



# CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS

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CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS IS THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIMATE HISTORY NETWORK  
– A NETWORK OF INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARS STUDYING PAST CLIMATE CHANGE –  
TO CONTRIBUTE EMAIL [NJCUNIGAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NJCUNIGAN@GMAIL.COM)

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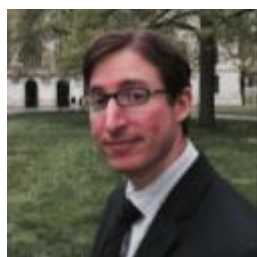
## Letter from the Founders



DAGOMAR DEGROOT

Welcome to the latest installment of our quarterly newsletter on events, publications, and resources in climate history. Since our last newsletter, traffic to our website has surged, funneled in part through our social media pages. HistoricalClimatology.com now receives a steady 10,000 hits per week, and our Facebook page – at [facebook.com/climatehistory](https://facebook.com/climatehistory) – reached 30,000 people in one recent week alone.

All of this traffic has no doubt responded to the hard work of our social media editor, Katrin Kleemann, and to the new articles that we've published since the summer, which have offered new angles on the climate history of some very different places. Interest in our online resources also owes much to a number of new and noteworthy publications that demonstrate the growing breadth and interdisciplinary consilience of climate history. Here are some recent accomplishments by members of the Climate History Network:



SAM WHITE

- New edited volumes by Dominik Collet and Maximilian Schuh on Famines during the Little Ice Age; Georgina Endfield and Lucy Veale on Cultural Histories, Memories and Extreme Weather; and Matthias Heymann and colleagues on Cultures of Prediction in Atmospheric and Climate Science.
- New multidisciplinary research articles led by historians, including Joseph Manning et al., “Volcanic Suppression of Nile Summer Flooding Triggers Revolt and Constrains Interstate Conflict in Ancient Egypt”; Zsolt Pinke et al., “Climate of Doubt: A Re-Evaluation of Büntgen and Di Cosmo’s Environmental Hypothesis for the Mongol Withdrawal from Hungary, 1242 CE”; and Tim Newfield and Inga Labuhn, “Realizing Consilience in Studies of Pre-Instrumental Climate and Pre-Laboratory Disease.”

- Kathleen Pribyl’s monograph on Farming, Famine and Plague: The Impact of Climate in Late Medieval England.
- Last (and in Dagomar’s opinion, certainly not least), Sam’s new book *A Cold Welcome: The Little Ice Age and Europe’s Encounter with North America*.

This issue’s bibliography also includes a number of new publications in high-resolution paleoclimatology and paleoclimate modeling, including the useful new studies by Eduardo Moreno-Chamarro and colleagues, “Winter Amplification of the European Little Ice Age Cooling by the Subpolar Gyre” and a review of the evolving literature on the “Dark Ages Cold Period”/“Late Antique Little Ice Age” by Samuli Helama, Phil Jones, and Keith Briffa.

In other news, we’ve now assembled panel proposals for the 2018 conference of the International Conference of Historical Geographers, and we’re pleased to report that climate history will have a substantial presence at the next conference of the American Society for Environmental History. We hope to see many of you at both conferences, and as always, we encourage you to share your news and publications in climate history.

Dagomar Degroot & Sam White

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## Climate History Podcast



Catch up on the latest podcasts from the Climate History Network. In the sixth episode of the Climate History Podcast, Dagomar Degroot (Georgetown University) interviews James Fleming (Colby College) about the history and future prospects of geoengineering, and the invention of atmospheric science in the twentieth century. In the seventh episode of the Climate History Podcast, Dagomar Degroot (Georgetown University) interviews Bathsheba Demuth (Brown University) about her experiences in a changing Arctic, and her forthcoming book on the history of communism and capitalism across the Bering Strait. You can subscribe to the podcast [here](#) or listen [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### January 2018

The next Past Global Changes (PAGES) Volcanoes in Climate and Society (VICS) workshop will be held in Tucson on 12-14 January 2018. More information available [here](#).

### April 2018

The European Geophysical Union (EGU) general assembly will be held in Vienna 8-13 April 2018. We invite you to consider submitting an abstract for participation in the session: [CL1.01 HISTORICAL CLIMATOLOGY](#). The abstract deadline is 10 January 2018. You can find additional details [here](#) and submit your abstract [here](#). Convener: Stefan Grab. Co- Conveners: Rudolf Brazdil, David Nash, Georgina Endfield.

