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Environmental History in the Era of Global Environmental Problems

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In this article we attempt to summarize some of the most progressive and important research themes of contemporary environmental history presented at the conferences of the *European Society for Environmental History* in Amsterdam (June 5-9, 2007), the *International Water History Association* in Tampere (June 13-17, 2007) and the *American Society for Environmental History* in Boise, Idaho (March 12-16, 2008). Finally, the last section of this article will investigate some of the themes to be presented at the first *World Congress of Environmental History* in Copenhagen (August 4-8, 2009).

The main focus is to answer the following question: How do environmental historians encompass environmental problems in a global perspective? Furthermore, the article provides a comprehensive overview on environmental history research investigating the relationship of past experiences, implications for the present and possibilities for the future. It aims to point out the most progressive frontiers of environmental history research and to analyse the role of the environmental historian in the public debate¹.

Water – a global issue

The International Water History Association (IWHA) organised its 2007 conference on the global history of water in the Finnish city of Tampere. The IWHA Conferences provide usually a large spectrum on the field of water research from the past to the future. The IWHA conferences always represents a large diversity of participants, who come from all around the globe and represent Asian, African and

¹ Viktor Pål tackles, in the first and second section, the *European Society for Environmental History* and the *International Water History Association* conferences of 2007. Kristiina Korjonen-Kuusipuro discusses, in the third section, the 2008 conference of the *American Society for Environmental History*, and Wilko Graf von Hardenberg gives, in the last section, a short overview of the issues that will be discussed in August in Copenhagen at the first *World Conference of Environmental History*.

South American research traditions in great numbers. This has advantages and disadvantages at the same time. In many cases researchers from countries with a rather more formalistic academic tradition fail to stimulate scientifically the more progressive minded members of the audience.

On the other hand, the IWHA conference in Tampere had a very strong focus on the practical implementation of theories and methods in water history research – a feature that, as we will see, is becoming increasingly important within environmental history: How to connect the time layers of past and future? How to pursue historical research in a manner that eventually influences the future and decision-making processes? For that impact, scholarship needs to move gradually out from university classes, and researchers need to have a closer and more active involvement in decision-making processes². Consultancy is one such option. However a closer integration of problem-solving in historical research, coupled with a more efficient way to communicate those scientific results of scholarship to a wider audience, is essential.

At the IWHA 2007 conference, Martin Melosi, professor of history in Houston, Texas, held a keynote lecture that touched on some of the features of a more comprehensive integration of scholarship in discursive processes, in particular the role of consultancy. Dozens of other presentations detailed the structure and working mechanisms of politics, conflicts, wars of water. Third world problems were widely represented in the face of Iranian, Kenyan, Moroccan, Nepali, and Tanzanian issues to be presented. Scholarship concentrates on different elements of social struggles and technological developments, such as the question of efficiency: how could the efficiency of water management be improved in certain cultural condition where Western standards are hard to undertake? Another group of presentations focussed on the discourse analysis

² Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, “Oltre la storia ambientale. Interdisciplinarietà, metodologia, prospettive.” *Passato e presente*, XXIV (2006), 68: 149-161.

of water-related political debates in countries such as Kenya and areas where thirst for water fuelled religious and nationalist hate and resulted in military incidents and eventual wars, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The technological and discursive features of water are two of the most exciting themes of water history research, which could communicate much more to future generations than at present. Potentials will be utilised when a new dimension of tasks and their solutions are established instead of the focus being on problems in past decision-making and technological processes. A shift in focus should have implications on new working methods as well. Water history research should implement theories, methods and knowledge from other disciplines, especially those of the social sciences and engineering. Researchers should adapt various ways of thinking to be able to communicate effectively in the realms of science and politics. Real efficiency will hence be established in communicating the message of water historians.

Environmental history, water history and related fields have already traced some of the most pressing present problems of humanity. These issues have been profoundly addressed in Jared Diamond's recent *Collapse*. Lessons of the Vikings and other collapsed civilizations have not been fully learned and the need increases to spread an environmentally conscious scholarship, since long aware of the challenges ahead and the downward spiral that humanity has taken³.

