

Division of History of Science,  
Technology and Environment  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology  
Report 2015 – 2016  
Transformative Humanities

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**Division of History of Science,  
Technology and Environment**  
with  
**KTH Environmental Humanities  
Laboratory**

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**Printed by**  
US-AB, 2017

**Bits & Pieces**  
18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 38, 39, 42,  
43, 44, 45, 49, 50, 51, 56, 57

Beirut, Lebanon

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

The colonial adventurers arriving in the Levant hoping to “discover” “new” landscapes have been correctly situated as orientalists with preconceived notions of knowledge and nature (Behdad 1994). Raja Shehadeh has pointed out that these travelers often looked for landscapes that replicated their nations of origin or fit their semi-biblical imaginary as opposed to the reality they were walking through. My thesis project in Lebanon investigates these Orientalist paths and how they intersect with contemporary ways of knowing, sensing and visualizing nature, agricultural land and aesthetic *al-manazir al-tabi'iyya* (“natural views”).

As an affiliated researcher with the Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management at the American University of Beirut, I have been walking, searching photo archives and meeting with landscape artists and scholars to build an environmental humanities thesis. Many of the Orientalist views of landscape became formalized in photographs which were disseminated in Lebanon and abroad as postcards. The Ottomans and later the French utilized such postcards to glorify and make legitimate their imprint on the landscape. Contemporary and indigenous landscape representations are often in dialogue with this colonial imaginary while subverting or delegitimizing it. Lebanon has undergone many landscape transformations, but perhaps the poet Jubran expressed it best in the 1920s:

“Trees are poems that the earth writes upon the sky. We fell them down and turn them into paper that we my record our emptiness.”

Best regards,

Anne Gough

Pyramiden, Svalbard

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

Approaching Pyramiden at the high Arctic Archipelago in Svalbard, together with 10 colleagues from our division and elsewhere, everything is in a state of change. Bays that used to be covered in ice in the winter now remain open throughout the year, while the glaciers are rapidly losing mass. At the same time the mining industry is closing down their operations, transforming the archipelago from an economy based on extractive industries (coal mining) into a post-extraction future that has yet to be formed. We are here to find out how stakeholders plan to deal with legacies of their past operations. Can remains of past mining activities become a resource for sustainable post-industrial futures in the Arctic?

Best regards,

Dag Avango

La Jolla, California

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) lies about ten miles north of San Diego, in the small town of La Jolla, together with University of California San Diego (UCSD) and several other research centres. Founded in 1903, SIO became part of UCSD when the university was built in 1960. Located right on the beach, SIO has its own research pier and over a thousand employees. The location means that the natural pastime before and after work, and during lunch breaks, is to enjoy the surf surrounding the pier.

Research at SIO is focused on earth and atmospheric sciences. It has played an important part in climate science, notably as the institutional home of Charles Keeling who started CO<sub>2</sub> measurements for the Keeling curve. In line with recent trends in environmental studies, efforts are now made to make climate and other environmental research at SIO more interdisciplinary, including more collaboration with other departments at UCSD. During my two years as a visiting researcher at SIO, I have found a lot to learn about marine and oceanographic science. Unfortunately though, I have still to learn how to maneuver a surf board.

Best regards,

Susanna Lidström

Oviedo, Spain

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

Being able to do research and finish writing my dissertation at the Department of English, French, and German at the University of Oviedo is proving to be a very positive experience. I do not only share a room with a group of excellent grantees doing multidisciplinary work with a focus on literature but can also work with several scholars on Chicana/o and gender studies. Moreover, I have been able to attend two talks from two of the 2016 Princess of Asturias Awards Laureates, U.S. writer Richard Ford for Literature and British historian Mary Beard for Social Sciences.

Greetings from Oviedo!

María Isabel Pérez Ramos

Delhi, India, September 21, 2016

Hej all,

Greetings from Shiv Nadar University near Delhi! After a long and bumpy ride from Delhi airport, our group has safely arrived to spend some exciting days with our Indian colleagues, following up on our first contacts and collaborations last fall. This is really a place of contrasts.

We are staying with a highly sophisticated cosmopolitan academic community on a high-tech campus heavily guarded from its outside world. We encounter this world of subsistence and outright poverty every day when we enter and leave the campus in our closed cabs and whenever our Indian friends take us on an excursion to meet with local community members in the greater Delhi metropolitan region.

Today we visited Mayapuri, the inner-city district of metal recycling workshops. You could say it is a huge scrapyard. But it is also a well-oiled social and economical machine. For me, such encounters are the most fascinating part of our trip. Of course we also enjoy the lively exchange with our colleagues at SNU. Tomorrow we will have our conference, "(Re-)Imagining Future(s): Sustainability, Emancipation and the Built Environment."

Best wishes, also on behalf of Marco, David and Gunnel,  
Sabine Höhler

Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Colleagues and Friends.

I arrived in Taipei just after the US Presidential election result was announced. There was no panic in the air but a certain amount of scent and sensibility: again, the times and tides were changing, again Taiwan has to rely on its resilience in a volatile world. This duality showed also in Taiwan's universities, serving the national interest but keeping eyes open to future directions.

In Taipei, Taiwan University proudly takes on the role as a national institution, providing government with future leaders. In nearby Hsinchu City, Tsing Hua University has quite a different attitude, with a campus of strolling students with entrepreneurship rather than administrative corridors in their minds. Asian universities are part of the rapid evolution of Asian societies, and the traffic goes in both directions. It is quite disarming and very far from the entrenched attitudes of establishing universities in the West. See you soon, Taipei.

Best regards,  
Mats Benner

# Foreword

The previous report from the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH covered the years from 2012 to 2014. It followed a sequence of annual reports since the early 1990s. This shift in the reporting period was unintended. The changes at the Division were profound enough to divert our attention from making an annual report, and we also changed our style of reporting to give more flavor to what is actually going on in our environment for research and PhD training, societal collaboration and undergraduate teaching. In this report we have managed to reduce the period to two years: 2015 and 2016. These have been years of intellectual excitement, consolidation of established fields and continued expansion into new areas.

New to this report is that the parts on funding and publishing rely on work that we have done internally to compile and analyze databases on funding streams and publications. The report is organized into three sections: first, a set of spine texts presenting general patterns of change in the Division; second, a section on the central dimensions of performance including a presentation of our staff; and, third, a set of lists including events, visitors, projects, awards, commissions, publications, etcetera (divided by colour for overview). Distributed across the volume are a number of miscellaneous comments, letters, images and “bits & pieces” that highlight some of our activities.

We have called the report *Transformative Humanities*. This is to indicate that the humanities are undergoing major changes not just in Sweden but also in many countries in the world. The Division is very much part of these changes, and we have tried to influence them and give direction to them. These changes are also affecting us, we believe largely for the better. It is also to state that the humanities are in themselves transformative – they are part of changing the world we live in, hopefully also for the better. We are part of this transformative work and we embrace that, which is a seminal point of departure for our strategy and thinking as a Division. For us in the humanities, these are challenging times but also exciting times, when societal recognition and to some ex-

**“We have called the report *Transformative Humanities*. This is to indicate that the humanities are undergoing major changes not just in Sweden but also in many countries in the world.”**

tent also support for the kind of humanities that we do seem to be on the rise.

It has been a privilege to put this report together. We would like to thank all contributors – literally everyone in the Division – for sharing their materials with us and for sending new texts, data and illustrations. We hope that the reader will find the result useful.

Stockholm in May 2017

Sofia Jonsson, Senior administrator

Sverker Sörlin, Co-Head of Division

# Eventful Years

The intensity of academic work does not always allow for reflection. Writing an annual report is therefore a welcome time to revisit the near past. The years 2015 and 2016 were filled with events, scholarship, training, collaboration and strategic thinking. We grew both in numbers of employees and in turnover, and we expanded in scope with new research projects and international PhDs. In 2015, we were awarded or were part of project funding worth over 100 MSEK – a sum that will last for years to come and which is exceptional and beyond all expectations. To consciously manage this growth in relation to other ambitions, like maintaining an intimate work environment and continuing to mind each other's business, is a central challenge for the revision of the Division's strategy, a work that began in 2016 and will be finalized in 2017.

Notable events during 2015 and 2016 included the hosting of two large international conferences in Stockholm. In September 2015, we hosted the 7th Tensions of Europe conference under the theme "Technology – Nature – Environment" with 130 participants from 25 countries, gathering in central Stockholm. In March 2016, we arranged "Undisciplined Environments," the final conference of the Marie Curie ITN ENTITLE European Network of Political Ecology, which drew more than 500 participants from all over the world to the campus at KTH.

Four important grants have been making a substantial impact on the Division and its Environmental Humanities Laboratory (EHL). In 2015, we were awarded a Marie Curie ITN in the Environmental Humanities, Environmental Humanities for a Concerned Europe (ENHANCE), together with Leeds University and the Rachel Carson Centre and the Deutsches Museum in Munich. As a result, we hired four PhD candidates. The Division also became the hosting partner of a Nordic Centre of Excellence in Arctic research, funded by Nordforsk (Oslo) and in collaboration with 14 other partners in the Nordic countries. Apart from funding faculty, the grant gives the Division ability to hire two PhD candidates. Intellectually connected to the Division's growing Arctic cluster is the European Research Council (ERC) starting grant on Greening



Participants at the Undisciplined Environments conference, organized by the EHL in 2016.

the Poles that was awarded to us in 2016 with several new hiring's at doctoral and post-doctoral levels. Finally, the programme Making Universities Matter (MUM), with funding from Vinnova and in close collaboration with Lund University, has invigorated research policy as a core area of investigation at the Division.

Mats Benner was appointed Guest Professor of Research Policy in 2015. Eric Paglia and Daniel Svensson both successfully defended their PhDs in 2016. Marco Armiero was hired as an associate professor of Environmental History. Erik Arnold, Chairman of the Board of the European consultant firm Technopolis, became Adjunct Professor of Research Policy. After serving for six years, Nina Wormbs stepped down as head of division in mid-2016. Sabine Höhler took over as head of division with Sverker Sörlin as co-head while Nina replaced Sabine as director of graduate studies. As 2016 drew to a close, we opened a position for a second administrator. Emilia Rolander has joined forces with Sofia Jonsson to help run an expanding organization, the first signs of which are the boost of our homepage and, not least, this report. At the outset of 2017, we can be confident that we are well-positioned to meet the challenges ahead.

*Nina Wormbs*, Head of Division 2010-2016

*Sabine Höhler*, Head of Division since 1 July 2016

# Looking Back

**When I joined** the Division for the History of Science and Technology – as it was then called – in 1991, the Division consisted of a professor, Svante Lindqvist, and a secretary. But this tiny Division had a long prehistory. Already in the mid-1960s, Torsten Althin – the founder of the Technical Museum in Stockholm – began to give courses in history of technology at KTH. There was thus a 25 year long tradition of undergraduate teaching.

In 1991 there were a handful of talented students who had completed a Master's thesis and were eager to start PhD studies in history of technology. So Svante and I wrote a proposal for a doctoral program, which was soon approved. Within three years we had recruited twelve doctoral students and we had also been joined by Marie Nisser, who had received a personal professorship in Industrial Heritage Studies and chose to place it at the Division. We had now reached a critical mass as a research environment which has gradually evolved into the current Division. I believe that three characteristics have been crucial for the development in this quarter century.

The first is interdisciplinarity. Svante, Marie and I had different but complementing backgrounds. Svante and I both had engineering degrees complemented with PhDs in History of Science and Ideas and Technology and Social Change respectively, while Marie had her background in history of art. Also our PhD students had differing backgrounds, some in engineering others in humanities and social science. Through the years we have had one common higher seminar where we critically and constructively discussed each other's texts. This created a truly interdisciplinary research environment, which has gradually become broader, including environmental history and environmental humanities. Sverker Sörlin and Marco Armiero have been decisive for this broadening.

Another characteristic is a pronounced international orientation that is unusual for humanities departments in Sweden. Representing small, new academic fields we almost had to connect with colleagues abroad as we had rather few in Sweden. From the

outset we have been very actively engaged in international societies in our subfields attending and organizing conferences and taking on societal duties. We also have a long tradition of PhD exchanges with MIT and other universities and we have also had many guest researchers staying shorter or longer periods. Moreover we have been deeply engaged in international research networks and projects. Since 2010 many of our new colleagues have a non-Swedish background and English has gradually become our daily language.

The third characteristic is a culture of collective leadership and generous cooperation. When Svante, Marie and I suddenly became PhD supervisors in the early 1990s, none of us had previous experience of this and we chose to have a close cooperation in our supervision. We also cooperated closely in writing research grants to finance our PhDs. Also our PhD students took much responsibility both in teaching and administrative matters. This culture of collective generosity has prevailed as the Division has grown, and has been carefully nurtured in particular by our three latest Division heads, Thomas Kaiserfeld, Nina Wormbs and Sabine Höhler.

I hope and believe that these three characteristics will remain also in the future.