Historical Climatology has gained momentum and worldwide recognition over the last couple of decades, particularly in the light of rapid global climate and environmental change. It is now well recognized that in order to better project future changes and be prepared for those changes, one should look to, and learn from, the past. To this end, historical documentary sources, in many cases spanning back several hundred years and far beyond instrumental weather records, offer detailed descriptive (qualitative) accounts on past weather and climate. Such documentary sources typically include, amongst others: weather diaries, ship log books, missionary reports and letters, historical newspapers, chronicles, accounting and government documents etc. Such proxies have particular advantages in that they in most cases offer details on the specific timing and placement of an event. In addition, valuable insights may be gained on environmental and anthropogenic consequences and responses to specific weather events and climate anomaly. Similarly, oral history records, based on people's personal accounts and experiences of past weather offer important insights on perceptions of climate change, and details on past and sometimes 'forgotten' weather events and their consequences.

This session welcomes all studies using documentary, historical instrumental and oral history based approaches to: produce historical climate chronologies (multi-decadal to centennial scale), gain insights into past climatic periods or specific weather events, detail environmental and human consequences to past climate and weather, share people's experiences and perceptions of past climate, weather events and climate change, and reflect on lessons learnt (coping and adaptation) from past climate and weather events. Whilst welcoming contributions from all global regions, we particularly appeal for contributions from Asia and the Middle East.

### July 2018

The 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Historical Geographers will be held in Warsaw, 15–20 July 2018, organized by the University of Warsaw and the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. We hope to hold a series of sessions on climate history, and at least six sessions climate reconstruction, impacts, adaptation, and the history of climatology and meteorology have been submitted to the conference. The deadline for poster submissions is still open until November 11. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

## Open Calls

### Arcadia

Founded as a partnership between the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Rachel Carson Center, Arcadia is an online, peer-reviewed publication platform for short, illustrated, and engaging environmental histories. An Arcadia article tells a short (about 750 words) focused, engaging environmental history about any site, event, person, organization, or species as it related to nature and human society. Your text should focus on a specific problem/case and refer to a specific place and time. You should include 2-5 digital objects (videos, images, maps, or other materials). We are currently seeking submissions for our Spring 2018 volume, the deadline is **1 December 2017**. More information available [here](#).

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## Metadata on Historical Floods

The PAGES Floods working group has launched a metadata collection of existing flood records

(see: <http://pastglobalchanges.org/ini/wg/floods/metadata-collection>). The main goal of this list is to give an overview of all existing records of past floods from historical, botanical or geological archives. This list will be published open access in the coming weeks, and the working group also plans to submit a paper giving an overview of all archives of past flood occurrence and magnitude, including an overview of the data available. They have contacted us to see whether members could help ensure that their historical data are as complete as possible.

The criteria of selection are:

- the record should correspond to a flood chronicle at a given place (not just historical information about 1 flood event),
- the flood chronicle should be longer than 100 years
- the work should be published

If you know of appropriate sources, please visit <http://pastglobalchanges.org/ini/wg/floods/metadata-collection> for information on how to input the metadata. You may submit any files or direct questions to [bruno.wilhelm@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:bruno.wilhelm@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)

## GIS Survey

Climate historians, environmental historians, graduate students and related specialists (i.e. anyone with a strong research and/or teaching interest in climate history) are invited to participate in an academic survey about the existing and potential uses of GIS and mapping software to capture primary resources, and research data and outputs. If you agree to participate, completion of the survey will take about 5-10 minutes. The survey will be open until October 16. Thank you, Tom Belton, Senior Archivist, Western University, London, Canada. The survey can be found [here](#).

## Open Positions

### Postdoctoral Research Associate

Applications are invited for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position in the history of flood risk and resilience in England, c.1750-present. This position has arisen as a result of a successful Arts and Humanities Research Council grant for three years entitled Local Governance and Community Resilience: How Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) and Communities Managed Flooding in England. The aim of the project is to examine local-level models of flood risk management in England through a historical study of Internal Drainage Boards.

The person required will have a recent history of archival research, oral history experience, familiarity with conducting interviews, and an ability to facilitate focus groups. Proficiency in digital literacy is also desirable. To discuss this role informally, please contact Prof. Greg Bankoff, [g.bankoff@hull.ac.uk](mailto:g.bankoff@hull.ac.uk). More information about the department is available [here](#).

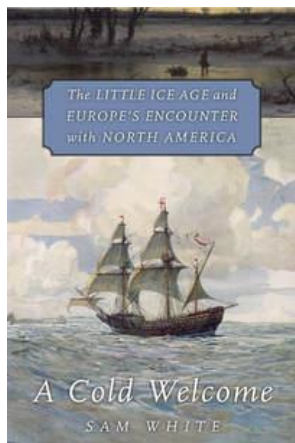
Applicants are required to submit a current CV and covering letter outlining how their qualifications and experience meet the Person Specification in the Job Description. You can find a full job description [here](#). Applications close on 8 November.