Past challenges are being revisited, reconsidered and reformulated in the present. One of the best examples of such issues is the idea of damming the Danube between Bratislava and Budapest. Hungarians used to have a long tradition of living in symbiosis with their rivers. The River Danube and her tributaries enter the country from west, north and east to continue their flow to the Black Sea. Seasonal floods, floodplains and swamps had been integral parts of life throughout the country until the nineteenth

³ Jared Diamond, *Collapse. How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Viking, 2005.

century, when extensive river regulation projects began with the support of one of the richest and most influential Hungarians at the time, István Széchenyi. During the following decades, several tributaries of the River Danube were regulated. Rivers, once integral parts of the landscape with curves and capability to flood enormous areas of land, were now forced between gigantic dykes for easier navigation. At this time, Hungarians began to lose intimate contact with their rivers and creeks. For example, the River Tisza, one of the most important tributaries of the Danube, was shortened by cutting curves off the riverbed, on a design by Pál Vásárhelyi, from 1,419 to 962 kilometres between 1846 and 1879. This was the era of the creation of a “cultured landscape”, which was not demolished by the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War II, Hungarians took up a new project to “civilize” their landscape via high-voltage power lines, chemical plants and numerous sites of industrial production. This was viewed by many as a communist dream to modernise the agricultural landscape of Hungarians. However, in 1946, even Ferenc Nagy, the prime minister of the Second Republic, admired the gigantic river regulation and dam projects of the United States. According to his memoirs, he perceived the Tennessee Valley Administration, a comprehensive river regulation project, as a possible model for the valley of the Danube, where various nations could create a prosperous supranational economy based on the joint use of the river by building hydropower dams, shipping canals and recreational areas. The state socialist industrialization in Hungary was less comprehensive than the complex and pacifistic ideas of Nagy, and its implementation focussed on a few priorities, such as energy, raw materials, machinery and transportation. State socialist industrialization actually did modernise the landscape and had enormous effects on rivers owing to large quantities of chemical, biological and heavy metal pollution which had never happened before in Hungary. One of the pivotal sites for such comprehensive state-socialist development plans was the Borsodi Basin in the valley of the Sajó River, about 180 kilometers east of the capital Budapest. However, the project has never been

finalised in a comprehensive manner and neither the problems of river navigation nor the development of ports have been addressed since that time, despite of the fact that the EU has been supporting such projects with sustainable models.

The IWHA conference was also followed by a PhD training course called the Nordic-Baltic Interdisciplinary Research Training Course for Doctoral Students “Water Governance in Long-Term Perspectives” (WAGOL), where, after project work, young scholars were able to meet and communicate with prime scholars of water research such as Prof. Martin Melosi, Dr. Ezekiel Nyangeri Nyanchanga, Prof. Asit K. Biswas and Prof. Terje Tvedt. Such interaction has been vital for many participating scholars and highlighted the importance of communication skills in the field of science.

The European frontier of Environmental history

Until recent years, European environmental history scholarship was lagging behind North American research, which is understandable if one takes into account that the field was established mostly in the USA, and only later appeared in the European research traditions. Despite that lag, the ESEH has already held its fourth biannual conference in Amsterdam in 2007.

Environmental history research has its roots in biology, geology and other life sciences, as well as in history and related social sciences. The general approach of environmental historians is however strongly influenced by the traditions of arts and humanities. Hence, often one might be faced with descriptive studies of environmental history, of which very little applicable data might enter the world of practical decision-making with a view to shaping the future. At the ESEH 2007, a number of excellent papers were presented, having outstanding qualities in the fields of methodology and scientific precision. Environmental history has already collected and analyzed a number of amazing instances of data such as immigrant species, livestock diseases, pandemics, sanitary issues, industrial pollution and woodlands, for example. These details have a

great potential to be synthesized for practical use in the future. However, only a fragment of environmental history research has focussed on the potential of the knowledge fellow historians have gathered so far.

