the heart of *An Ecological History of Modern China*, a comprehensive account of China's transformation since the founding of the People's Republic from the perspective not of the economy but of the biophysical world. Examples throughout illustrate how agricultural, industrial, and urban development have affected the resilience of China's ecosystems—their ability to withstand disturbances and additional growth—and what this means for the country's future. Drawing on decades of research, Stevan Harrell demonstrates the local and global impacts of China's miraculous rise. In clear and accessible prose, *An Ecological History of Modern China* untangles the paradoxes of development and questions the possibility of a future that is both prosperous and sustainable. It is a critical resource for students, scholars, and general readers interested in environmental change, Chinese history, and sustainable development.

Sumit Guha, *Ecologies of Empire in South Asia, 1400-1900*, Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2023

- ISBN: 9780295751498
- US\$32.00

The perception, valuation, and manipulation of human environments all have their own layered histories. So Sumit Guha argues in this sweeping examination of a pivotal five hundred years when successive empires struggled to harness lands and peoples to their agendas across Asia. *Ecologies of Empire in South Asia, 1400–1900* compares the practices of the Mughal and British Empires to demonstrate how their fluctuating capacity for domination was imbricated in the formation of environmental knowledge itself. The establishment of imperial control transforms local knowledge of the world into the aggregated information that reproduces centralized power over it. That is the political ecology that reshapes entire biomes. Animals and plants are translocated; human communities are displaced or destroyed. Some species proliferate; others disappear. But these state projects are overlaid upon the many local and regional geographies made by sacred cosmologies and local sites, pilgrimage routes and river fords, hot springs and fluctuating aquifers, hunting ranges and nesting grounds, notable trees and striking rocks. Guha uncovers these ecological histories by scrutinizing little-used archival sources. His historically based political ecology demonstrates how the biomes of a vast subcontinent were changed by struggles to make and to resist empire.

Fellowships and Grants

Journalist Fellowships

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin is excited to offer journalist residencies in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science in 2024.

This fellowship presents the opportunity for journalists in all forms of media around the world to gain insight into the work of an international research institute. During the fellowship journalists explore current research in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science; network and engage with academic researchers; and carry out a research project on a relevant topic of their choice. Journalists-in-Residence receive an honorarium of €3,000 per month (for up to two months).

We invite applications from journalists seeking to utilize the history, philosophy, and sociology of science in their reporting, and with a particular interest in exploring the value of these disciplines for public discourse around contemporary social issues. Applications from all formats of journalism (print, audio, video, radio, online, multimedia, data, etc.) are welcomed. The deadline for applying is August 14, 2023.

Further details, including the application portal, can be found on our website: <https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/job-position/guest-residencies-journalists-history-philosophy-sociology-science-2024>

Conferences and Meetings

Beyond the Ocean's Depths: Revisiting the *Challenger* Expedition (1872-1876)

7 November 2023

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

This event is in part sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London.

With the environmental threat of global warming, rising seas and biodiversity loss, knowledge of the ocean is more important than ever. The *Challenger* Expedition, named after the British Royal Navy vessel HMS *Challenger* which circumnavigated the globe from 1872 to 1876 with the aim to explore the deep sea, has been celebrated as a foundational moment in the history of modern oceanography.

Data and specimens obtained from the expedition are actively studied by scientists today and provide a historical benchmark for climate change and species distribution. Meanwhile, historians are increasingly calling for the voyage's imperial context to be recognised and are bringing attention to people and places that have previously been given little attention in the expedition's historiography. How do we tell more inclusive and holistic histories of *Challenger*, while engaging with its scientific importance today? Looking forwards, what can we learn from the past while considering the future of ocean science?

On 7 November 2023, 'Beyond the Ocean's Depths' shall provide a welcoming interdisciplinary forum for historians, scientists, coastal and island communities, and museum curators to share ideas and their work. The day will bring together a variety of perspectives, knowledges, specialisms and resources. Papers are encouraged on a range of topics related to *Challenger*, 19th-century ocean science and voyages of exploration in a broad sense. Conference themes include:

- The use of *Challenger* materials in modern scientific research
- *Challenger*-related materials in museum collections
- Public engagement and education
- Colonial legacies
- Untold histories
- Local knowledges and expertise
- Links between oceanography past, present and future

This one-day conference will be held in person at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich and online. It will consist of four panels, each consisting of three 15-minute papers and a Q&A, and a guided visit to the Caird Library to view *Challenger* archives, photographs and ship plans. We will also have a keynote talk and time to view relevant gallery spaces.