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## Feature Articles

### New Worlds of Climate Change: The Little Ice Age and the Colonization of America.

*Sam White, Ohio State University*



In August 1559, the aspiring conquistador Tristán de Luna y Arellano brought some five hundred soldiers and a thousand colonists from New Spain to a settlement on Pensacola Bay, Florida, which he declared “the best port in the Indies.” The viceroy of New Spain reported to the king “the port is so secure that no wind can do them any damage at all.” Even as he wrote, a hurricane was entering the Caribbean, poised to devastate Puerto Rico. A week later, it roared into Pensacola Bay. Tristán de Luna had no experience of tropical storms that could overwhelm even the strongest harbors. He had left all the settlement’s supplies aboard his ships in the bay. Food, clothing, arms, and armor all went down to the bottom of the sea with the wreck of his largest vessels. Only two small boats survived to take the sad news back to the viceroy in Mexico City. Within months, the colony unraveled amid hunger, exposure, infighting, and Native American resistance. When the survivors were finally evacuated, they came home complaining of Luna’s erratic leadership and the region’s “bad climate.” [More](#)

### Weather, Climate Change, and Inuit Communities in the Western Canadian Arctic.

*Laura Eerkes-Medrano, University of Victoria*



Global climate change brings with it local weather that communities and cultures have difficulty anticipating. Unpredictable and socially impactful weather is having negative effects on the subsistence, cultural activities, and safety of indigenous peoples in Arctic communities. Since 2013, Professor David Atkinson and his team at the University of Victoria have been working with Inuvialuit communities in Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok, and Sachs Harbour. The main goal is to understand how impactful weather is affecting residents’ subsistence activities, particularly when they are on the water. [More](#)

### “Lighthouses in the Empire”: History of Ice and Place in the “Mountains of the Moon,” Uganda.

*Christopher S. Kelly, Brown University*



Mount Emin. Mount Baker. Mount Stanley. It is rare for a location to excite so many disparate sensibilities, but the post-colonial scholar, glaciologist, botanist, and climate scientist find themselves welcome bedfellows in the Rwenzori Mountains in tropical central Africa, straddling the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Even as far afield in time and space as ancient Greece, philosophers trafficked in rumors that the Nile Headwaters hosted Ptolemy’s snow-capped “Mountains of the Moon.” Equally famous today is the gigantism reached by floral species of heathers, senecios, helichrysums, and lobelias — some reaching heights of 12 meters. [More](#)

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## Member Projects

### Charuta Kulkarni - Lessons from the Past: Unfolding the Dynamics among Climate, Balkan Landscapes, and Humans over the Past Millennium



Drawing upon pollen, charcoal, and geochemical analyses of two Serbian lakes for the first time, this doctoral dissertation explores the environmental history of the Central Balkan region over the past 600 years, which includes the Little Ice Age (LIA). The extent of the LIA largely coincided with the emergence, rise, and decline of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the Industrial Era; all of which deeply influenced the Balkan landscapes. Integrating new Serbian palaeoecological records with other natural and human archives from the region, this project examines a diverse blend of socio-political-climatic "stressors" and traces their profound impacts on predominantly agro-pastoral Balkan subsistence. By statistically analyzing ecological (woodland, land erosion, land clearance, agriculture), social (population, famines) and climatic (droughts, extreme cold years) variables, it discovers adverse effects of the LIA on the Balkan societies and reveals how they responded in transitioning socio-political regimes. [More](#)

## Best of the Web

### July 2017



Droughts and Scarcity before Independence in the Viceroyalty of New Granada, 1800–1810. [Environment and Society Portal](#)

The Map Hidden in the Pacific Northwest's Tree Rings. [The Atlantic](#)

Feeling the Heat: How Fish Are Migrating from Warming Waters. [Yale Environment 360](#)

Scientists Rescue Ice from Melting Bolivian Glacier – Before it Disappears. [The Guardian](#)

Collapse of the European Ice Sheet Caused Chaos. [EurekAlert!](#)

Global Warming Tipped Scales in Europe's Heat Wave. [Climate Central](#)

### August 2017



Arks of the Apocalypse. [New York Times](#)

This Cave Holds a Spectacular Record of 5,000 Years of Tsunamis. [The Atlantic](#)

Events in Iceland Explain Years of Famine in Europe's Dark Ages. [The Economist](#)

Major Correction to Satellite Data Shows 140% Faster Warming Since 1998. [Carbon Brief](#)

Masses of Beautiful Alabaster. [Paris Review](#)

A History of Global Warming, In Just 35 Seconds. [Climate Central](#)

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## Recent Publications

### Historical Climatology (including documentary and early instrumental reconstructions, and studies of climate and human history)