Practical interconnectivity is not divorced from the roots of environmental history. Environmental historians have strong ties to the French Annales school, of which great scholars such as Braudel, Duby and Le Roy Ladurie connected their knowledge of geography, time, routes, manners, culture, and the environment. The work of those French scholars is filled with emotion and intent, alongside scientific accurateness. These emotional categories help depict the scene: the task was to solve social and environmental changes in a *longue-durée* frame and provided a statuesque, some might say artistic, picture of the past. These emotions, a human characteristic science has neglected for so long, have an outstanding importance in the future of environmental history. Humans are typically characterised by fear, anxiety and inferiority when it comes to the environment and especially environmental changes. From the Easter Island to the extinct Vikings of Greenland, humankind has witnessed the devastating results of changes in the environment, which continue to happen at present on a global scale. The outstanding importance of environmental history is to handle these human fears of change constructively and model human reactions to environmental changes in climate, flora and fauna.

American environmental history and the climate

Global environmental change is an issue that challenges environmental historians studying the man-environment relationship and long-term environmental changes and dynamics. In specialising in this field, environmental historians should also be able to analyse and even predict changes happening today or in the future. The phenomenon of global warming, the most powerful environmental issue of our time, for example, is so devastating that its understanding is almost a mission impossible. People who study

present day issues are in many cases climatologists, hydrologists etc., but it is evident that these problems are caused by human activities and they affect more or less all human societies and cultures. Could scholars of human activities have something to offer to these discussions?

Nancy Langston, the president of the American Society of Environmental History (ASEH) wrote in ASEH News that humanistic viewpoints of global warming have been missing in recent discussions of global change. She assessed that environmental historians might find answers to some questions like "Who wins, and who loses, when the climate changes?" It would also be essential to analyse who has the power to define the terms of the debates over global warming. But how can humanistic perspectives help us understand people, climate, and places through time?⁴ The American Society of Environmental History organised its annual conference in Boise, Idaho in March 2008. The theme of the conference was global warming and the title of the conference, "Agents of Change: People, Climate and Places through Time". Did the Boise conference give any tools to study "more probable than not" climate change? Should we also ask what environmental historians should do in order to make their point of view more visible? Douglas R. Weiner has characterised the field of environmental history as a moving target – a set of shadows and distorted images⁵. This is also true for climate change, which cannot be studied without the presence of a community interested in understanding it.

Starting with a question Langston addressed and humanistic researchers ponder daily: What is the role of humanistic and social researchers in this process of studying climate change or global warming? In the plenary session of the ASEH conference,

⁴ Nancy Langston, "From the President's desk: Climate Change and Boise Conference", *ASEH News*, Fall Issue, 2007.

⁵ Douglas R. Weiner, "A Death-Defying Attempt to Articulate a Coherent Definition of Environmental History", *Environmental History*, 10(3), 2005, pp. 404-420.

Professor Patricia Romero-Lankao, a participant of IPCC (*International Panel on Climate Change*) workgroup, brought up an important issue about the difficulty of researchers from different scientific backgrounds trying to work together. Difficulties in understanding the languages of different disciplines can be seen as critical points when a group of researchers are working together as a multidisciplinary team. Sadly, the discussion in Boise did not hit fertile ground, because Romero-Lankao's statement was taken as more or less self-evident rather than as a question to be discussed. What should be done in order to achieve more efficient research groups? Multidisciplinary teams can be compared with multicultural organisations. There are certain methods studied by scholars interested in cross-cultural communication that could be applied in multidisciplinary teams in order to increase understanding of differences between people from different scientific backgrounds. If global problems such as climate change are to be studied thoroughly, it also means that humanistic scientific knowledge must be used and humanistic scholars must be taken seriously. This demands guidance for people working in such groups so that time is not used up in achieving understanding. Such guidance is available, but if the phenomenon is not widely discussed, this information is of no use.

Are environmental historians sure about their role in studying large, global issues? Conferences offer wonderful opportunities to see what's going on in the field of specific disciplines. These meetings also offer excellent possibility to upraise new important themes and develop them further. Incoherence can be said to be the weak point of large conferences, and naturally some of the sessions never fit the general theme. In the worst case, the whole conference becomes fragmented. However, programs of conferences reflect the state of disciplines, and conferences unfortunately give the impression that environmental history is a very fragmented field. It is full of numerous interesting, but at the same time very diverse topics. Even though all these topics address changes and in some cases even global changes, most of the studied issues are presented and understood

only within a local framework. Would these local cases be interesting to scientists pondering with global problems? Should environmental historians struggle more in order to understand the role of local issues in a wider global context? After hearing the argument that environmental historians already do this, I would say that at least in Boise there were many promising titles in many sessions that addressed the general theme of the conference from a global perspective, but these sessions never really reached the point where the papers would have discussed global issues.

