



Exploratory Workshop Scheme

Scientific Review Group for the Humanities

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

**The Urbanization of Nature.
Environmental narratives,
technologies and power in the city
(1500-2000)**

Darmstadt (Germany), 20-22 March 2014

Convened by:
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and **Michael Toyka-Seid**^③

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The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations to advance European research collaboration and explore new directions for research. Currently it is an independent organisation, owned by 67 Member Organisations, which are research funding organisations, research performing organisations and academies from 29 countries.

ESF is in a period of transition; the ESF Member Organisations (MO's) have indicated that they would like to wind down certain ESF activities, such as EUROCORES, RNP's, ECRP's and Forward Looks by the end of 2015, but ESF will continue to honour its existing commitments until the projects are finalised.

In 2013 the only research instrument that will have a call for proposals is the Exploratory Workshops. The focus of the Exploratory Workshops scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure, also of interdisciplinary character. Workshops are expected to open up new directions in research or new domains. It is expected that a workshop shall conclude with plans for follow-up research activities and/or collaborative actions or other specific outputs at international level.

ESF is also currently exploring new areas where we could serve the science community. Services we have identified that would leverage our expertise and experience and provide added-value to the science community are: peer review, evaluation, research conferences and career tracking.

Please check our website (www.esf.org) for regular updates regarding ESF and its future developments.

European Science Foundation

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Main Objectives of the Workshop:

The historical agency of cities in shaping the modern, dematerialized, disenchanting and commodified relationship of man and nature is often deemed to start with industrialization, the nation-state and the liberal individual. This workshop challenges prevailing modernization paradigms on the urban-nature nexus through a reconsideration of the essential transitions in the production of nature in the European city over the past five centuries.

In order to fundamentally reshuffle scholarship on the past five hundred years of urban-nature interaction, this workshop thus will not only try to bridge the historiographical pre-modern/modern gap, but also to integrate methodological and conceptual progress in different fields of social and environmental sciences, including Actor-Network Theory, Science and Technology Studies and Political Ecology.

In order to reveal contingencies and transitions in the city-nature nexus over the past five centuries, each of the paper inputs in this workshop will focus on the interaction between historical narratives/discourses on the urban environment on the one hand and evolving environmental practices/technologies/materialities on the other hand.

Workshop Agenda

Participants will present short inputs at the workshop, leaving ample space for discussions and further considerations leading up to full paper presentations at a follow-up conference. The language of the workshop will be English.



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Report publication and dissemination

The results of the workshop and a follow-up workshop in Spring 2015 will be presented in a (peer-reviewed) book volume published by an international publisher. Furthermore the results of the discussions will be presented through round-tables at the two most relevant scientific conferences of the field: the European Environmental History Conference (ESEH) and the European Urban History Conference (EAUH).



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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Thursday, 20 March 2014

- 14.00-14.30 **Registration/ Coffee and snacks**
- 14.30-14.40 **Welcome remarks by Convenor**
Dieter Schott (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)/
Tim Soens (Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium)
- 14.40-15.00 **Presentation of the European Science Foundation (ESF)**
tba (ESF Scientific Review Group for the Humanities)
- 15.00-16.30 Session 1: Finding a common language to study the urbanization of nature and the political ecology of the city**
Chair: Martin Knoll (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 15.00-15.15 **"Ways of approaching medieval urban environments"**
Dorothee Rippmann (Universität Zürich, Switzerland)
- 15.15-15.30 **"Power, energy, metabolism: Understanding a city through its transformation as a socio-natural site"**
Martin Schmid (Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)
- 15.30-15.45 **"Marginalia: aesthetics, ecology, and urban wastelands"**
Matthew Gandy (UCL, Great Britain)
- 15.45-16.30 **Discussion**
- 16.30-17.00 *Coffee / Tea Break*
- 17.00-18.30 Session 2: Feeding, fuelling and (re-)producing the city**
Chair: Michael Toyka-Seid (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 17.00-17.15 **"Limiters of Growth? Urban development and access to fuel in Scotland, 1500-1850"**
Richard Oram (University of Stirling, Great Britain)
- 17.15-17.30 **"Into the wild? How did cities transform their neighbouring woodlands during the Middle Ages (12th – 16th century)?"**
Cloé Deligne (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)
- 17.30-17.45 **"Fuelling in a transition phase"**
Martin Knoll (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 17.45-18.00 **"Urban metabolism and socio-ecological transitions: Paris, 18th – 19th century"**
Sabine Barles (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, France)
- 18.00-18.30 **Discussion**
- 19.00 *Dinner "Ratskeller"*