- Añel, Juan A., Guadalupe Sáenz, Ignacio A. Ramírez-González, Eleni Polychroniadou et al. "Obtaining Meteorological Data from Historical Newspapers: *La Integridad*." *Weather* (online publication) (October 27, 2017). <https://doi.org/10.1002/wea.2841>.
- Bampton, Matthew, Alice Kelley, Joseph Kelley, Michael Jones, and Gerald Bigelow. "Little Ice Age Catastrophic Storms and the Destruction of a Shetland Island Community." *Journal of Archaeological Science* 87 (2017): 17–29. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2017.08.003>.
- Collet, Dominik, and Maximilian Schuh. *Famines During the 'Little Ice Age' (1300-1800): Socionatural Entanglements in Premodern Societies*. Berlin: Springer, 2018.
- Endfield, Georgina H., and Lucy Veale, eds. *Cultural Histories, Memories and Extreme Weather: A Historical Geography Perspective*. Routledge, 2017.
- Flückiger, Simon, Stefan Brönnimann, Annelie Holzkämper, Jürg Fuhrer, Daniel Krämer, Christian Pfister, and Christian Rohr. "Simulating Crop Yield Losses in Switzerland for Historical and Present Tambora Climate Scenarios." *Environmental Research Letters* 12 (2017): 074026. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aa7246>.
- Hamilton, Kevin, and T. Sakazaki. "Exploring the 'Prehistory' of the Equatorial Stratosphere with Observations Following Major Volcanic Eruptions." *Weather* (online publication) (October 24, 2017). <https://doi.org/10.1002/wea.3043>.
- Hartman, Steven, A. E. J. Ogilvie, Jón Haukur Ingimundarson, A. J. Dugmore, George Hambrecht, and T. H. McGovern. "Medieval Iceland, Greenland, and the New Human Condition: A Case Study in Integrated Environmental Humanities." *Global and Planetary Change* (online publication) (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloplacha.2017.04.007>.
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- Pribyl, Kathleen. *Farming, Famine and Plague: The Impact of Climate in Late Medieval England*. Berlin: Springer, 2017.
- Sanderson, M. G. "Daily Weather in Dublin 1716–1734: The Diary of Isaac Butler." *Weather* (advanced online) (September 25, 2017). <https://doi.org/10.1002/wea.3029>.
- Veale, Lucy, Georgina Endfield, Sarah Davies, Neil Macdonald et al. "Dealing with the Deluge of Historical Weather Data: The Example of the TEMPEST Database." *Geo: Geography and Environment* 4, no. 2 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1002/geo2.39>.
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Wozniak, Thomas. "The World off the Hinges. A History of the Little Ice Age from 1570 to 1700, as well as the Emergence of the modern World, combined with some Reflections on the Climate of the Present Age." *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft* 65 (2017): 688–90.

Yamoah, Kweku Afrifa, Charles FW Higham, Barbara Wohlfarth, Akkaneewut Chabangborn, Sakonvan Chawchai, Frederik Schenk, and Rienk H Smittenberg. "Societal Response to Monsoonal Fluctuations in NE Thailand during the Demise of Angkor Civilisation." *The Holocene* 27 (2017): 1455–64. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959683617693900>.

### **History of Climate Science and Ideas about Climate**

Heymann, Matthias, Gabriele Gramelsberger, and Martin Mahony, eds. *Cultures of Prediction in Atmospheric and Climate Science: Epistemic and Cultural Shifts in Computer-Based Modelling and Simulation*. London: Routledge, 2017.

Munger, Michael Sean. "Ten Years of Winter: The Cold Decade and Environmental Consciousness in the Early 19th Century." Ph.D., University of Oregon, 2017.

### **Proxy-Based Climate Reconstruction (high-resolution studies relevant to human history)**

Amann, Benjamin, Scott F. Lamoureux, and Maxime P. Boreux. "Winter Temperature Conditions (1670-2010) Reconstructed from Varved Sediments, Western Canadian High Arctic." *Quaternary Science Reviews* 172 (2017): 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2017.07.013>.

Chung, Eui-Seok, and Brian J. Soden. "Hemispheric Climate Shifts Driven by Anthropogenic Aerosol-Cloud Interactions." *Nature Geoscience* 10 (2017): 566–71. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ngeo2988>.

Emile-Geay, Julien, Nicholas P. McKay, Darrell S. Kaufman, Lucien von Gunten, Jianghao Wang, Kevin J. Anchukaitis, Nerilie J. Abram, et al. "Data Descriptor: A Global Multiproxy Database for Temperature Reconstructions of the Common Era." *Scientific Data* 4 (2017): 170088. <https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2017.88>.

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Hari, Pertti, Tuomas Aakala, Emmi Hilasvuori, Risto Hakkinen, Atte Korhola, Mikko Korpela, Tapio Linkosalo, et al. "Reliability of Temperature Signal in Various Climate Indicators from Northern Europe." *Plos One* 12 (2017): e0180042. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0180042>.

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Kim, Song-Hyun, and Yukiya Tanaka. "Palaeoflood Records of the Last Three Centuries from the Pyeongchang and Dong Rivers, South Korea." *Geomorphology* 290 (2017): 211–21. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2017.04.028>.



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