The traditional definition of environmental history is that “it deals with all the interactions people have had with nature in the past time”⁶, but should environmental history be more about solving present day problems than writing consensual histories of nature’s place in human past? If environmental historians wish to be taken seriously as debaters of global environmental changes, they should concentrate their research on conflicts and conflict management. Scholars should demand more research about chaos than about order. Instead of understanding widely nature’s place in human past, scholars should focus more on destructive nature of humans in relation to the environment and start looking to see if we can make any decisions that make sense. American environmental history was once more about the history of the conservationist movement in the United States, and already has a tradition of bringing conflictual issues to the table. Once again, in order to enlighten the behaviour of human beings, we need an agenda that supports the idea of solving global problems.

Global understanding can be seen contradictory to the role of place in environmental history. Understanding place is still a theme widely studied and discussed. New methods in studying places have been introduced and one of the most important and interesting one is Geographical Information Systems. GIS is a versatile

⁶ Donald Worster (ed.), *The Ends of Earth. Perspectives on Modern Environmental History*, Cambridge University Press, 1988.

analytical tool that has been used in geography and in environmental studies for decades. The rise of historical GIS has widened the perspectives of this method, and at the moment GIS experts are increasingly interested in how qualitative data could be used. Basically, GIS is a computer-based technology that uses “map” layering for viewing, querying and analysing our world. A new window is opened for scholars, while the use of GIS can change the way we understand relations between place and human actions. GIS can be used as a tool to organise data or be used for analysis. It also gives possibilities to handle a larger amount of data than traditional methods and as such it demands special knowledge and skills. In the ASEH conference, GIS was thought by “hands in the sand”-method in a special workshop. Attendants were able to try on their own how GIS works and how it can be used in placing history. One perfect example of this was Sally Hermansen’s urban bog case. Showing how bog’s environmental history can be made visible with GIS, Hermansen also showed how visualised changes are easier to understand and some new reasons for these changes can also occur. GIS is a method that could be useful in analyzing global changes and at the same time preserve the valuable understanding of individual places environmental historians have.

GIS has one element that is common to films: both of these methods use visual storytelling. In anthropology film has been used as both a research method and a visualising tool to represent study results since Robert Flaherty’s *Nanook of the North* in 1922. In the field of environmental history visual storytelling is becoming very popular, and it will challenge some conventions. Films are also seen as material objects of study, and they are analyzed from the perspective of environmental history. Moreover, they are easy to use as learning material.

It is common knowledge that environmental historians base their understanding of history of environmental questions primarily on methodologies that are mostly used in history. This is the case even if environmental history often discusses issues that have been mainly studied in fields of other sciences and disciplines, and scholars doing

research on the field of environmental history are not “typical historians”. Methods from social sciences are used too. On one hand this versatility is a blessing, but on the other it is a curse. It is a blessing, because a wide-ranging toolbox allows many different approaches and eventually more holistic pictures can be drawn. It is a curse, because people tend to speak in different languages and time consuming arguing occurs.

Environmental history needs to strengthen its theoretical perspective in order to address global issues. In some way the weakness of theories is a problem also connected with a consensual manner to deal with research issues. As Alf Hornborg has formulated: “Environmental history presents environmental problems as inevitable side effects of our global success”⁷. Although historiography and writing historical narratives are essential methods, it is evident, that environmental history also needs wider theoretical perspectives. Otherwise environmental history is incapable of explaining human actions that have lead us to the gates of this large catastrophe.

Are environmental historians ready to take the bull by the horns and focus on problem-based research? In Boise global warming was a very challenging and ambitious theme that proved to be very hard to aspire. Was the theme even too ambitious? Did the Boise conference answer to the questions addressed by Nancy Langston before the meeting? The honest answer is: not quite. Global warming and climate change are too vast issues to be discussed by environmental historians alone even though environmental history as a field of study is a concern of several disciplines. J. Donald Hughes has written about and also demanded for global environmental history⁸, but how can his wish come true? Environmental historians are open to new kind of thinking, but they should also work harder to reveal their important role in studying the future of our globe.