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Friday, 21 March 2014

09.00-10.30

Session 3: Urban Waste, removal and recycling

Chair: Dorothee Brantz (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)

09.00-09.15

"The use and re-use of coal and scoria in the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century city (Belgium)"

Isabelle Parmentier (Université de Namur, Belgium)

09.15-09.30

"Re-using and recycling in Urban Europe (16th-19th century)"

Georg Stöger (Universität Salzburg, Austria)

09.30-09.45

"Waste matters: 20th century landfill as an untamed urban legacy"

Heike Weber (Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany)

09.45-10.00

"Animals and Excrements"

Aline Steinbrecher (Universität Konstanz, Germany)

10.00-10.30

Discussion

10.30-10.45

Coffee / Tea Break

10.45-12.15

Session 4: Negotiating urban environments

Chair: Genèvieve Massard-Guilbaud (EHESS Paris, France)

10.45-11.00

"Coal, Smoke and the environment in urban-industrial Britain"

Stephen Mosley (Leeds Metropolitan University, Great Britain)

11.00-11.15

"Managing urban air pollution in France from the 1900s to the 1970s"

Stéphane Frioux (Université Lyon 2, France)

11.15-11.30

"Land as an urban resource"

Marjanaa Niemi (Tampereen Yliopisto, Finland)

11.30-11.45

"Wasting, urban rhythm and everyday environmentalism in Twentieth-century Britain"

Tim Cooper (University of Exeter, Great Britain)

11.45-12.15

Discussion

12.30-15.30

Field trip to urban sustainable development zone Kranichstein (incl. light lunch)

16.00-18.00

Session 5: Water, the blue print of a city

Chair: Dieter Schott (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)

16.00-16.15

"The Last Common: Water in medieval cities. The Low Countries as an example"

Tim Soens (Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium)

16.15-16.30

"Stockholm and Gothenburg waterscapes"

Eva Jakobsson (Universitetet i Stavanger, Norway)

16.30-16.45

"Urban water protection in the Baltic Sea Region"

Simo Laakkonen (Helsinki Yliopisto, Finland)



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- 16.45-17.00 **"Conquering the riverside in the 19th century: Urban expansion, bourgeois villas, and the search for 'nature' within the city"**
Christian Rohr (Universität Bern, Switzerland)
- 17.00-17.15 **"Renaturalizing the city: Montreal and its rivers in the post-industrial period"**
Michèle Dagenais (Université de Montréal, Canada)
- 17.15-18.00 **Discussion**
- 19.00 *Dinner (location tba)*

Saturday, 22 March 2014

- 09.00-10.30 Session 6: Adaptation and Circulation**
- Chair: Sebastian Hauman** (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 09.00-09.15 **"Innovation, experts and circulation"**
Karel Davids (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 09.15-09.30 **"Public health and urban environments in European colonies"**
Michael Toyka-Seid (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 09.30-09.45 **"Design by disasters. Europe´s seismic architectural tradition"**
Greg Bankoff (University of Hull, Great Britain)
- 09.45-10.30 **Discussion**
- 10.30-11.00 *Coffee / Tea Break*
- 11.00-12.30 Final Session – Roundtable**
- Chair: Bert de Munck** (Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium)
- 11.00-11.15 **"Urbanisation and the Anthropocene: A History of the Technosphere"**
Chris Otter (The Ohio State University, USA)
- 11.15-11.30 **Comments**
Eric Swyngedouw (The University of Manchester, Great Britain)
Dieter Schott (Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany)
- 11.30-13.00 **Discussion, planning follow-up activities**
- 13.00 *Lunch snacks*
- 14.00 *End of Workshop and departure*

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Objectives of the ESF Scientific Review Group for the Humanities

The main tasks of the **ESF Scientific Review Group for the Humanities** are:

- to encourage interdisciplinary work through the independent evaluation of collaborative research proposals emanating from the scholarly community;
- to identify priority research areas and to play an integrative and co-ordinating role by creating links between research communities which in the Humanities are often small and fragmented.
- to provide expert advice on science policy actions at the European level in the field of its responsibilities.

The Scientific Review Group is well aware that the ESF is the only European Agency where the Humanities have a place next to the other sciences and where European projects are reviewed, developed and subsequently operated.

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