*Arne Kaijser, Professor of History of Technology 1999-2017*

# A Diverse Division

**The Division has** been an internationally-oriented environment from the beginning, with our scholars frequently presenting at conferences and going on stints abroad. In the last few years, the Division has also become an international place in and of itself. Gradually since the beginning of this decade, the Division's working language has become English in order to maintain a working and sharing community among all our staff. This also helps to accommodate our growing numbers of visiting and guest scholars who frequently come from outside the Nordic countries. Integration of postdocs and new PhD students from other countries is also easier. Internal diversity has grown significantly. At the beginning of 2017, fifty percent of our staff was born outside of Sweden. They represent 14 nationalities and speak a very large number of languages, which are also used outside of the lunch room.

**“Research has shown for a long time that diversity is correlated positively with quality in academic work.”**

In 2015 and 2016, we published scientific papers and books in English (by far the leading language), Swedish (also big), Italian, Finnish, Chinese, French, German, Norwegian, and Estonian. Of our 25 staff members holding PhDs (=100 percent of our research and teaching staff, except PhD students), 17 have their degrees in specialties (most of them historical) from 17 universities in nine countries. We have a 50/50 gender balance, and our faculty and researchers are fairly evenly spread across decadal cohorts with



**A diverse division** not just in people but also in research.  
Top: Fieldwork in Sierra Nevada California, photo by Anne Gough.  
Bottom: Fieldwork in Greenland, photo by Dag Avango.

some concentration in the 30 to 40 and 40 to 50 brackets. PhD students and postdocs make up a large portion of the Division. Diversity is also characteristic of our research. During 2015 and 2016, we received funding for more than fifty research projects (ongoing or starting up during 2017) from 20 funding agencies, foundations or personal donors in Sweden, Norway, the EU and beyond [see “Funding Patterns”]. Research has shown for a long time that diversity is correlated positively with quality in academic work. Diversity makes an environment more attractive and widens the pool of talent for recruitment.

Yet, diversity also has some drawbacks. It raises challenges in communication, in styles of work and perhaps most acutely in methodologies and theories. A conscious effort has been started during 2015 and 2016 to navigate these challenges with PhD education as one object of reform. The ambition is to enhance diversity while at the same time maintain a core focus in history.

## Tensions of Europe Conference and Network

On September 3-6, 2015, the Division hosted the 7th Tensions of Europe Conference in Stockholm. The conference theme was “Technology – Nature – Environment” which tied the overall focus of the Tensions network together with the Division’s expanding research in environmental studies broadly understood. Tensions of Europe is a network of some 250 European historians of technology in which the Division has taken active part since 1999. We are represented through the management committee since 2013, and since 2015, Nina Wormbs chairs the network.

The conference brought together 130 scholars from 25 countries who discussed and presented in panels and parallel sessions at the ABF building in central Stockholm. Keynote speakers were Erik Swyngedouw from Manchester University who talked about “Salty Waters: Disassembling and Re-assembling Spain’s Hydro-Social Edifice” and Amita Baviskar, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, whose talk was titled “What the Eye Does Not See: Technologies of Visibility and Value around an Indian River.”

Memorable social events were the reception at the Old Observatory, the boat ride in the archipelago and the final conference dinner, which – in line with tradition – housed a European competition. This time we had a Eurovision song contest which was won by the organizers under the rule of a non-corrupt Italian toastmaster...!



“Waste not, want not?”  
Exhibition at “Inventing Europe. European Digital Museum for Science and Technology”. The exhibition shows how recycling went from being a wartime necessity to an everyday practice. Picture from a 1956 DDR recycle campaign.

## The Situated Ecologies Platform: Pluralizing the Ways to Study Ecology

The Situated Ecologies Platform is a growing collective of scholars and students hosted at the Division that are interested in pluralizing the approaches to study ecology. We focus on the inherent political content of ecology, its knowledge politics and histories, and its more-than-human dynamics and dimensions. This means that we study birds, scorpions and plants; urban flows of water, waste and sewage; but also the practices of how such things become known, and by whom. How things are known depends on where you come from and who you represent and while we create knowledge, it also inhabits us and shapes how we view things. With a keen interest to better understand the relation between scientific expertise and vernacular place-based ways of knowing (so called epistemological and ontological politics), the Platform grew from 2011 out of two larger Formas-grants lead by Henrik Ernstson (WOK-UE and MOVE).

The aim has been to present alternatives of how ecology can be studied, and work against a general tendency in the environmental sciences to use overly simplifying frameworks. This we mean impoverishes our understanding of what is at stake, locally and globally, and it fails to bring in more “knowers” to contest and produce facts about the environment. As such, the Platform has served to develop interdisciplinary collaborations with ecologists to do site-specific biophysical studies in Cape Town and New Orleans, viewed as shaped by historically racialized planning processes. We have developed two major research film projects (see *One Table Two Elephants*); a collaboration between Konstfack and KTH that explores the borderland between design, art and ecology; and two edited book volumes (*Grounding Urban Natures* and *Urban Political Ecologies in the Anthro-Obscene*).

The Platform has also nurtured the creation of a sub-field that uses postcolonial theory to understand the realities of urbanization in the global South, called Situated Urban Political Ecology. Across other vibrant collaborations, the Situated Ecologies Platform celebrates texture, richness, immersive outputs, and multiple theoretical viewpoints to understand ecology. We proudly contribute to the growing Environmental Humanities field.



## Editors

Thom van Dooren (University of New South Wales, Australia)

Elizabeth DeLoughrey (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

## Associate Editors Environmental Humanities Journal – A Five Year Support

Marco Armiero (KTH EHL, Institute of Technology, Sweden)

Matthew Guter (University of New South Wales, Australia)

Julie Doyle (University of New South Wales, Australia)

David Farrier (University of Edinburgh, UK)

Jamie Lorimer (University of Oxford, UK)

Jorge Marcone (Rutgers University, USA)

Astrida Neimanis (University of Sydney, Australia)

## Editors, Living Lexicon for the Environment

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Freya Mathews (LaTrobe University)

Christof Mauch (LMU Munich)

Stephen Muecke (University of New South Wales)

In the spring of 2015, KTH EHL joined a collaboration to support the recently formed journal *Environmental Humanities* for the coming five years. *Environmental Humanities* is an international, open-access journal aiming to invigorate current interdisciplinary research on the environment. Editors are Thom van Dooren, University of New South Wales and Elizabeth DeLoughrey, University of California, Los Angeles. The other supporting partners are Concordia University, Montreal; Sydney Environment Institute at the University of Sydney; University of California, Los Angeles and the Environmental Humanities Program, University of New South Wales.

The supporting partners form a management committee, and Nina Wormbs represents KTH. Marco Armiero is on the editing team as an associate editor. Duke University Press took over the publication of the journal in 2016.

Gregg Mitman (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Timothy Morton (Rice University)

Rob Nixon (Princeton University)

Clare Palmer (Texas A&M University)

Gisli Palsson (University of Iceland)

Mark Pedelty (University of Minnesota)

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Catriona Sandilands (York University)

David Schlosberg (University of Sydney)

Vandana Shiva (Navdanya/Research Foundation

for Science Technology & Ecology)

John Simons (Macquarie University)

Jonathan Skinner (University of Warwick)

Mick Smith (Queen’s University, Canada)

Scott Slovic (University of Idaho)

Sverker Sörlin (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden)

Bronislaw Szerszynski (Lancaster University)

Ted Toadvine (Pennsylvania State University)

Anna Tsing (UC Santa Cruz)

Paige West (Columbia University)

Sarah Whatmore (University of Oxford)

Cary Wolfe (Rice University)

*Environmental Humanities* is published twice a year, in May and November, by Duke University Press, 905 W. Main St., Suite 18B, Durham, NC 27701.

ISSN: 2201-1919

© 2017 by Duke University Press

## The Urban Global South: A Knowledge and Research Challenge

We have been taught to think cities through Paris, New York, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Modernity has grown, or so conventional wisdom goes, through these cities and they have influenced not only capital and commodity flows but also our ideas and theories of the city, its environment, housing markets, transport systems, and everyday life. However, as in so many other fields, a vibrant and fruitful critique have emerged that tries to grapple head-on with what it means to inhabit, not only an urbanizing world—but one that is postcolonial too in which the cities of the West no longer can serve as the only models for cities to aspire to, nor for academics to build their theories around. The range of conditions under which the world is now urbanizing—from Asia’s “cities at the speed of light” as phrased by Ananya Roy, to the “rouge urbanism” of Edgar Pieterse and AbdouMalik Simone’s African cities—go well beyond the narrow, provincial EuroAmerican experience that was once canonized into “urban theory”.

During the last 3–4 years, our Division has positioned itself within this intellectual movement of “comparative urbanism” and “global South urbanism,” which has grown since the 1990s and now lies at the forefront of academic debates and in grappling with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, in the HICCUP project we challenge the centralized network ideal in sewage and waste management by building knowledge in Kampala, Uganda, around a much wider range of practices to handle sewage and solid waste flows. In the upcoming edited volume *Grounding Urban Natures* (Ernstson & Sörlin), we articulate an environmental knowledge project sensitized to a highly diversified urban world. We also have a long-standing collaboration with the African Centre for Cities in Cape Town, a leading global South research institute, and relations to universities in India. For KTH, the urban global South provides not only a crucial terrain for research and studies, but also for identifying knowledge partners to collaborate with in order to stay in tune with the fast-paced radical change that urban knowledge is undergoing.

**Henrik Ernstson**, Wallenberg Foundations Hagström Fellow, affiliated researcher with African Center for Cities, University of Cape Town.

The *CityScapes* magazine, one of the many outputs from our core-partner of the African Centre for Cities in Cape Town, is one of those wondrous things coming out of the Urban Global South that helps “re-thinking urban things.” Six issues edited by Tau Tavengwa engaging dance, literature, and music, to intricate theoretical and policy debates around food security to smart cities—all told and photographed from an angle of the South. Design by Tau Tavengwa (website: <http://www.cityscapesdigital.net>).

# Transformations – Directional Change

**The Division started** as a small unit focusing on undergraduate teaching for KTH engineering students. A chair in the History of Technology was established in 1989, and a PhD program started in 1992. The Division by then already included some History of Science (also in its name). Industrial Heritage Studies came through a research council funded professorship in 1994. An adjunct professorship of Environmental History was added in 2002, turning into a permanent position in 2007.

Up until then, the Division can be characterized as a bundle of sub-disciplinary projects in history that developed well in their own right. Growth in diversity and the number of staff as well as an increase in activity and efforts to accommodate the environmental dimension in the PhD program called for reflection on the structure and direction of the Division; and, in 2006, an initiative was taken to develop a Division strategy.

The first strategy (2007-2012) signaled an ambition to maintain diversity through a “multi-nuclei” approach and conscious efforts to further enhance quality in factors from international publishing to workplace environment and more. In 2011, the name was changed to Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, reflecting a broad and diverse yet specialized History division. The next strategy (2012-2017) pushed these ambitions higher. It used the concept “post-disciplinary” to signal a Division of History that was toning down the various sub-disciplinary agendas to instead focus on integrative approaches and cross-cutting topics such as infrastructures, natural resources, energy, urban issues, media, science and technology studies (STS), and others. A tangible sign of the shift was the founding of the KTH EHL based on a private donation in the fall of 2011.

The EHL was particularly important because it did not come as a result of outside initiatives. Environmental Humanities was a strategic direction we took ourselves when financial resources became available. The decision came in a period when the Division was also becoming increasingly open to societal debates about the directions of humanities scholarship at large, emphasizing its



usefulness for society. As a consequence, at the end of the second strategy period during 2015-2016, we have moved more decisively towards seeing ourselves as both a Division of History and a place for the growing integrative humanities. This should make the Division more able to absorb thematic diversity. The diversity has extended to research policy and university studies (on which the Vinnova funded MUM program was started in 2015) and to fields such as climate and migration. We have also started to develop some elements of artistic research, especially in film.

Much of our work could be called “Transformative Humanities,” in the very broad sense of the perspectival, methodological and communicational repertoire of the humanities. We strive to develop new means to engage in academia and beyond, to affect transitions. By this, we mean directional change, both of our everyday workplace and, through the knowledge to which we contribute, of societies and institutions toward sustainable development goals.

The strategy has already changed our thinking regarding who to hire and made us reconsider what mix of relevant expertise we strive to shape and represent. The integrative approaches have opened up wider opportunities to publish research in more journals and book formats. The same can be said about our grant acquisition which has grown significantly, probably because our integrative work, combined with our diversity, enhances our opportunities to compete for different kinds of grants from more funding agencies. The evolving strategy has also stimulated – and helped us prioritize – our work on outreach, collaboration and policy advice.

**To bring interesting** and prominent international scholars to Stockholm has always been a strategic idea at the division. Images from a few visits during spring 1997. Left: Mats Fridlund, David Edgerton and Sheldon Rothblatt. Top: David Mindell and Arne Kaijser. Bottom: Jane Summerton, Agatha C. Hughes and Thomas P. Hughes. Photo: Nina Wormbs.