⁷ Alf Hornborg, John Robert McNeill, Juan Martínez Alier, *Rethinking Environmental History: World-system History and Global Environmental Change* Rowman Altamira, 2007.

⁸ J. Donald Hughes, *An Environmental History of the World: Humankind's Changing Role in the Community of Life*, Routledge, 2001.

The focus of the study of environmental history is to study human/nature interactions from diverse viewpoints. For this purpose a common toolbox should be made that include methodology and theoretical perspectives.

Global environmental history: perspectives of an upcoming conference

The first World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH – <http://wceh2009.org>) in Copenhagen, taking in August 2009 the place of the biannual ESEH conference, promises to become the greatest conference in environmental history ever, officially gathering for the very first time practitioners from all over the world. The conference is co-organised by the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), the umbrella organisation of the associations, departments and institutions for which an important component of their focus is the history of the human interaction with the environment, and the universities of Roskilde and Malmoe. We want here to give an overview of the latest trends in environmental historical research from a cursory look to the titles of the almost 500 papers and 60 posters from 44 different countries that have been selected.

As may be seen from the graph (Fig. 1) European or North American institutions are still overrepresented in respect to those from other continents, and presenters from the first two areas are still the great majority of participants, with about 80% of the whole number. It must however be kept in mind that to hold the congress in Europe eases the participation of scholars from these regions in respect to those who work in poorer areas. Institutions in these areas often may not be able to fund the travels of their scholars to such venues. This polarisation is in any case limited only to the institutions of provenance: many people just work in European and American institutions, and come actually from other areas in the world and the geographical location of single case studies seems to be more equitably world-wide distributed.

Apart financial motives this overrepresentation is also the effect of the historical development of the discipline, as stated already above: born in North America, it developed in Europe particularly in France, Germany (and in general the German speaking area), Scandinavia and Great Britain (Fig. 2). Spain and Portugal are coming up recently as new breeding grounds of environmental historians, such as central European countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary). There seems instead to be a lack of Italian students, with only four presenters from Italy. Moreover, looking at the names we may notice how even some of the more eminent Italian students will not be in Copenhagen. Problems in communicating in English could be a possible answer, as could be testified by the fact that instead at the 2005 ESEH conference in Florence, where a special section for presentations in Italian was set up there was a huge number of Italian presenters: about 15% of all papers and posters were produced by the about 20 Italian presenters. Alas, also at the 2007 ESEH conference in Amsterdam there were still about 10 Italian presenters, even if presentations were held only in English⁹. Or, maybe, the lack of Italians is just due to the fact that August is in Italy the sacred month of summer holidays at the seaside: it is thus difficult to divert someone from his familial duties to go to an academic conference.

In any case there is also the need in Italy for a greater development of research in the field, as could be shown by an analysis of environmental historical researches on Italian mainstream historical journals, and for a widespread consciousness of the role of environmental history as a new frontier in historical scholarship, beside a more widespread use of English as an academic *lingua franca*. Only this way it will be possible to see a greater participation of Italian students in future international conferences.

⁹ Data were taken from the following web sources <http://eseh.org/conference/archive/Amsterdam2007/> and <http://eseh.org/conference/archive/third/>, visited on March 3, 2009.

The congress theme will be “local livelihoods and global challenges: understanding human interaction with the environment”. The links between local and global are a most significant historical issue in the understanding of the current environmental question, besides an important concept of contemporary alternative political sustainability rhetoric under the catchword “glocal”. Even if it is difficult in many cases to understand the actual topic of a paper just from the title, at a first look it seems that the conference will tackle a vast palette of issues.

