

Conference, June 14–15, 2023
Harvard University

**Natural Resources, Sovereignty and Markets: Revisiting Socio-Economic
Histories of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries**

Organizer: Moritz von Brescius (Harvard/Bern)



Day 1

Wednesday, June 14, 2023, EASTERN TIME (Boston)

9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introduction: Charles Maier (Harvard) & Moritz von Brescius (Harvard/Bern)

9:15-10:30 KEYNOTE I

Jason W. Moore (Binghamton): Imperialism's Ecologies: Climate, Capital & the Geopolitics of Cheap Nature

Chair: Joyce Chaplin (Harvard)

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 Panel: MINERALS

Chair: Hagar Gal (Harvard)

Ping-hsiu Alice Lin (Harvard): After Exploratory Geology: Making Gems Resources in Global Afghanistan

Quinn Slobodian (Wellesley College): Global Goldbugs: Auripatriotism, Survival Investments and the Far Right

Commentator: Christof Dejung (Bern)

12:15-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30-15:15 Panel: BIOTIC RESOURCES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Chair: Roni Hirsch (Haifa)

Chris Otter (Ohio State University): Large-Planet Thinking and its Critics in Nineteenth-Century Britain

Moritz von Brescius (Harvard/Bern): Empire of Scarcity: A Global History of Assam Rubber

Ian Kumekawa (Harvard): Seeds of Empire; British Forests

Commentator: Jessica Wang (University of British Columbia)

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-17:00 TEMPORALITIES

Chair: David Rentsch (Bern)

Carolyn Biltoft (Geneva): Natural Resources and "Time Magic" in Nineteenth Century Economic Thought

Gregory T. Cushman (University of Arizona): A Metabolic Rift?: The Geo-Industrial History of Nitrogen, Phosphate, and Potassium (NPK) and the Onset of the Anthropocene, ca. 1830-2020

Commentator: Heidi Tworek (University of British Columbia)

17:00-17:05 SHORT BREAK

17:05-17:30

Mitch Aso (University at Albany): Mid-Conference Commentary

Day 2

Thursday, June 15, 2023

9:00-10:20: Keynote II

Carl Wennerlind (Barnard College, Columbia University) & Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (Chicago): Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis

Chair: Sugata Bose (Harvard)

10:20-10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:30-12:00 Panel: ANIMAL RESOURCES

Chair: Eleanor Wikstrom (Harvard)

Nadin Heé (Osaka): Transimperial Capitalism and Moving Ecologies

David Arnold (Warwick): The Making of the Modern Cow: India, c. 1850–1930

Commentator: Mindi Schneider

12:00-13:00 LUNCH BREAK

13:00-14:30 Panel: FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION:

Chair: Marten Dondorp (Harvard)

Matthew Shutzer (Harvard/Duke): Capital, Earth, and Image in the Planetary Mine

David Joseph Baillargeon (University of Texas at Arlington): Mining the Empire: The Burma Corporation and British Imperial Policymaking in the Late Colonial Period

Commentator: Judith Ellen Brunton (Harvard/Toronto)

14:30-14:45 COFFEE BREAK

14:45-16:15 Panel: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Chair: Minseok Jang (University at Albany)

Eric Helleiner (University of Waterloo): Pioneers of Environmental International Political Economy: Natural Resources, Sustainability and International Economic Relations in Pre-1945 Thought

Erika Rappaport (University of California, Santa Barbara): “‘Aims of Industry’: Big Sugar, Public Relations, and the Fight against Nationalization in Britain and the Commonwealth, 1940s–1960s

Commentator: Sannoy Das (Harvard/Jindal Global Law School)

16:15-16:30 COFEEEE BREAK

16:30-17:00 Panel: RESOURCES AND THE STATE

Chair: Andrew Bellamy (Rutgers)

R. Bin Wong (UCLA): Between Public (Sovereign) and Private (Market)—Water as a Common Pool Resource

Commentator: Charles Maier (Harvard)

17:00

Concluding Roundtable:

Vanessa Ogle (Yale)

Giuliana Chamedes (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Jamie Martin (Harvard)

Chair: Sannoy Das (Harvard/Jindal Global Law School)

This event is sponsored by the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History (Harvard University), the Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF) and University of Bern.