# KTH EHL

## Established yet Experimental

In the last two years the EHL (Environmental Humanities Laboratory) has flourished as an established hub in the field of environmental humanities. We have increased our international collaborations with several academic institutions in the United States and Europe, but we have also expanded towards other countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa, and Lebanon. We are proud that in a few instances fellow scholars have asked our support to build environmental humanities in their own countries such as with the Swiss hub in Zürich and with the Department of History at Shiv Nadar University in India.

The EHL started activities as an experimental project in early 2012 with a life span of six years. Today, the EHL is an established and appreciated academic institution which will stay. It has been endowed with Carl Bennet's generous donation, but it has also shown its ability to attract more funds: from the EU (e.g. the ITN Marie Curie ENHANCE project and the Horizon2020 CLISEL project), from the Swedish agency Formas, and from numerous smaller grants, all of which demonstrate the vitality of the lab and its potentialities.

The EHL is a very flexible platform, which allows us to interact with a broad variety of actors, experimenting with different languages beyond the usual academic text. In this sense, it is worth mentioning the EHL's engagement with movies, arts, festivals, storytelling, newspapers and other media. The institution may become more established, but the experimental spirit remains!

Opposite: EHL poster by Jesse Don Peterson. Image cropped.



## Public Humanities – Making More of our Knowledge

In a piece written for a volume with the telling title *Becoming Political*, Western historian Patricia Limerick stated that “If ‘work in the humanities’ means only individualistic research, directed at arcane topics detached from real-world needs and written in inaccessible and insular jargon, there is indeed very limited money. But for a humanities professor willing to take up applied work, funding sources are unexpectedly abundant.” Indeed, we live in times which need a new humanities scholarship.

As science fiction writer Ursula K. Le Guin has often reiterated, this is first and foremost a crisis of imagination: the inability of humans to envision another world and another society. Yes, in times of fears and despair, it seems easier to imagine the apocalypse rather than new social-ecological relationships. This is why we want to develop the public (environmental) humanities, that is, an application of the environmental humanities methods and research beyond the scholarly domain. Our ambition is to mobilize humanities knowledge towards a transformative agenda. Public humanities is not only a translation of academic research in an understandable language or appealing formats – both extremely valuable practices. Rather, it implies to rethink research priorities; to establish connections with civil society organizations and to experiment new ways to produce, legitimize and transmit knowledge – from books for the general public to newspaper articles, from festivals to filmmaking.

During 2015-2016 we have tried to think about future experiments in the Public (environmental) Humanities, and we plan in coming years to expand in that direction, taking advantage of the flexibility of the EHL. A new grant from the Pro Suecia Osher Foundation in the United States will allow us to initiate some activities during 2017, developing a pilot intervention outside the university towards high school education.

The back of the cover to the first edition of Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Dispossessed* – set in the contrasting worlds of Anarres and Urras. *The Dispossessed* won the Nebula Award for Best Novel in 1974, and both the Hugo and Locus Awards in 1975.

ISBN 0-06-012563-2

## Staging Knowledge – In a Suburb and a Nuclear Reactor Hall

The mise en scene of knowledge has been a crucial feature of the EHL strategy for outreach. In March 2016, the ENTITLE European Network of Political Ecology final conference “Undisciplined Environments” gathered around 500 participants from across disciplines, continents and fields of expertise and art on the KTH campus in central Stockholm. Poetry readings were staged among more traditional academic parallel sessions of presentations. Sound and light performances were presented, and film screenings were organized.

In October 2016, the EHL, in collaboration with University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, organized “Stories of the Anthropocene Festival,” a guerrilla narrative project. Deeply rooted in the storytelling tradition of the arts and humanities, the EHL aimed to reclaim the power of narratives to shape and understand the world beyond the dualities of possible/impossible, material/immaterial, real/imaginary. The four day event was held in two quite different venues: a former nuclear reactor hall 25 meters underground on KTH campus and a local theatre in the neighborhood of Kärrtorp in Southern Stockholm. The thirty contributions ranged from documentaries and “activism” performances to readings. The narrative power of performing knowledge was experimented and provided a space for “enacting knowledge,” to open a debate on the processes of knowledge production and the means of (re)presenting it.

R1 (located at the KTH campus) was the first Swedish nuclear reactor. Photo: I99pema (Wikimedia Commons).

# Staff

**Present but not pictured:**

*Johan Gribbe*, PhD History of Technology, KTH 2011. Researcher in History of Science and Technology. From 2015 to 2016  
*Joshua Lewis*, PhD Systems Ecology, Stockholm University, 2015. Research Assistant. During 2015.

**During 2015-2016** a total of 52 staff members worked in the Division, 27 women, 25 men. They are all listed below. The number at the end of 2016 was 45, including adjunct and guest professors, affiliated researchers, and 14 active PhD students. The total number at the beginning of 2015 was 32.



**Ulrika Bjare**, PhD Student. From 2016.



**Maria Bohn**, PhD Student.



**Sara Borgvall**, HR Officer, Dean's Office



**Irma Allen**, PhD Student. From 2015.



**Marco Armiero**, PhD Economic History, University of Bari, 1996. Director of KTH EHL and Associate Professor in Environmental History.



**Erik Arnold**, PhD Science Policy and Microeconomics, 1983. Adjunct Professor of Research Policy. From 2016.



**Karl Bruno**, PhD Agrarian History, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, 2016 Postdoc.in History of Science, Technology and Environment. From 2016.



**Gunnel Cederlöf**, PhD History, Uppsala University, 1997. Associate Professor in Environmental History. Until 2016.



**Miyase Christensen**, PhD Media and Communication, University of Texas, Austin, 2003. Guest Professor in Media and Communication Studies.



**Dag Avango**, PhD History of Technology, KTH, 2005. Researcher in History of Technology.



**Sienna Bankler-Jukes**, Research Engineer in Research Policy. 2015 to 2016.



**Mats Benner**, PhD Sociology, Lund University, 1997. Guest Professor in research policy.



**Jesse Don Peterson**, PhD Student. From 2015.



**Henrik Ernstson**, PhD Systems Ecology, Stockholm University, 2008 . Researcher in Urban Political Ecology.



**Maja Fjæstad**, PhD History of Technology, KTH 2010. Associate Professor in History of Science and Technology.



**Anne Gough**, PhD Student. From 2015.



**Johan Gärdebo**, PhD Student.



**Olof Hallonsten**, PhD Research Politics Lund University, 2009. Postdoctoral Researcher in sociology of Science. Until 2016.



**Arne Kaijser**, PhD History of Technology, Linköping University, 1986. Professor in History of Technology.



**Jan Kunnas**, PhD History and Civilization, European University Institute, San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy, 2009 Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental and Economic History. Until 2016.



**Katarina Larsen**, PhD Urban Planning, KTH 2005. Researcher in Innovation and Sustainability Studies.



**Jacob von Heland**, PhD Natural Resource Management Stockholm University, 2012. Visual Researcher. From 2015



**Per Högselius**, PhD Innovation Studies, Lund University, 2005. Associate Professor in History of Technology and international relations and Head of Undergraduate Courses.



**Sabine Höhler**, PhD History of Science, Braunschweig University of Technology, 1999. Head of Division from July 2016, and Associate Professor in STS.



**Susanna Lidström**, PhD Comparative Literature, King's College, London, 2013. Researcher Historical Studies in Science, Technology and Environment



**Kati Lindström**, PhD Semiotics, University of Tartu, Estonia, 2011. Postdoctoral Researcher in Environmental Humanities. Until 2015.



**Jesper Meijling**, PhD Student.



**Ilena Iengo**, Research engineer within Environmental humanities. From 2016.



**Sofia Jonsson**, Administrative Coordinator.



**Suyash Jolly**, PhD History of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, 2015. Postdoctoral Researcher in energy History.



**Adam Netzén**, PhD Student.



**Annika Nilsson**, PhD Environmental Science, Linköping University, 2007. Affiliated Researcher in Environmental politics. From 2014.



**David Nilsson**, PhD History of Technology, KTH 2011. Researcher in History of Technology and Development Studies.



**Eric Paglia**, PhD Student. Defended on the 22nd of January 2016.



**Maria Isabel Pérez Ramos**, PhD Student.



**Peder Roberts**, PhD History of Science, Stanford University, 2010. Researcher in History of Science.



**Ethemcan Turhan**, PhD Environmental Studies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain, 2014. Postdoc in Environmental Humanities. From 2016.



**Daniele Valisena**, PhD Student. From 2015



**Lize-Marie van der Watt**, PhD History, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, 2012. Researcher from 2016.



**Libby Robin**, PhD History of Science, University of Melbourne, 1994. Affiliated Professor in Environmental History.



**Emilia Rolander**, Administrator. From 2016



**Corinna Röver**, PhD Student. From 2015.



**Eugenia Perez Vico**, PhD Innovation and Research Policy, Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, 2013. Postdoc in Research Policy.



**Hanna Vikström**, PhD Student.



**Camilla Winqvist**, PhD Student. From 2016.



**Anna Svensson**, PhD Student.



**Daniel Svensson**, PhD Student. Defended on 9 December 2016



**Sverker Sörlin**, PhD History of Ideas, Umeå University, 1988. Professor in Environmental History.



**Nina Wormbs**, PhD History of Technology, KTH 2003. Head of Division until June 2016, and Associate Professor in History of Technology.



**Anna Åberg**, PhD History of Technology, KTH 2013. Researcher in History of Technology.

# Publishing – Patterns and Trends

**Table 1: Articles in Refereed Journals 2015-2016**

- AEMI Journal
- American Historical Review
- Anthropocene Review
- Areas: Revista Internacional de Ciencias Sociales
- Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum
- British Journal for the History of Science
- Capitalism, Nature, Socialism
- Contemporary Levant
- The Ecologist
- Ecozona
- Environment and History
- Environmental Humanities
- Eurasian and East European studies
- European Studies in Sport History
- Extractive Industries and Society
- Fabrik og bolig (Nationalmuseum, Oslo)
- GeoHumanities
- Griffith Review (Australia)
- H-Net Reviews/H-Soz-u-Kult
- Horisont (Tallinn)
- Idrottsforum.org/Nordic sport science forum
- International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing
- Intervalla
- Journal for the History of Environment and Society
- Journal of Historical Geography
- Journal of Northern Studies
- Journal of Urban Technology
- Journal for Ecological History (Beijing in Chinese)
- Kulturella perspektiv
- Literary Review of Canada
- New Media and Society
- Nordicom Review
- NTM: Int. J. of Hist. and Ethics of Nat. Sciences, Technology, and Medicine
- Ottar (Tromsø Museum)
- Polar Science
- Popular Communication: the International Journal of Media and Culture
- reCollections: A Journal of Museums and Collections (Australia)
- Regional studies
- Research Evaluation
- Rig

When the Division re-organized its Steering Group in the fall of 2014 one of the areas of responsibility was named “planning and coordination of research”. Beginning in 2015 we have collected and analyzed publication and other research data to increase our self-reflexivity and quality improvement work. Digital data go back to 2004, when the electronic Diva database started, analogue data to 1990 when Annual reports from the Division started to appear.

Central trends over the last decade are:

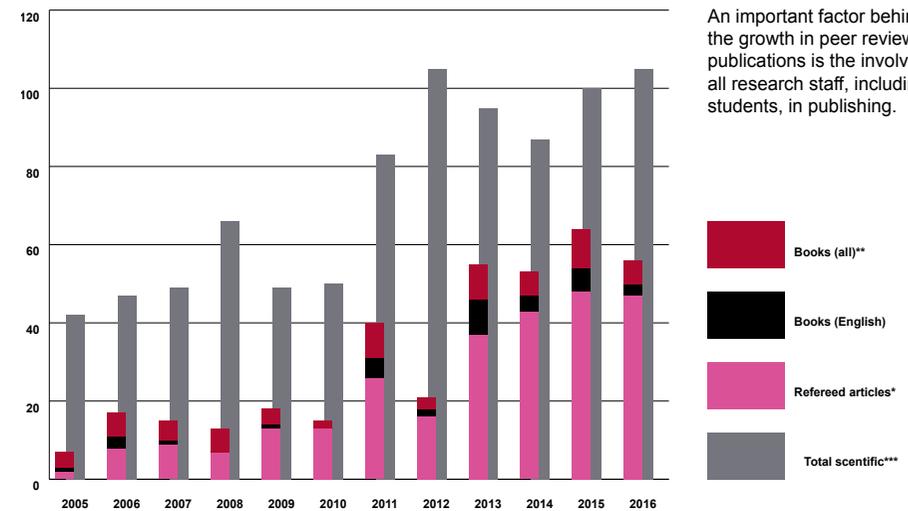
- growth in published volume;
- strong growth of international peer reviewed publications;
- decline of scholarly publications in Swedish.