Just for example about thirty papers tackle issues related to global warming and climate change, a major issue as testified by the interest for this topic at the last ASEH Annual Meeting (see above). Only fifteen papers bear instead the term “sustainable” or a derivate in their title, about sixty talk about water, floods, rivers, etc. (a huge number, in particular if we consider that there is also the consecrated IWHA conference), not more than ten face energy and fuel related issues, which were the main issues of the 2005 ASEH Annual Meeting, about the same number discuss environmental justice and social conflict (it is however possible that often these issues are masked by not intuitive titles), and about thirty are interested in analysing pollution and/or urbanisation. Moreover, 25 look at whaling and fishing, a classical topic in environmental history¹⁰, which has seen an increasing interest in the last years in front of the progressive depletion of marine resources¹¹, also thanks to the research activities co-ordinated by the History of Marine

¹⁰ Arthur F. McEvoy, *The Fisherman's Problem: Ecology and Law in the California Fisheries, 1850-1980*, Cambridge University Press, 1986.

¹¹ This may be seen also from some articles in popular science magazines such as, for example, Paul Raeburn, “Using Chaos Theory to Revitalize Fisheries”, *Scientific American Magazine* February 2009 <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=using-chaos-theory-to-revitalize-fisheries>, and Emma Young, “Ocean biodiversity: Depths of ignorance”, *New Scientist* issue 2651, 12 April 2008, pp. 34-37, <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg19826511.700-ocean-biodiversity-depths-of-ignorance.html>, both visited on March 11, 2009.

Animal Population group (<http://www.hmapcoml.org/>). At least ten papers discuss then the relationship between war and environment, particularly urgent to analyse in a period of intensifying warfare as the 21st century.

The poor performance of the often abused term “sustainability” in the papers’ titles may be related to a disaffection of environmental historians for what is seen mainly as a political catchword, that since the 1980s is used as a magic wand to conceal the real problems and misses to interpret correctly the needs of our environment. Already Worster in the 1993 book *The Wealth of Nature* asked which could be the level of sustainability we should aim at, that is, if it is not possible to ask for an eternal sustainability, which is the period of time a hypothetical sustainable society should be prepared to last? One of Worster’s main fears is that resorting only to the ideology of sustainability may reduce the analysis of the mankind-environment relationship to an eminently economic terminology, where productivity is again the main measure of the effectiveness of environmental policies¹².

Also in the case of WCEH, as has already been stated above, it seems that current environmental historical scholarship focuses mainly on particular, spatially and temporally limited, case studies, especially in occasion of conferences, while there seems to be a lack of general interpretations and syntheses. It may however may be assumed that these issues are handled with more ease in book length manuscripts rather than in twenty-minutes conference presentations.

As has been attempted to show and explain in this article, and as has been discussed already by one of the authors a couple of years ago¹³, latest research in environmental history has tried to focus on the links between past and present and its

¹² Donald Worster, *The Wealth of Nature: Environmental History and the Ecological Imagination*, Oxford University Press, 1993, pp. 142-155.

¹³ Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, “Oltre la storia ambientale. Interdisciplinarietà, metodologia, prospettive”, *Passato e presente*, XXIV (2006), 68: 149-161.

role as guide in understanding policies and the major environmental issues at stake, that is in going beyond the risk of what Dovers calls *policy amnesia* and affirming the spurring role of the environmental historian in the public debate¹⁴. Tackling these issues, in coincidence with WCEH, a pre-conference Ph.D. workshop has been organised, entitled “Integration of historical research in Interdisciplinary Environmental and Resource Management – How Past Experiences Can Help Mold Future Solutions.”

To pursue environmental history historians need to learn to communicate with academicians from other disciplines both in the social and natural sciences, an issue that opens up completely new perspectives in historiography. It becomes thus more and more urgent to rediscuss from the roots what the toolbox of the historian should include, what is needed nowadays to work as historian: the prerequisites are set for a new “apologie de l’histoire”. For example an environmental historian will need, beside the classical tools of the practitioner (e.g. text analysis, narrative abilities, generic quantitative methods), also the ability to understand articles and reports in the hard sciences (above all ecology and its cognate disciplines) and, in part, depending on the issues he is going to analyse in depth, a working knowledge of advanced information management tools, specific quantitative methods, and other methods in the natural sciences: e.g. GIS, advanced statistical techniques, pollen analysis, dendrochronology. The discussion of these issues goes however way beyond the aims of this paper, and would need a dedicated space.