The workshop will be wheelchair accessible with lift access, and the lecture theatre is fitted with a hearing loop. It will also be possible to give presentations remotely, and we anticipate that overseas submissions will be delivered online (unless rail travel to the UK is available). This is to support the Museum's ambitions to be carbon emissions conscious. The workshop language is English. If you have any queries, please contact the organisers at research@rmg.co.uk.

Conference webpage:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/challenger-conference>

11th Conference of the European Society for the History of Science

Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona

4-7 September 2024

The website of the conference is now online: <http://eventum.upf.edu/go/eshs24>

The call for symposia will open on October 1

First International Conference of the Histories of *Upcoming*

Anthropologies: Doing Histories, Imagining Futures

Hosted by the University of Pisa, Italy

The History of Anthropology Network (HOAN) of the European Association for Social Anthropology is happy to announce a call for papers for the First International Conference of the Histories of Anthropologies, Doing Histories, Imagining Futures.

The event will be held on-line between 4-7 December 2023 and it is collaboratively organised by key stakeholders in our field to discuss methodological, theoretical, pedagogical, and ethical aspects of the histories of anthropologies.

Please browse the Conference Website and Panels to discover more!

<https://hoaic.cfs.unipi.it/>

<https://hoaic.cfs.unipi.it/panels/>

This is an exciting opportunity for everyone working in the field of history of anthropology to gather and learn from each other and set new directions for the field. You are warmly invited to join us and submit a paper proposal.

The panels are:

Panel 1: Doing Histories of Anthropologies. Theories, Methodologies, Practices

Panel 2: Disciplinary Histories and Archives in Anthropology, Folklore, and Oral History: Actors, Formats, and Mediality in Knowledge Production

Panel 3: Historicizing Anachronistic Motives

Panel 4: History's Lessons: Uses of the History of Anthropology

Panel 5: Pushed out, excluded and forgotten? Recovering anthropologists, ethnologists, and folklorists for the history of our discipline

Panel 6: Approaching the Present through Anthropology's Past

Panel 7: Regional Anthropologies, Colonial and Postcolonial Histories

Panel 8: Missing Others. Eluded Encounters and Hidden Contributions within the History of Anthropology

Inventing the Human

Conference, conversations, provocations, roundtables, and exhibition

30th November to 2nd December 2023

University of Melbourne (f2f and virtual)

Call for Papers

This interdisciplinary and hybrid conference sets out to place the (liberal-humanist) subject dispatched by posthumanism inside the much larger field of Enlightenment/Romantic thought on this topic—a field that, on the one hand, is no longer imagined as beginning and ending in Europe and, on the other hand, is always already in dialogue or conflict with non-European traditions, understandings, and discourses of the human. We take as our key themes the pasts, futures, and varieties of reason, imagination, liberty, and the body—terms crucial to modern understandings of the human. But we do this in order to ask, in a world where Europe is merely one centre among many, what of this legacy can be dispatched? What can be revised or extended by other traditions? What in the world's multiple humanities might open new possibilities for the future? And what does our answer to these questions mean for the methods, roles, and organising categories of the Humanities?

Confirmed Keynote Speakers / Provocateurs:

[Genevieve Bell](#), Director of the School of Cybernetics; Director of the 3A Institute (3Ai); Florence Violet McKenzie Chair at the Australian National University; a Vice President and a Senior Fellow at Intel Corporation.

[James Q. Davies](#), Professor of Music, University of California, Berkeley.

[Amanda Jo Goldstein](#), Associate Professor, English Faculty, University of California, Berkeley.

[Wantari 'Wanta' Pawu](#), Warlpiri Elder; and Professorial Fellow in Indigenous Studies, University of Melbourne, University of Melbourne.

[Delia Lin](#), Associate Professor, Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne.

[Sujit Sivasundaram](#), Professor of World History, University of Cambridge.

Topics include:

- Enlightenment-Romanticism and/or its legacies and the invention of the Human
- Indigenous, Asian, Southern Hemisphere traditions and knowledges about the human
- Re-inventing the human (or why developing an understanding of plural humanity matters)
- The pasts, futures, and/or varieties of
 - reason / critique • imagination / creativity • knowledge • literary arts / performing arts / visual arts • cosmopolitanism / worldliness • religion / faith / the secular / the post secular • the body • place • tradition

--- or topics not included in this list important for a particular tradition on the human.
- Life writing / Writing about the human
- Ability / disability / differently abled
- Gender / transgender / non-binary