These trends are correlated; the growing focus on international publications, predominantly in English (although we published in eight languages 2015-2016) makes it hard to maintain scientific publication in Swedish which in addition is typically not peer reviewed and not very widely spread in the scholarly community. This is also related to our diversity. A majority of our scientific staff is international, moved here recently and has little interest and capacity to write in Swedish. Nonetheless, through some of our scholars we have maintained a presence in the Swedish public discussion. Given our strategic goals in public humanities, societal collaboration, and policy advice it is important that this presence is kept vital.

The numbers and the broader pattern of the Division’s publishing signal a consistently high performance both in output and quality. International competitive publication has been incentivized in Sweden for more than a decade now and Open Access is becoming the norm. The result has become a broad trend in Swedish humanities to publish internationally, only it started earlier and became more pronounced in our Division. We are also heavily externally funded which means that our staff has a focus on publishing.

Several important journals in our core fields (history of environment, science, technology, and environmental humanities) are on the list of the refereed journals we have published in during 2015-2016 [Table 1], some consistently over several years [Table 2]. Our books are published with acknowledged international academic

**Publishing trends 2005-2016**



An important factor behind the growth in peer reviewed publications is the involvement of all research staff, including PhD students, in publishing.

- Books (all)\*\*
- Books (English)
- Refereed articles\*
- Total scientific\*\*\*

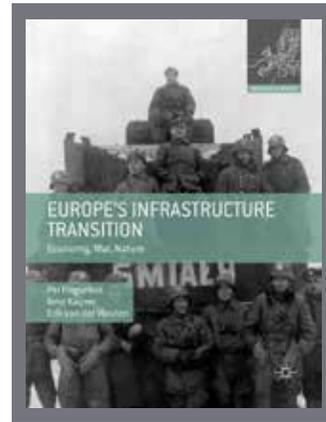
	Refereed articles*	Books (English)	Books (all)**	Total scientific***
2005	2	1	4	42
2006	8	3	6	47
2007	9	1	5	49
2008	7	0	6	66
2009	13	1	4	49
2010	13	0	2	50
2011	26	5	9	83
2012	16	2	3	105
2013	37	9	9	95
2014	43	4	6	87
2015	48	6	10	100
2016	47	3	6	105

- \* Includes refereed articles published in peer reviewed journals and peer reviewed books.
- \*\* Includes all books (scholarly, popular, policy, literary, etcetera) authored, co-authored, or edited in any language.
- \*\*\* Includes scientific books, journal articles, book chapters, book reviews, edited special issues, reports, other text categories, and conference papers (the last category entirely dependent on self-reporting) in any language.

publishers. Our articles are published in journals ranging from the historical sciences to media and communications all through to sociology, urban studies, and geography, to mention just a few. We occasionally publish in natural science contexts, including in high impact journals such as *Science* and *Nature*. This pattern reflects our internal diversity which is part of our strategy, so it is not unexpected. Nor is it new; the Division has had a multi-focus publishing since its outset. At present 35 to 40 percent of the articles are published in ‘history’ journals, a share that we intend to keep high.

All our staff publishes, regardless of seniority. With compilation theses becoming more common PhD students also publish

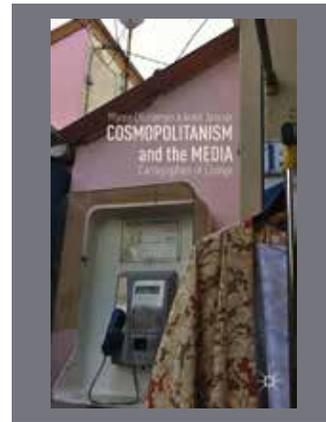
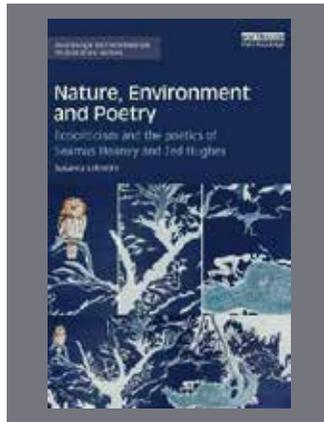
- Seminar (New Delhi)
- Scandia
- Scandinavian Economic History Review
- Science
- Science and Public Policy
- Scientometrics
- Sign Systems Studies
- Sjttonhundratalet (Stockholm)
- Slavic Review: American Quarterly of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies
- Social Studies of Science
- Technology & Culture
- Technology & Medicine
- TICCIH bulletin /Int. Comm. for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage
- Urban Studies
- Ymer (Stockholm)



**Table 2: Core journals**

Journals in which members of the Division have published repeatedly 2012–2016.

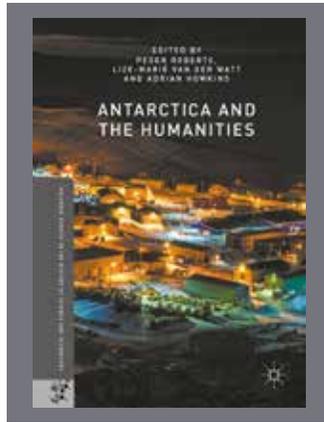
- American Historical Review
- Anthropocene Review
- British Journal for the History of Science
- Environment and History
- Environmental Humanities
- Journal of Historical Geography
- Regional studies
- Research Evaluation
- Science
- Social Studies of Science
- Technology & Culture



**Table 3: Book chapters**

International peer reviewed publishers 2015-2016

- BIS Oldenburg (Oldenburg, GE)
- Cambridge Scholars Publishing (Cambridge, UK)
- Deutsches Museum (Munich)
- Éditions du Seuil (Paris)
- Éditions Glyphe (Paris)
- Instituto Franklin-UAH (Alcalá de Henares, ESP)
- International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASA, British Columbia)
- La scuola di Pitagora (Naples)
- Linaria (Turin)
- MIT Press (Cambridge, MA)
- Novus Forlag (Oslo)
- Oxbow (Oxford)
- Palgrave Macmillan (London & New York)
- Routledge (London & New York)
- Rowman & Littlefield (London)
- Sage (Los Angeles)
- Springer (Berlin)
- Transcript Verlag (Bielefeld)
- Universitätsverlag Winter (Heidelberg)



**Publishing.** A selection of books from 2015-2016 by members of the Division.

their work regularly; in 2015-2016 about two thirds of our students had one or more research articles published. Output volume by and large reflects growth in staff and research income,



with some overshoot in peer reviewed publications, including book chapters [Table 3]. As far as the publication pattern can tell our research quality is improving. We have indications that our research is used and cited and our scholars are frequently invited to give seminars and keynotes. Individual articles are very well cited, in particular that is the case with articles co-authored by interdisciplinary teams.

**Reaching out.** An article in *Science* with Sverker Sörlin as co-author, "Planetary boundaries: Guiding human development on a changing planet", reached Altmetric position 50 of approximately 2 million scientific articles published in 2015. Altmetric is a composite media and outreach index combining news media and social media. In addition the article has a very high index on Scopus and Google scholar, with about 500 citations per year.

A question mark, however, is the relatively low number of scholarly monographs. There have been some English language monographs in recent years, but the large majority of our books are edited collections. This is worth some strategic reflection. Although journal articles, edited collections, and special issues are gaining in importance, it may be argued that internationally defining works in history, and in the environmental humanities, still tend to be single authored books. A possible explanation of this publication pattern is that our dependence on external funding disincentivizes our scholars to take on complex, long term tasks like writing scholarly monographs.

In addition to the peer reviewed articles and books our staff publishes popular and non-fiction books, literary criticism, essays, opinion articles, mostly but not exclusively in Swedish. We also publish on web sites, podcasts, and in the form of film documentaries. We see much opportunity in developing new hybrid forms of publication and have struck up small scale collaborations with visual culture labs, for example at Harvard and Madison (Wisconsin) to introduce some experimentation on this.

## What Is Impact?

Discussions about the impact of academic environments often focus on instrumental outputs related to academic rigor such as highly cited articles or practical deliverables to the world outside of academia such as policy underpinnings or new and improved products and services. However, half-way through my two-year fellowship with the Division, my experience of impact is quite different. Coming from a scholarly tradition of innovation studies, stemming from evolutionary economics and entering a humanistic research environment, I meet new intellectual frameworks that build on different values and perspectives on the academic craft.

These cognitive distances could well be a source of intellectual conflict and misunderstanding. However, in an inclusive and curious environment as this, they turn into nurturing tensions. I sense that my scholarly world-view and assumptions about knowledge, society and power are questioned in a way that widens my cognitive frames and increases my self-awareness as a scholar. This is what impact is about. Sometimes it materializes in instrumental outputs; many times, it remains subtle such as changes in mindsets and insights.

**Eugenia Perez Vico**, Ragnar Holm postdoctoral fellow 2016-2017



Cover of *Nature's* special issue (Volume 502 Number 7471[2013]) on impact that through features and opinion pieces examined how the impact of research is measured. Cover by Lorenzo Petrantoni.

## Migrations

Migration is – yet again – the defining challenge of our times. Amidst narratives of closing borders, rising walls, securitized zones and sinking boats, migration re-defines the human (and, for that matter, more-than-human) condition in the Anthropocene. There are many emerging questions environmental humanities scholars ought to ask. They also need to design new tools, methods and concepts in answering these questions. Such academic inquiry requires intense and cross-scalar collaboration of environmental humanities scholars with their allies in the domains of political ecology, eco-criticism, ecological economics, environmental history and STS among others.

**KTH EHL's work** on migration positions itself outside the confines of a perspective aiming at establishing causal relations, often with unclear assumptions. On the contrary, our work aims at unearthing the "silent struggles behind the quiet vista" by challenging stereotypes, ideologies and policy agendas. This includes a focus on historical experiments in climate-related migration in our H2020 funded CLISEL project as well as other diverse engagements such as preparations for a KTH co-organized workshop on "Beyond Climate Migration" held in Turkey in April 2017. Our multi-disciplinary research on environment-migration relations in the past few years also yielded an edited volume on *Environmental History of Modern Migrations*, edited by Marco Armiero and Richard Tucker (Routledge, 2017).

Drought refugees from Oklahoma camping by the roadside. The official at the border (California-Arizona) inspection service said that on this day, August 17, 1936, twenty-three car loads and truck loads of migrant families out of the drought counties of Oklahoma and Arkansas had passed through that station entering California up to 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Photo: Dorothea Lange (1895-1965).

# Outreach – Communication – Collaboration

**The Division has** a long-standing engagement in service or collaboration with society – sometimes referred to as the third mission in the Swedish context – alongside teaching and research. This is evidenced by the long list of talks and panels and participation in media outlets in which many of our co-workers participate. We do not only talk about our specific areas of expertise, but we are also increasingly asked to bring perspective to larger issues where precisely the skill of being able to twist and turn and question is key. If this is a trend, the future of the humanities looks rather bright.

With the establishment of KTH EHL, outreach activities have increased and found a more solid base. One of the primary tasks of the EHL is to experiment with new outlets, venues and languages in order to create and disseminate knowledge on society/environment interactions. Examples of larger outreach projects during 2015 and 2016 included the Anthropocene Slam and the Stories of the Anthropocene Festival. Both events were co-organized by the EHL; the Center of Culture, History and Environment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and the Rachel Carson Center. Those events were inspirational examples of what the cross-disciplinary environmental humanities might be. They mobilized scholars, writers, activists and artists far beyond any narrow disciplinary and even academic, border. Those events had the ambition to speak beyond the scholarly circle, experimenting with unusual languages and tools; they aimed to intervene in current debates, reclaiming “the political” – that is the social responsibility and responsiveness – of the humanities without renouncing poetry, playfulness and humour.

During the fall of 2015 and leading up to the COP 21 meeting in Paris, we embarked on a collaboration with *Dagens Nyheter*, the major Swedish newspaper, on the topic of a new humanism for a new world. In a number of solicited articles by internation-



**Image from** the fall 2015 collaboration with the major Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* on the topic of a new humanism for a new world.



**Toxic Autobiographies** entails collaboration with grassroots groups around Europe with the purpose to uncover stories of contamination and resistance in subaltern communities.

al scholars, the Swedish newspaper readers were introduced to front-line research in the environmental humanities. Topics spanned from migration to mushrooms.

Another outreach effort has been to problematize the relation between internationalization and CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. The blog “The travelling scientist” was opened in late 2014 on the Division webpage, but the project activities took off in earnest in 2015. We wanted to raise awareness around travelling and discuss the ethical dilemmas scientists like ourselves face when feeling a pressure to travel (often by flying) but, at the same time, wanting to limit emissions. We believe that mobility and internationalization need to be rethought and decoupled, and, furthermore, that the relations between them and the quality of research need to be investigated.

The EHL is also involved in a Horizon 2020 project on Climate change and migrations (CLISEL, [www.clisel.eu](http://www.clisel.eu)), which is dedicated to support, train and advise local authorities in dealing with migration. CLISEL is indeed a clear example of our collaboration with institutions in order to tackle crucial issues.

In 2016, the EHL has also launched a pilot project on “Toxic Autobiographies,” funded by the Seed Box – Mistra programme, which entails collaboration with grassroots groups around Europe with the purpose to uncover stories of contamination and resistance in subaltern communities.