WCEH will for sure be a great occasion (also for mainstream historians and scholars in environmental studies) to see which the latest developments in environmental history are and meet other practitioners in the field. Alas, probably meeting other people is in the end the most important task for anyone during an academic conference: getting to know other historians in person, in this case also from areas of the world that too

¹⁴ Stephen Dovers, “On the Contribution of Environmental History to Current Debate and Policy”, *Environment and History*, 6(2), 2000, pp. 131-150.

often are not represented, and setting up new contacts are among the most useful things to do to build the needed multidisciplinary research environment.

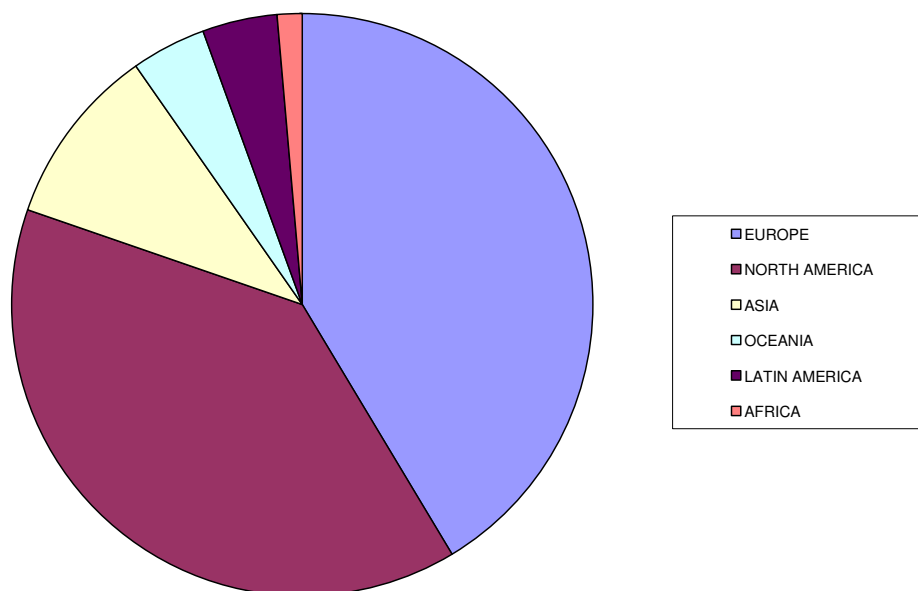


Fig. 1 Distribution of papers by continent of provenance

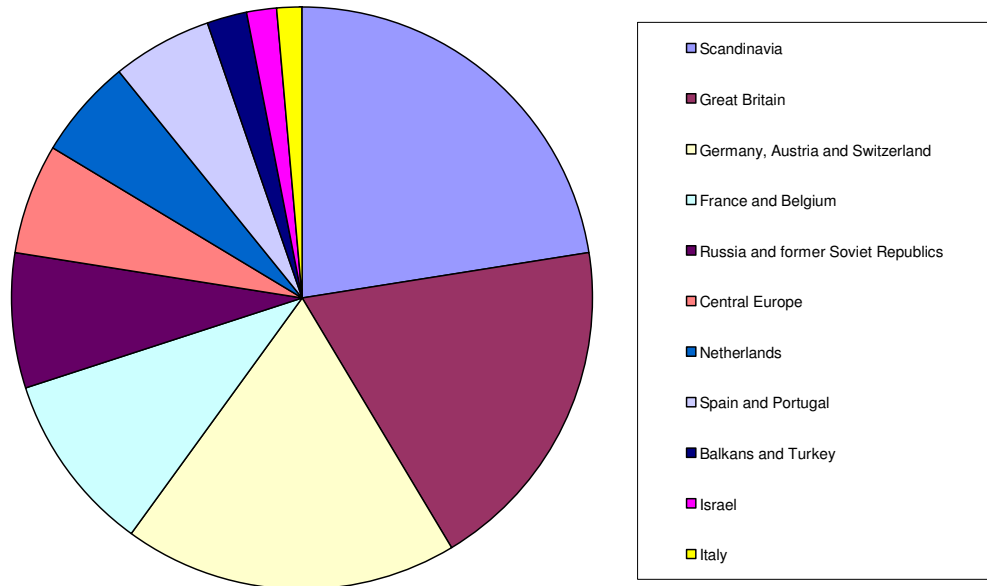


Fig. 2 Distribution of papers by European region of provenance