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Introducing NiCHE

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Introducing

NICHE

NETWORK IN CANADIAN HISTORY & ENVIRONMENT
NOUVELLE INITIATIVE CANADIENNE EN HISTOIRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

http://niche-canada.org
niche@uwo.ca

Alan MacEachern, Dept. of History, UWO
19 Oct 2010
SSHRC’s model for Strategic Knowledge Clusters
...and don’t just fund Air Canada! Get the $ to the researchers, to mobilizing and disseminating research
NiCHE’s goals

- develop the field of Canadian environmental history / historical geography in Canada & beyond,
- encourage communication & collaboration,
- be a model of how a geographically-dispersed network of researchers can communicate & develop its research in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century,
- be a model of how an academic field can communicate its research beyond the academy.
Welcome

NiCHE brings together historians, geographers, and other researchers who study nature and humans in Canada's past. We offer a forum for the field, support collaboration among scholars, and ensure that this research is shared with policymakers, scientists, and the Canadian public.

Read more about NiCHE

Upcoming Deadlines

- Congrès annuel de la Société historique du Canada on Oct 18
- Call for Projects on Oct 25
- Transnational Ecologies Contest on Nov 01
- job ad in Canadian (Environmental) History on Nov 15
- Postdoctoral Fellowship in Quebec Studies on Nov 30
- ESEH Article Prize on Nov 30

Photo Credit:
Map from the virtual field trip on car culture around the world

BLOG

Place and Placelessness: "Coming at you from everywhere"

WILL KNIGHT AND LAUREN WHEELER

Place and Placelessness, a collaborative workshop, was entirely conducted—from initial organizational meetings to the final plenary discussion—from a virtual space.
Some NiCHE projects
See http://niche-canada.org/research for all

The Programming Historian
By: Adam Crymble
An open-access introduction to creating customized translators for Zotero.
Includes lessons in HTML, HTML DOM and JavaScript.

[Learn More]

Back to the Island
By: Ryan O’Connor, Alan MacEachern, UWO
An online exhibit dedicated to the "Back to the Land" movement of 1970s in PEI.
Features both a narrative and oral history of life at the time.

[Learn More]

2008

<?xml?>

Towards a Guide to Best Practices in XML Markup
By: Leon Robichaud
A pilot project using historical environmental data that seeks to outline best practices for using XML Markup.

[Learn More]

People and the Bay
Leader: Ken Cruikshank and Nancy Bouchier, McMaster University
A joint project between university and high school students during which students worked together to create short videos about environmental history topics.

[Learn More]

Newfoundland’s Petit Nord
By: Peter Pope, Memorial University of Newfoundland
A photo exhibit of the archaeological sites along Newfoundland’s Petit Nord, along with maps of the sites.

[Learn More]

2007

The Programming Historian
By: William J. Turkel, Adam Crymble, Alan

[Learn More]
Create Event Homepage

Provide as much information as you can. Try to preemptively respond to questions potential participants may have about your upcoming event.

**Full Event Name:** *

**Short Event Name:** *

The proper (short) name of the event. Max. 80 characters

<table>
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We invite submissions of draft papers and unfinished work from graduate students in any related discipline on topics that address, complicate, or illustrate the local, regional, and transnational ecologies that bind us together.

This is an un-workshop focused on unfinished work! Participants will meet via Skype in small panel sessions to collaboratively and constructively discuss these work-in-progress. To help facilitate clear and problem-free participation, all invited participants will receive a FREE Skype headset.

The workshop is limited to 20 participants.

Participations are also invited to collaborate in creating an online field trip that will explore the commodity chains that bind us in relations of production, consumption, and destruction. Meet and network with your peers—explore new ideas and have fun in this online workshop that explores new trends in environmental history and digital humanities.

To register go to http://virtualleh.wordpress.com/registration/. Presenters are asked to submit a 300-word abstract outlining their work-in-progress by July 30, 2010. The full schedule will be announced August 31, 2010. The workshop will be held October 1–2, 2010.

We invite graduate students to participate in presenters!
From 1945 to the early 1970s, technological innovations helped to transform American agriculture. The introduction of industrial chemicals and new machinery to US farm operations in the decades after the Second World War ushered in what some historians have characterized as an agricultural revolution. These changes certainly altered food production and agricultural output. They also altered the practice of farming itself, leading ultimately to fewer farmers tending larger and larger farms. What caused farmers to adopt these new chemical and mechanical technologies? How did this affect the business of farming in the second half of the twentieth century? What were the environmental and human health consequences of these substantial changes in agriculture?

On this episode of Nature’s Past, Joe Anderson joins us to discuss his book Industrializing the Corn Belt: Agriculture, Technology, and Environment, 1945-1972, a detailed study of the adoption of industrial chemical and mechanical technologies on US farms in the decades following the Second World War.

Also, Jim Clifford discusses his new role as Project Coordinator for the Network in Canadian History and Environment.

**Works Cited**
- Sean Kheraj, Canadian History and Environment
- Jim Clifford, West Ham and the Lower Lea River

**About the Podcast**
A monthly discussion about the environmental history community and research in Canada.
Canadian History & Environment series

print publication
+ simultaneous EBook
+ simultaneous free, open-access online publication

first book, spring 2011 →
What is the impact of technologies on research practice & the dissemination of scholarship?

- Widespread, pervasive (geographically & through society); self-archiving tools; lowered transaction costs for communicating, networking

- Among scholars, growing interest in applying (some) tech (in some ways); thinking more in terms of research-specific dissemination (what is the right way to disseminate this?)
What are the benefits of open information exchange in terms of advancing research & scholarship?

- Increased access & distribution to data sets & findings
- “Pre-publication” feedback & support
- Opens up study & use of non-textual forms
What issues or barriers have you encountered in developing the digital initiative?

- Oddity of Clusters program: doesn’t fund research!
- Open source, closed universities?
What is the future direction of the initiative?


Hopefully, more experimentation, more buy-in, more projects that reach the public, more international projects, more fun.