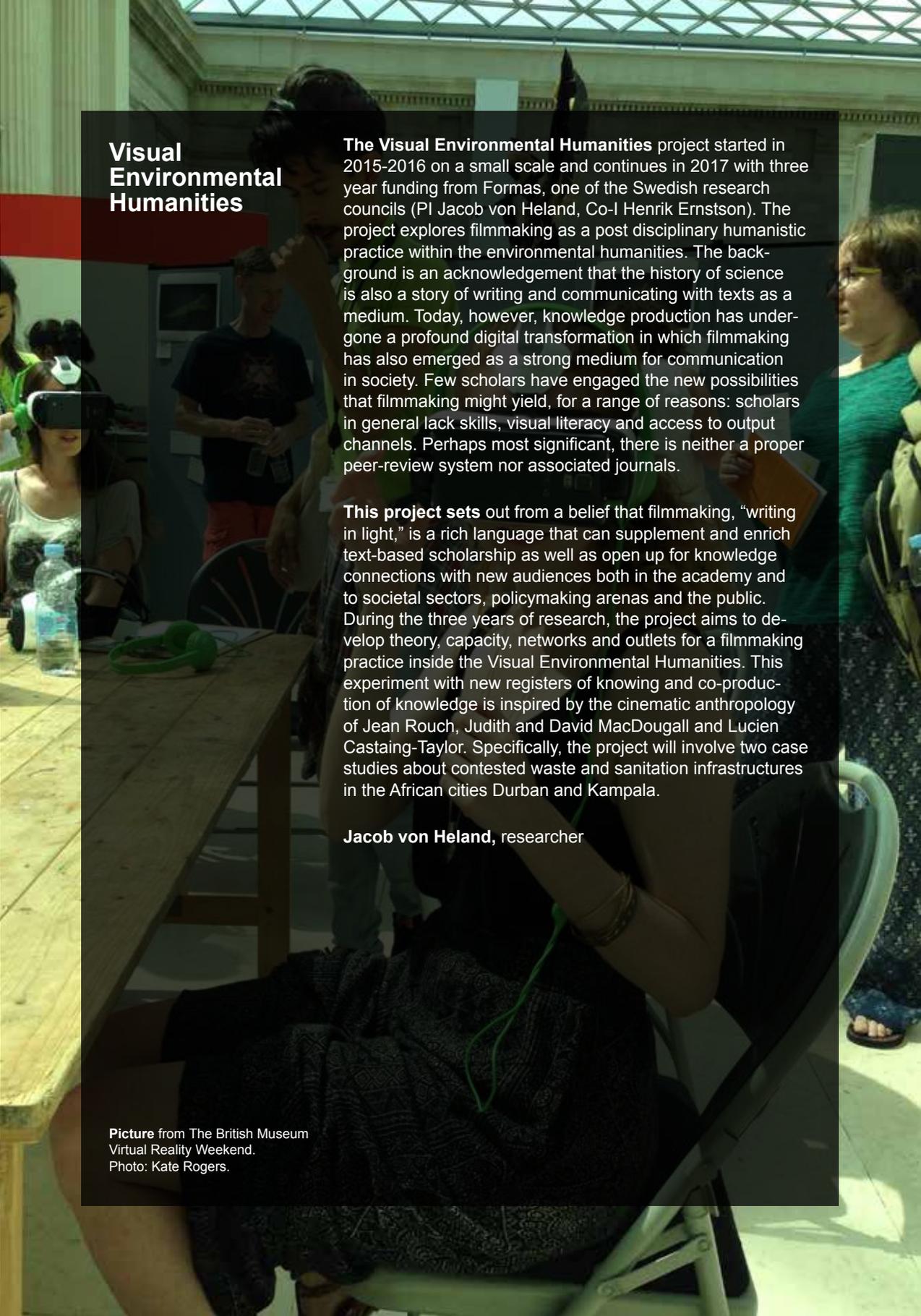


## Making Universities Matter

**Universities have mixed** roles and identities throughout their history and served many different masters. Today's universities straddle a wide range of expectations and tasks: supporting students in an increasingly volatile labour market, fostering international visibility in scientific affairs, securing relevance and utility in the so called knowledge economy, and providing governments with advice.

**Universities have for** long been accepted as bundles of activities, held together by little more than common administrative functions, but there is an increasing expectation of coherence and role articulation: education should strengthen research, research should be aligned with innovation and utility, and societal networks should revitalize the provision of training and education. We take these ambitions as our starting points and study this blend of missions and how it has evolved over time, and will relate that mix to institutional specificities such as state governance and how universities interact with students, scientific communities, and stakeholders in industry, government and civil society. We search for cross-national differences and similarities in the institutionalization (and change) of universities: in Sweden and other countries in Europe, and through relevant comparisons with the evolution of university roles in North America and Asia.

Entrance of the Tokyo University's main library, Hongo campus.  
Photo: XIIIfromTOKYO (Wikimedia Commons).



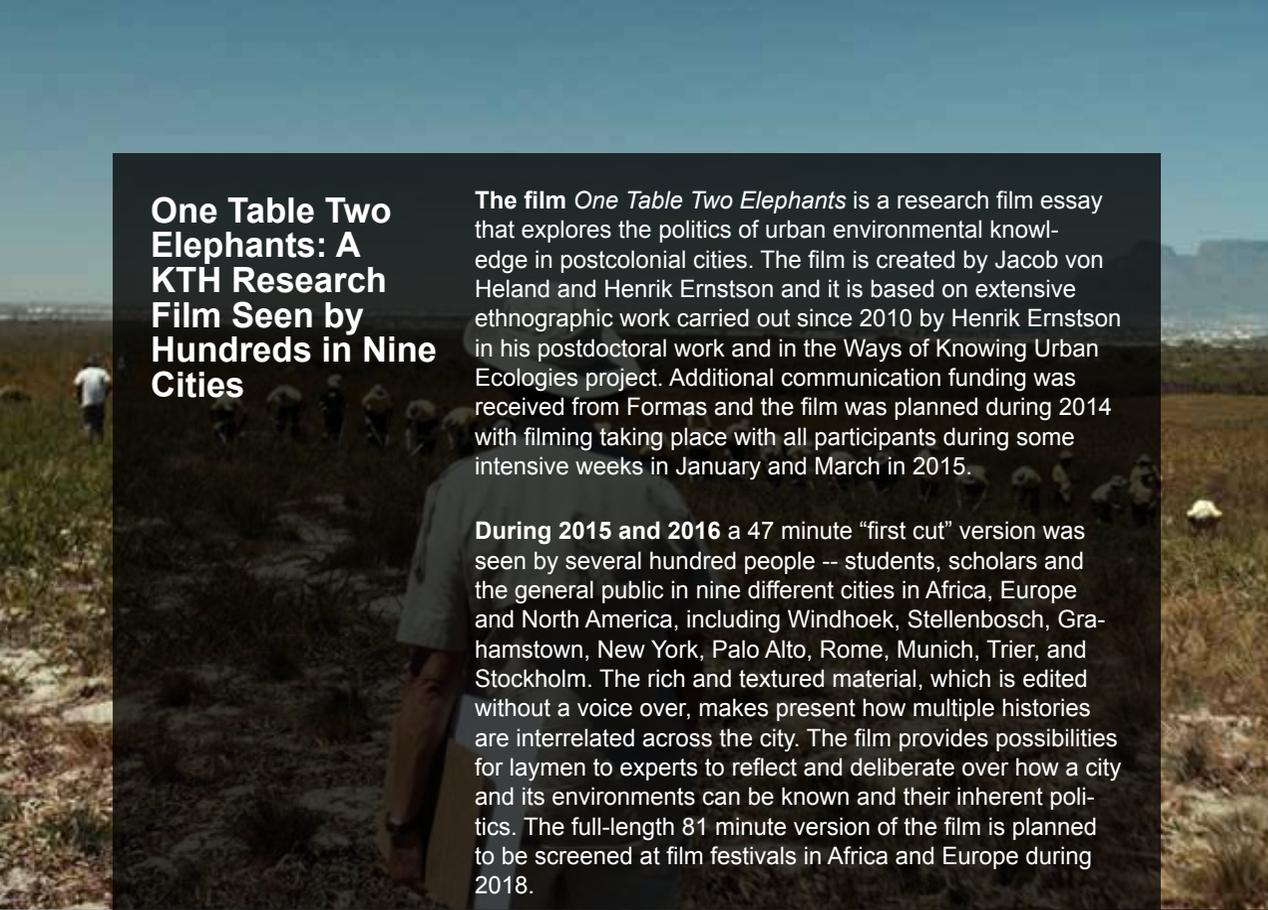
## Visual Environmental Humanities

**The Visual Environmental Humanities** project started in 2015-2016 on a small scale and continues in 2017 with three year funding from Formas, one of the Swedish research councils (PI Jacob von Heland, Co-I Henrik Ernstson). The project explores filmmaking as a post disciplinary humanistic practice within the environmental humanities. The background is an acknowledgement that the history of science is also a story of writing and communicating with texts as a medium. Today, however, knowledge production has undergone a profound digital transformation in which filmmaking has also emerged as a strong medium for communication in society. Few scholars have engaged the new possibilities that filmmaking might yield, for a range of reasons: scholars in general lack skills, visual literacy and access to output channels. Perhaps most significant, there is neither a proper peer-review system nor associated journals.

**This project sets** out from a belief that filmmaking, "writing in light," is a rich language that can supplement and enrich text-based scholarship as well as open up for knowledge connections with new audiences both in the academy and to societal sectors, policymaking arenas and the public. During the three years of research, the project aims to develop theory, capacity, networks and outlets for a filmmaking practice inside the Visual Environmental Humanities. This experiment with new registers of knowing and co-production of knowledge is inspired by the cinematic anthropology of Jean Rouch, Judith and David MacDougall and Lucien Castaing-Taylor. Specifically, the project will involve two case studies about contested waste and sanitation infrastructures in the African cities Durban and Kampala.

**Jacob von Heland**, researcher

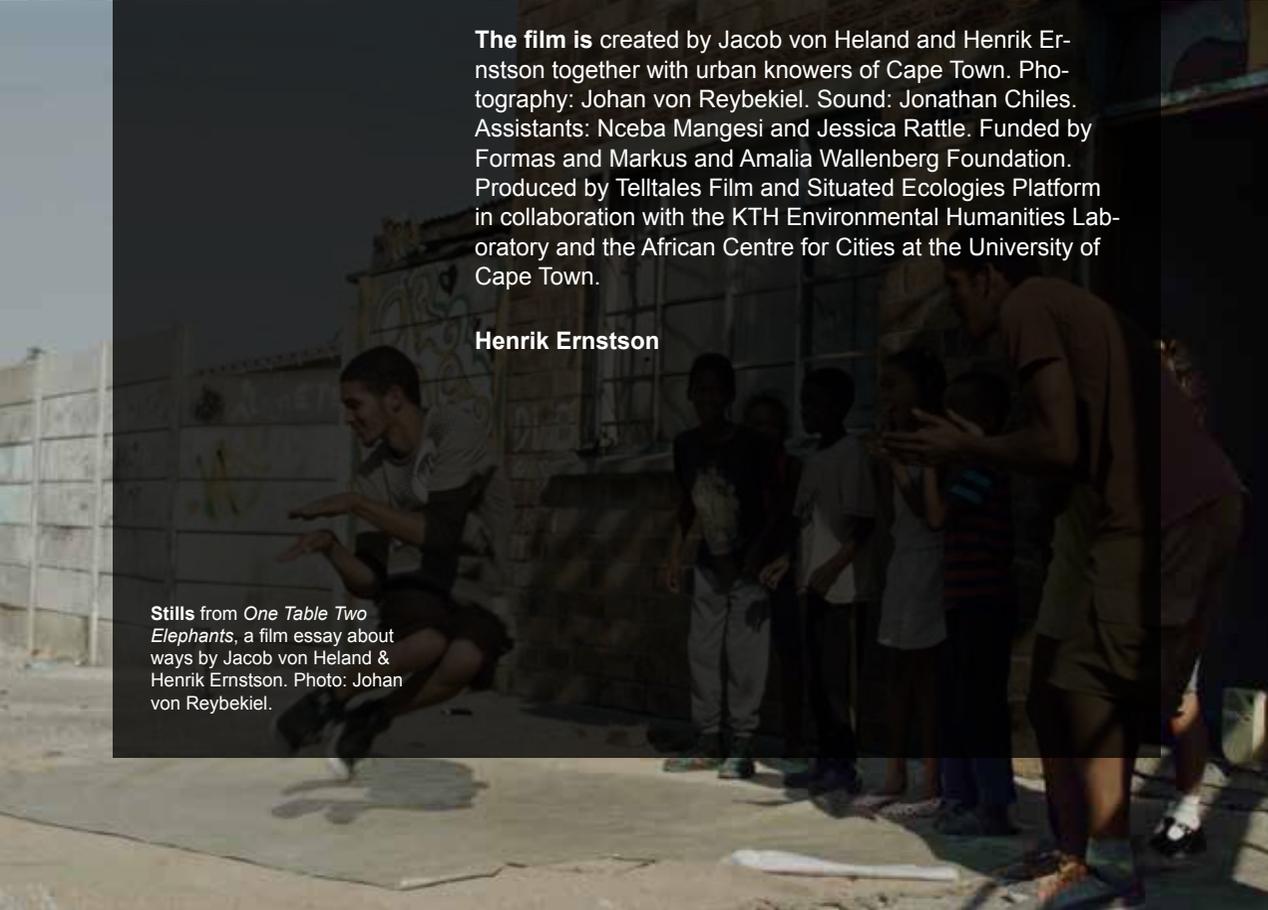
Picture from The British Museum  
Virtual Reality Weekend.  
Photo: Kate Rogers.



