

THE CHALLENGE OF SCALING

Studies in Environmental History are faced with the challenge of taking into account different scales that influence their object of research. The local or regional is always partially determined by other scales, such as state institutions, laws, policies and supranational regulations. At the same time, it has its own logic through unique environmental conditions, technical arrangements, organizations, informal ties between people and their particular relations to the environment they inhabit. The challenge lies in reconciling the facts that the local is both a special, irreducible place, but also subject to a multiplicity of overarching influences from which it cannot be disconnected.

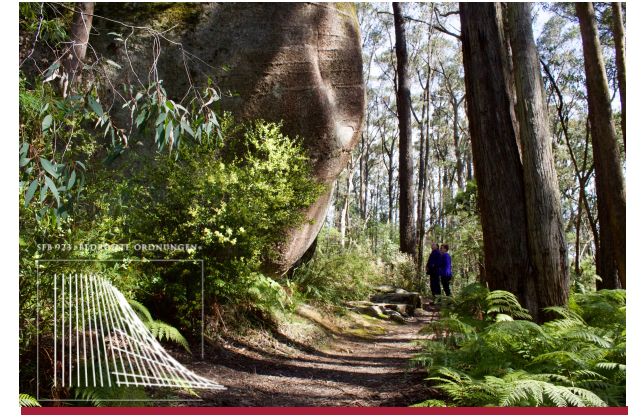
Environmental History has the potential to question and revise the traditional scales that are commonly used in historiography, namely the nation state and its subsidiary levels, which are still often times taken for granted. Rivers, pollen, soil or foxes do not respect state borders.

Environmental historians, accordingly, construct new scales, which cut across the commonly drawn boundaries. Yet, these cannot be ignored because their existence is established and, when in doubt, enforced by powerful actors, even if they do not exist a priori.

University of Tübingen
SFB 923
Threatened Order – Societies under Stress
Project E05 „Soil Degradation and Salinity“

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SFB 923
THREATENED ORDER - SOCIETIES UNDER STRESS

‘PLAYING WITH SCALES’ IN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

April 11-12, 2018
Keplerstraße 2 | Room 0.81
72074 Tübingen

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Chair: Klaus Gestwa

12:30 | *Get Together and Light Lunch*

14:00-14:15 | Ewald Frie and Daniel
Rothenburg, Tübingen: **Introduction**

14:15-15:00 | Frederik Schulze, Münster:
**Hydroelectric Centers in the Periphery. Local,
National and Global Perspectives on the
Guayana and the Amazon**

15:00-15:45 | Daniel Rothenburg, Tübingen:
**Local Matters, Global Trends.
Environmentalism in Rural Communities of
Victoria, Australia**

15:45-16:00 | *Coffee Break*

16:00-16:45 | Alexey Sobisevich, Moscow:
**Scaling the Black Earth. Nature Preservation
in the Soviet Union**

18:30 | *Dinner at "Krumme Brücke",
Kornhausstraße 17*

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Chair: Jeanne Féaux de la Croix

09:30-10:15 | Benjamin Brendel, Gießen:
**Traveling Imaginations: Visual Rhetorics of
Arid Soil, Dam Building and Salinization**

10:15-11:00 | Timm Schönfelder, Tübingen:
**Ubiquitous Scaling in Soviet Ruralities. On the
Role of Nature in Technopolitics**

11:00-11:20 | *Coffee Break*

11:20-12:05 | Mustafa Coşkun, Tübingen:
**Unboxing scales: Rivers, Borders and Politics
in the Fergana Valley**

12:05-12:30 | Ewald Frie and Daniel
Rothenburg, Tübingen: **Final discussion**

12:45 | *Lunch at "Saints and Scholars",
Wilhelmstraße 44*

THE PROJECT



In the project E05 "Salinization and soil degradation as a threat to agrarian orders" at the Collaborative Research Center 923 "Threatened Order – Societies under Stress" at the University of Tübingen, researchers from the disciplines of Contemporary History, Eastern European History and Anthropology work on three case studies on Australia, Russia and Central Asia. The case studies focus on the local and regional, and reflect their national and global context.

We are also interested in comparing similarities and differences across political and economic boundaries in the 20th and 21st century.