## One Table Two Elephants: A KTH Research Film Seen by Hundreds in Nine Cities

The film *One Table Two Elephants* is a research film essay that explores the politics of urban environmental knowledge in postcolonial cities. The film is created by Jacob von Heland and Henrik Ernstson and it is based on extensive ethnographic work carried out since 2010 by Henrik Ernstson in his postdoctoral work and in the Ways of Knowing Urban Ecologies project. Additional communication funding was received from Formas and the film was planned during 2014 with filming taking place with all participants during some intensive weeks in January and March in 2015.

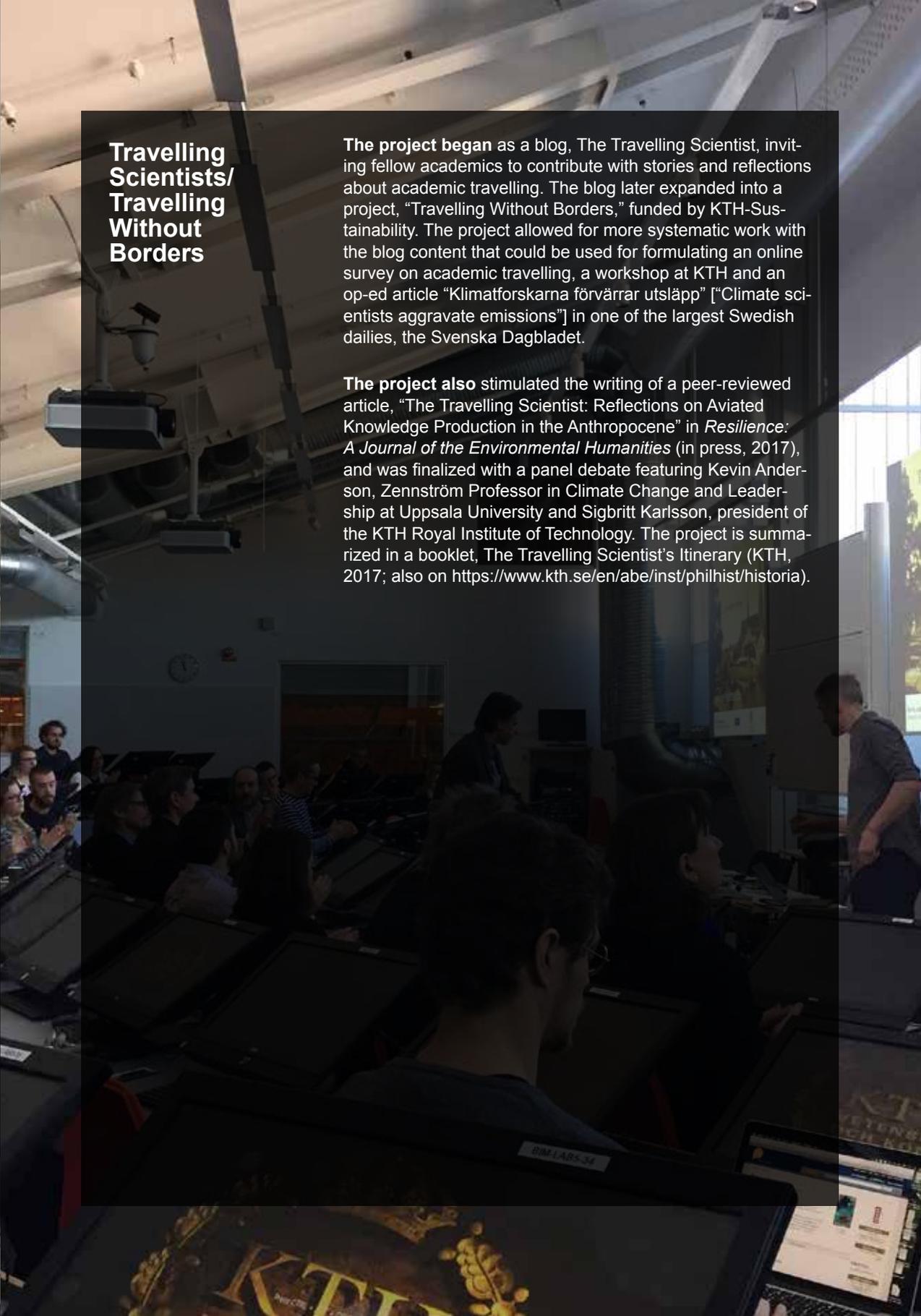
During 2015 and 2016 a 47 minute “first cut” version was seen by several hundred people -- students, scholars and the general public in nine different cities in Africa, Europe and North America, including Windhoek, Stellenbosch, Grahamstown, New York, Palo Alto, Rome, Munich, Trier, and Stockholm. The rich and textured material, which is edited without a voice over, makes present how multiple histories are interrelated across the city. The film provides possibilities for laymen to experts to reflect and deliberate over how a city and its environments can be known and their inherent politics. The full-length 81 minute version of the film is planned to be screened at film festivals in Africa and Europe during 2018.



The film is created by Jacob von Heland and Henrik Ernstson together with urban knowers of Cape Town. Photography: Johan von Reybekiel. Sound: Jonathan Chiles. Assistants: Nceba Mangesi and Jessica Rattle. Funded by Formas and Markus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation. Produced by Telltales Film and Situated Ecologies Platform in collaboration with the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory and the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.

Henrik Ernstson

Stills from *One Table Two Elephants*, a film essay about ways by Jacob von Heland & Henrik Ernstson. Photo: Johan von Reybekiel.



## Travelling Scientists/ Travelling Without Borders

The project began as a blog, The Travelling Scientist, inviting fellow academics to contribute with stories and reflections about academic travelling. The blog later expanded into a project, “Travelling Without Borders,” funded by KTH-Sustainability. The project allowed for more systematic work with the blog content that could be used for formulating an online survey on academic travelling, a workshop at KTH and an op-ed article “Klimatforskarna förvärrar utsläpp” [“Climate scientists aggravate emissions”] in one of the largest Swedish dailies, the Svenska Dagbladet.

The project also stimulated the writing of a peer-reviewed article, “The Travelling Scientist: Reflections on Aviated Knowledge Production in the Anthropocene” in *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* (in press, 2017), and was finalized with a panel debate featuring Kevin Anderson, Zennström Professor in Climate Change and Leadership at Uppsala University and Sigbritt Karlsson, president of the KTH Royal Institute of Technology. The project is summarized in a booklet, The Travelling Scientist’s Itinerary (KTH, 2017; also on <https://www.kth.se/en/abe/inst/philhist/historia>).

# Funding Patterns

There has been a solid growth in the Division over the last decade. It has been particularly pronounced in 2015 and 2016 when turnover jumped from 27 to 38 MSEK in just two years. [see graphs] Nearly all this growth has been in research, and the growth in research income is for the most part based on grants from the major research funding agencies and foundations in Sweden and to an increasing extent from the EU. [See table of funders.] Core funding from KTH centrally, including the budget for PhD training, remains at a level of approximately 7 MSEK per year. This number was edged up a few million per year during 2015 and 2016 thanks to performance-based funding from KTH for PhD degrees, scientific publications and especially co-funding of EU and ERC grants. Funding for undergraduate training has remained relatively stable at around 4 MSEK over several years.

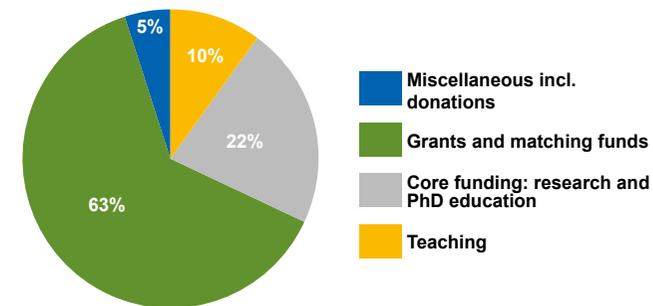
Main trends in our funding are:

- overall growth in external research income
- increased international funding (EU and Nordic sources)
- declining ratio between core funding and external/performance based funding.

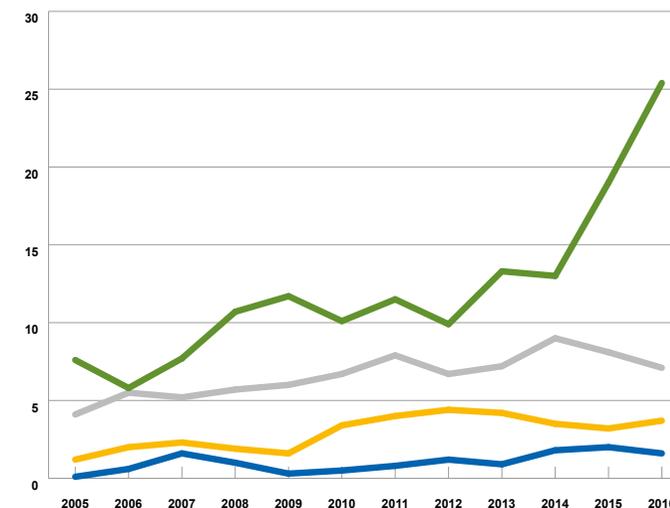
Major new external research funding to the Division in 2015 and 2016 came from Vinnova to the platform Making Universities Matter (MUM), from the EU for the Marie Curie PhD training network in the Environmental Humanities (ENHANCE), from the European Research Council (ERC) to Peder Roberts's Starting Grant for the project "Greening the Poles," and from Nordforsk for the REXSAC Arctic Center of Excellence.

Total contracted income from competitive research funding in 2015-2016 was 150 MSEK (including some 25-30% of the funds that will be transferred to project partners). These numbers are remarkable by any standard for a Division with a core research funding of 7 MSEK per year. They are also exceptional; the average contracted income for the years 2012 to 2014 was 18 MSEK. Nonetheless, there are some strategic and structural factors that may explain the upward trend. The first is the increasing number of research staff, which has brought new research constella-

Funding 2015-2016 (mSEK)



Funding Patterns 2005-2016 (mSEK)



	Teaching	Core funding: research and PhD education	Grants and matching funds	Misc
2005	1,2	4,1	7,6	0,1
2006	2	5,5	5,8	0,6
2007	2,3	5,2	7,7	1,6
2008	1,9	5,7	10,7	1
2009	1,6	6	11,7	0,3
2010	3,4	6,7	10,1	0,5
2011	4	7,9	11,5	0,8
2012	4,4	6,7	9,9	1,2
2013	4,2	7,2	13,3	0,9
2014	3,5	9	13	1,8
2015	3,2	8,1	19	2
2016	3,7	7,1	25,4	1,6

**Major Research Funders 2015-2016**

- European Research Council (ERC)
- EU Marie Curie PhD training network
- EU Horizon 2020
- International Social Science Council (ISSC)
- Nordregio
- Nordforsk
- Swedish Research Council (VR)
- Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas)
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket)
- The Swedish Innovation Agency (Vinnova)
- Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (Mistra)
- Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)
- Swedish Space Agency (Rymdstyrelsen)
- Swedish Energy Agency (Energimyndigheten)
- Riksbankens Jubileumsfond
- The Wallenberg Foundations (KAW, MMW, MAW)

## “Almost every staff member above the postdoc level is now Principal Investigator of one or several grants.”

tions and, simply, more applications. The second is a structured approach to applications with long term thinking about potential research themes, frequent planning workshops, early formation of collaborative groups and support throughout the application process. The Division strategy, to form broad integrative clusters of activity around key topics, has resulted in and of itself in innovative cross-cutting proposals and, hence, a wider variety of potential funding sources.

The increase in projects has meant a wider distribution of funding to a larger share of our faculty and researchers, which is essential for career building. Almost every staff member above the postdoc level is now Principal Investigator of one or several grants. Also our doctoral students have successfully applied for workshop and networking grants. The gender balance is improving: of 16 grant recipients seven are women. Since several men hold multiple grants, however, the total ratio still remains less than optimal with only nine out of 40 new projects in 2015 and 2016 led by women.

Inevitably, the large share of external funding brings an uneven development of research areas. Part of the strategic work is to balance the uneven growth with reallocations of core funding to maintain essential research lines and pro-active initiatives to build links between old and new research areas.

A growing concern is the declining ratio between core funding and external/performance based funding. In 2015 only 20% of our research spending came from core KTH funds. Moreover, from this percentage almost half was used for co-funding external projects. This issue is further complicated by the fact that we do not have much stabilizing income from undergraduate teaching. Navigating these challenges will be a major strategic concern in the next few years.

### What is a Marie Curie ITN?

Since 2015, the Division is a major partner of a Marie Curie Innovative training network (ITN) together with the Rachel Carson Centre in Munich and the faculty of humanities at the University of Leeds. The name of the ITN is Environmental Humanities for a Concerned Europe (ENHANCE). We share responsibility for twelve PhD students, four of whom are enrolled at the Division. So what is a Marie Curie ITN? An ITN is a European Union funding scheme that supports collaborations among academic and non-academic partners in PhD education. This kind of definition can be easily found on the EU website. What does it mean? The ITN can become a community of scholars that work together and support each other in their research and career patterns.

The ITN Entitle (2012-2016), of which we were also an associate partner, worked precisely in that way, surviving to its very (funding) end and then turning into a lively collective that manages a rather successful blog. The ITN ENHANCE, ongoing until 2018, can be defined as a refreshing adventure. Through ENHANCE we opened the doors of our Division to a cohort of PhD students from different backgrounds. They are leading us towards new fields and explorations, unleashing the creativity of a post-disciplinary environment. The ITN offers resources for international collaborations and pushes academic institutions to envision the training/career of PhD students beyond the walls of universities. Thanks to the ITNs, we have cooperated with NGOs, newspapers, non-profit organizations and museums, imagining with them a new role for humanities trained scholars.

Picture from poster by Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions – Research Fellowship Programme.

## What Can a Water Center Do?

Few elements on the planet are present across so many parts of society as water does. Water is a unifier of practices and thought, and holds a special place in cultural and economic life. Yet, the use of our increasingly scarce water follows old patterns of inequality and unsustainability, often circumscribed by disciplinary boundaries.

In 2015 and 2016, a working group explored establishing a new centre at KTH for trans-disciplinary communication, collaboration and innovation around water, together with partners outside academia. In 2016, the KTH President decided to support this initiative with 10 MSEK, leading up to the establishment of a WaterCentre@KTH in early 2017.

**David Nilsson**, secretary of the working group, and Director of WaterCentre@KTH

**Rimena Aireth**. A computer-generated artwork featuring a semi-transparent sphere. Rendering by Timeastor (Wikimedia Commons).

## Starting an ERC Starting Grant

An email appears in your inbox from the European Research Council. You know it's around the time you can expect a decision on your grant application. You scan through. There's a link to be clicked. The tension builds. And eventually – good news! Thus began the official life of my new project “Greening the Poles: Science, the Environment, and the Creation of the Modern Arctic and Antarctic”.

For a decade now the ERC has offered five-year grants to researchers at various career stages. The comparatively long duration, plus the generous funding level, provides a rare opportunity to build a research team and plan a major new intellectual direction. There's scope to take risks and shoot for the stars. That's a very exciting thing for a young scholar, particularly in a creative environment like ours in the Division where ideas and conversations with all kinds of origins swirl in the seminar rooms and over the lunch table.

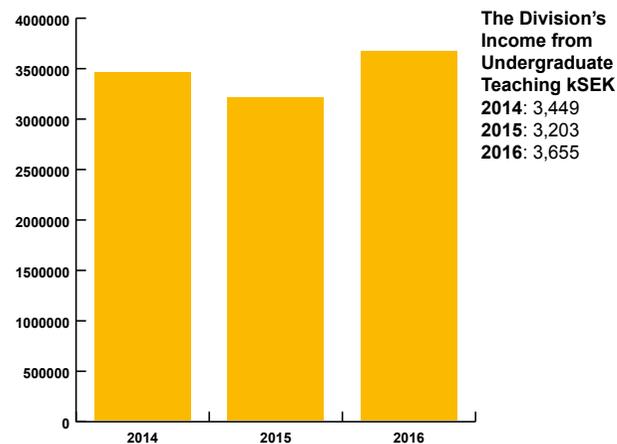
**Peder Roberts**, researcher.

**Peder Roberts**.  
Photo: Dag Avango.

# Undergraduate Teaching

**Undergraduate teaching** at the Division comprises a broad palette, from basic courses in environmental history and history of science and technology to advanced courses with more thematic foci, such as “Gender & Technology,” “Energy & Geopolitics,” and “Environment and Society in a Changing Arctic” (the latter in close collaboration with the University of Illinois).

During 2015 and 2016, the Division offered five first-cycle (basic) and five second-cycle (advanced) courses. Six of the courses were taught in English and four in Swedish. Most of our staff – senior scholars and PhD students alike – were involved in teaching and coursework in one way or the other. Since 2014, Per Högselius serves as the Division’s director of undergraduate studies.



By far our largest course, in terms of revenue and student numbers, was AK1213 “Swedish Society, Culture and Industry in Historical Perspective,” a thematically broad course that plays an important KTH-wide role in introducing foreign students to Sweden and Swedish history. Two other courses – AK2203 “Media, Technology and Culture” and AK2207 “Energy Systems in Society” – are mandatory in certain KTH programmes.

**“Our courses are disproportionately popular with exchange students, which relates directly to the greater degree of freedom for these students when it comes to course selection.”**

The Division does not run any programme of its own. Yet, our courses attract students from a variety of programmes offered not only by the School of Architecture and the Built Environment (ABE) but by other schools as well. Our courses are disproportionately popular with exchange students, which relates directly to the greater degree of freedom for these students when it comes to course selection. This freedom of choice is currently increasing for students enrolled in regular KTH programmes, and we expect that this will allow us to recruit significantly larger student numbers in the years to come. More problematic, in view of our courses’ appeal to non-KTH students, is the KTH-wide trend towards fewer places for external students.

In 2016 our income from undergraduate teaching reached a record level of 3.7 million SEK.

# PhD Training



**Professor Arne Kaijser** during Daniel Svensson's defense. To the right professor Susanna Hedenborg. In the background, Head of Division Sabine Höhler. Photo: Jan Kunnas.

**PhD training** is vital, and the number of students in the Division average 12 to 15. Gender balance is very good, and in the last years, internationalization has increased at KTH as well as in the Division as a whole. All PhD courses are now given in English, and most dissertations are written in English. The arrival of four international students in the Marie Curie ITN project Enhance in the fall of 2015 was a great contribution to the Division as were a few more students in projects on Arctic issues and research policy.

During 2016 two new courses were offered, one in "Environmental Justice" and one in "Environmental Humanities," also attracting students from outside of the Division. Moreover, the compulsory courses in "Theory and Methodology" were revamped in the light of changing needs among the students.

In September 2016, Nina Wormbs took over after Sabine Höhler as director of the PhD programme, which is collaboration between Philosophy, Technology and Learning and History of Science, Technology and Environment.

## Defended Theses

**DATE:** 22 January 2016, doctoral degree

**NAME:** Eric Paglia

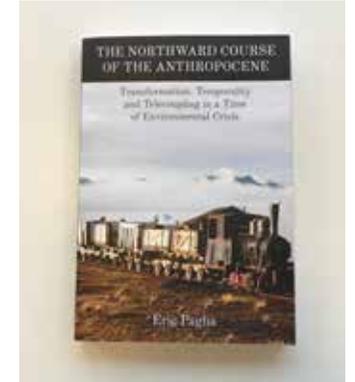
**TITLE:** *The Northward Course of the Anthropocene: Transformation, Temporality and Telecoupling in a Time of Environmental Crisis*

**FUNDING:** Institute for International Affairs (UI), Stockholm; Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, MISTRA; KTH core funding.

**FACULTY OPPONENT:** Professor John R. McNeill, Georgetown University

**COMMITTEE:** Associate Professor Staffan Bergwik, Uppsala University, Dr Sarah Cornell Stockholm University, Professor Klaus Dodds, Royal Holloway University of London

**SUPERVISORS:** Sverker Sörlin (main), Nina Wormbs, and Charles Parker, Dept. of Political Science, Uppsala University



**Eric Paglia**, *The Northward Course of the Anthropocene: Transformation, Temporality and Telecoupling in a Time of Environmental Crisis* (2016).

**DATE:** 9 December 2016, doctoral degree

**NAME:** Daniel Svensson

**TITLE:** *Scientizing Performance in Endurance Sports: The Emergence of "Rational Training" in Cross-Country Skiing, 1930-1980*

**FUNDING:** Centrum för idrottsforskning (Center for Sport Research, CIF); Swedish National Heritage Board; Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, MISTRA

**FACULTY OPPONENT:** Docent Helena Tolvhed, Stockholm University

**COMMITTEE:** Professor Susanna Hedenborg, Malmö University, Professor Mattias Qviström, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Associate professor Øyvind Sandbakk, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

**SUPERVISORS:** Sverker Sörlin (main), Nina Wormbs, and Leif Yttergren, The Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences



**Daniel Svensson**, *Scientizing Performance in Endurance Sports: The Emergence of "Rational Training" in Cross-Country Skiing, 1930-1980* (2016).

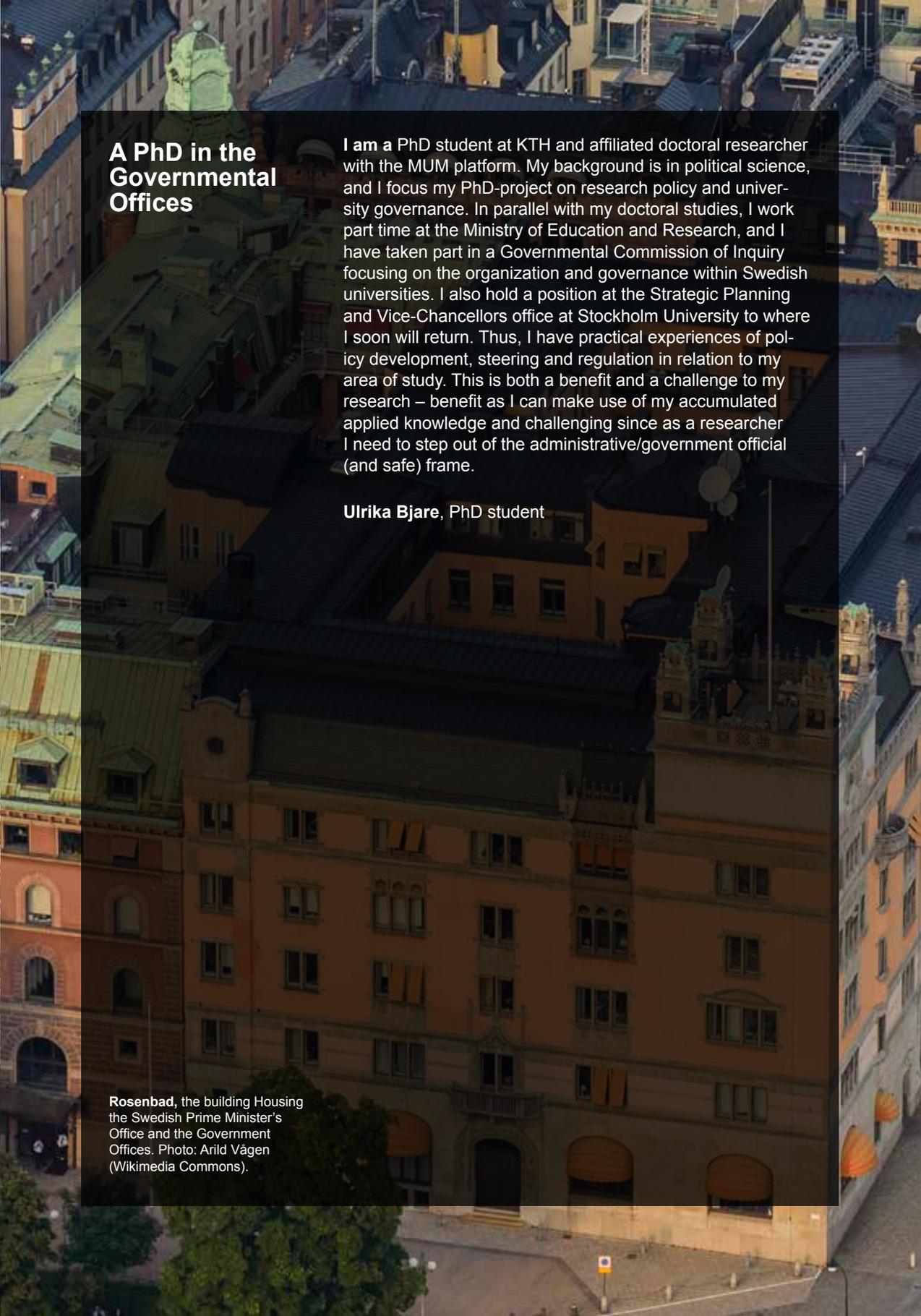


## Bright Arctic Futures

**The Arctic and** the Division has a long and lasting relationship. In the late 1990s, Professor of Industrial Heritage Research, Marie Nisser expanded her already sizeable European and Baltic interests to Svalbard. With Marie as supervisor, Dag Avango started PhD work on the Swedish Svea coal mine (dissertation 2005), and since then the polar region has been a growing interest linked to core areas of the Division's research in the history of geopolitics, environment and energy.

**The Division was** a major humanities/social science presence in the Swedish effort during the International Polar Year 2007-2009 with two members of the official Swedish IPY Committee (Sverker Sörlin, chair, and Dag Avango) and considerable involvement in IPY research projects. Since 2016 the Division is hosting REXSAC, a multi-nodal and multiple methods Nordforsk Center of Excellence with a total of 15 partners – universities, research institutes, museums – comprising some sixty researchers in Denmark, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Canada. REXSAC means Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities ([www.rexsac.org](http://www.rexsac.org)) and seeks to integrate work in different knowledge traditions, including local knowledge, natural science and the humanities. REXSAC will train a total of ten PhD students in different disciplines and is planned in a first phase for the period 2016 to 2021.

Pyramiden (Svalbard).  
Photo: Dag Avango.



## A PhD in the Governmental Offices

I am a PhD student at KTH and affiliated doctoral researcher with the MUM platform. My background is in political science, and I focus my PhD-project on research policy and university governance. In parallel with my doctoral studies, I work part time at the Ministry of Education and Research, and I have taken part in a Governmental Commission of Inquiry focusing on the organization and governance within Swedish universities. I also hold a position at the Strategic Planning and Vice-Chancellors office at Stockholm University to where I soon will return. Thus, I have practical experiences of policy development, steering and regulation in relation to my area of study. This is both a benefit and a challenge to my research – benefit as I can make use of my accumulated applied knowledge and challenging since as a researcher I need to step out of the administrative/government official (and safe) frame.

**Ulrika Bjare**, PhD student

Rosenbad, the building Housing the Swedish Prime Minister's Office and the Government Offices. Photo: Arild Vågen (Wikimedia Commons).



Image from "Grounding Urban Natures", part of the project Ways of Knowing Urban Ecologies (WOK-UE) [see below]. Photo: Jia-Ching Chen (2015).

**Moving Closer to Nature:  
A roundtable conversation  
about researching and  
thinking about nature,  
capitalism and situated  
ways of knowing – KTH, 26  
February 2015**

Organized and moderated by:  
[Henrik Ernstson](#)

Panel: Michael Adams  
(Wollongong University),  
Dan Brockington (University  
of Manchester), Bill Adams  
(University of Cambridge)

In this conversation the  
participants was invited  
to reflect, using their own  
empirical research, of how  
research, theory and thinking  
about nature have changed  
over their active careers.  
Central to this conversation  
was to move closer to nature  
to better understand its political  
content in a world where the  
pressures to codify nature  
to serve capital as a service,  
a product or a consumerist  
experience, is paralleled with a

need to re-understand nature  
as profoundly intertwined with  
us. Indeed, we could have  
called this meeting 'Nature in  
tension: between simplification  
and situatedness'.  
The conversation was a part  
of an environmental film  
project between Jacob von  
Heland and Henrik Ernstson at  
Telltales Film and The Situated  
Ecologies Platform of the KTH  
Environmental Humanities  
Laboratory.

**Writing Quickly and Well:  
How to Publish Without  
Perishing – KTH, 6 May  
2015**

Organized by: Paul  
Josephson (Colby College)  
visiting professor at the  
Division  
A writing workshop open  
to PhD students (some of  
whom had the pleasure of  
taking Paul's full course  
the same spring) as well as  
others at the Division that

was interested in learning  
about successful writing (or  
to share their own insights as  
successful writers).

**Urban Beyond Measure –  
Stanford University, 8-9 May  
2015**

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#)  
and Jia-Ching Chen (University  
of California, Santa Barbara)  
Keynote speaker: Sarah

Whatmore (University of  
Oxford) and Susan Parnell  
(University of Cape Town)  
With leading environmental  
and urban scholars from  
across the world, this  
interdisciplinary conference at  
Stanford University examined  
how global urbanization  
with particular focus on  
urban environments of the  
global South. This entailed  
recognizing the limitations of  
social and natural sciences and  
to engage urban theory based  
on cities of the South. Among  
the participants where natural  
and social scientists including  
Anne Rademacher, Malini  
Ranganathan, Garth Myers,  
Jenna Davis, Jason Coburn,  
Perrine Hamel, and Angle Hsu.

**The Cape Town Civil Society  
Conference: Let's Discuss  
Our City's Democracy! at  
University of Cape Town, 6  
June 2015**

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#)  
Presenters: [Henrik Ernstson](#),  
Mario Diani (Trento University)

Peter Alexander (University of  
Johannesburg)

This conference invited  
Cape Town's civil society  
organizations to reflect and  
share their experiences in  
mobilizing and influencing  
the urban environment, from  
struggles around housing  
and service delivery, to the  
protection of habitat and  
biodiversity. Researchers  
discussed alliance building,  
movement formation and  
the democratization of urban  
space, including legacies from  
apartheid. The conference was  
part of the MOVE project and  
built on a social network survey  
that interviewed more than 129  
civil society organisations in  
Cape Town, one of the most  
comprehensive studies of post-  
apartheid urban civil society.

**The Making of Earth  
Imagery: The History of  
Space Technology and  
Environmental Perceptions –  
KTH, 11 June 2015**

Organized by: [Nina Wormbs](#),  
[Johan Gärdebo](#) and [Sabine  
Höhler](#)

Presenters: Sebastian  
Grevsmühl (Pierre et Marie  
Curie University), Anders  
Wästfelt (Swedish University  
of Agricultural Sciences), Jim  
Fleming (Colby College), [Nina  
Wormbs](#), [Johan Gärdebo](#) and  
[Sabine Höhler](#).

How are historians of  
technology and environment

to understand the interplay  
between actors, technologies,  
practices and the development  
of environmental perceptions  
in society? This workshop  
set out to explore this  
question by studying the  
specific set of technologies  
and environmental images  
that satellite remote sensing  
provides.

**Sustainability, Values  
and Religion: A Marcus  
Wallenberg Symposium-  
Royal Swedish Academy of  
Science, 11-12 June 2015**

Organized by: Royal Swedish  
Academy of Sciences, Royal  
Academy of Letters, History  
and Antiquities University  
of Stockholm (Stockholm  
Resilience Center), University  
of Stockholm (Philosophy  
Department), the Institute  
for Futures Studies and [KTH  
Environmental Humanities  
Laboratory](#)  
Symposium at the Royal  
Swedish Academy of Sciences  
on the topic of Sustainability,  
Values and Religion.

**Anthropocene Objects and  
Environmental Futures – the  
Rachel Carson Center for  
Environment and Society,  
Munich Germany 5-7 July  
2015**

Participants from the Division:  
[Marco Armiero](#), [Sverker Sörlin](#),  
[Nina Wormbs](#)  
This workshop was the

second in a three part series,  
co-sponsored by the Rachel  
Carson Center, the Center  
for Culture, History and  
Environment (University of  
Wisconsin–Madison), and the  
Environmental Humanities Lab  
(KTH Stockholm).

**Annual Seminar Series  
on Democratic Practices  
of Unequal Geographies:  
Political Theory Meets Global  
South Urbanism—Where is  
the Political? - University of  
Cape Town, 27-31 July 2015**

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#)  
and Andrés Henao Castro  
(University of Massachusetts  
Boston)

This week-long literature  
seminar aimed to understand  
and problematize the meaning  
and practices of democracy  
by attending to their often-  
neglected contentious  
spatial materializations with  
a particular focus on cities of  
the global South. How can  
emergent realities and often  
colonial legacies of cities of  
the South help to problematize  
and re-invigorate democratic  
practice and emancipatory  
change? The seminar gathered  
15 PhD students and junior  
scholars, especially from  
South Africa and African  
universities, to read classical  
to contemporary political  
philosophy with and against  
global south urbanism.

**7th Tensions of Europe conference – ABF-huset and KTH, 3-6 September 2015**

Organized by: the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment

The conference theme this year is “Technology and Environment”.

**Climate, soil, landscape: How to stop the race towards the precipice – Italienska kulturinstitutet Stockholm, 7 September 2015**

Organized by: Italienska Kulturinstitutet and [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)

Presenter: Luca Mercalli, president of the Italian Meteorological Society (in Italian).

The event was a part of Landscapes, memories, and nations: A series of lectures on environmental history and environmental.

**The changing face of Africa – KTH, 16 September 2015**

Organized by: [David Nilsson](#) and the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory  
Key-note speaker: Edgar Pieterse, professor (African Centre for Cities – ACC - at the University of Cape Town)  
What is happening in Africa?

The image of a poor and helpless continent withers away when African “lion economies” emerge as

global engines of growth. Urbanization takes place faster than anywhere in world history and societies are transforming at a breathtaking rate. But what does a large-scale but truncated transformation from rural to urban, subsistence to hi-tech mean for democracy, sustainable development, and for being human? And why should the rest of the world bother? What does it mean for international development and aid?

**Rupturing the Anthro-Obscene! The Political Promises of Planetary Urban Ecologies Conference - KTH and Teater Reflex, 17-19 September 2015**

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#) and Erik Swyngedouw (University of Manchester)

Presenters: Edgar Pieterse (University of Cape Town), Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), Roger Keil (York University), Andy Merrifield (University of Cambridge), Maria Kaika (University of Manchester), Jason Moore (Binghamton University), Malini Ranganathan (American University), Nik Heynen (University of Georgia), [Marco Armiero](#), Garth Myers (Trinity College) and Richard Walker (University of California)

This meeting focused on democratic practices and political movements in the age of urbanization and ecological crises. What are the political promises that we can and must articulate to again build societies on the notion of equality? What new socio-ecological organizational forms exist that can challenge current status quo? What new terrains of the political is being invented, from climate change, food security and ‘de-growth’ movements, to struggles of non-authorized immigrants, anti-austerity and insurgent citizenship? How to re-think equality and freedom in socio-ecological terms?

Key international scholars in political philosophy, urban studies, and urban political ecology were invited to a theatre in Stockholm. The meeting included open seminars, an evening debate and an open forum for activist, organizers and artists. An edited volume with Routledge is forthcoming.

**Stockholm Archipelago Lecture– KTH, 2 November 2015**

Organized by: [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)

Key-note speaker: Noel Castree, geographer (University of Wollongong)  
This year’s subject for the



**Artwork** by Carlos Carmonamedina depicting a conversation between Erik Swyngedouw, Henrik Ernstson, Malini Ranganathan, and Marco Armiero as participating in the conference “Rupturing the Anthro-Obscene!” organized by Henrik Ernstson and Erik Swyngedouw at the Theatre Reflex in Stockholm, September 2015.

lecture was Environmental Humanities and Global Change Research: Building new relationships for a new Anthro(s)cene.

**Ecocide and Humanitarian Catastrophe in the Anthropocene – KTH, 23 November 2015**

Organised by: [Marco Armiero](#)  
Key-note speaker: Polly Higgins, barrister, author and international environmental lawyer  
Polly Higgins came to KTH to discuss ecocide in relation to migration and refuge. The lecture was followed by a workshop.

**ELC Postgraduate Workshop Utopia and Dystopia “Environmental Utopias and Dystopias as Forms of Resistance, Oppression and Liberation”, KTH 11-12 December 2015**

Organized by: [María Isabel Pérez Ramos](#), [Marco Armiero](#), [Kati Lindström](#), [Susanna Lidström](#) and [Anna Svensson](#)  
for the postgraduate forum Environment, Literature, Culture  
Key-note speaker: dr. Adeline Johns-Putra, reader in English literature (University of Surrey)  
“Climate Change Fiction and the Problem of Posterity”  
Commentator: [Sverker Sörlin](#)

Utopias and dystopias have a long rich history and continue to be constructed as a reaction to socio-environmental crisis, what Lawrence Buell also attributes to “a crisis of the imagination” (1996). In this workshop we were particularly interested in how they are used as ways and forms of resistance, oppression and liberation, taking a socio-environmental perspective  
Fourteen participants attended from Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. Before the official start of the workshop participants had the opportunity to visit the Stockholm Royal

Seaport development (Norra Djurgårdsstaden). The excursion allowed participants to meet informally, as well as it started a discussion about the planning, implementation and marketing of ‘sustainable’ projects.

The workshop concluded with a presentation by Kati Lindström on publication strategies (based on her experience as editor of the journal *Sign System Studies*). The workshop was generously funded by the [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#), while EASLCE

(the European Association for Studies of Literature, Culture and Environment) supported the project and generously contributed by covering the key-note’s travel and accommodation expenses.

#### **The social ecology of natural resource exploitation – India and the Arctic – KTH 15 December 2015**

Organized by: [Gunnel Cederlöf](#) and [Dag Avango](#)

Presenters: [Dag Avango](#), Researcher at KTH, Ajay Dandekar professor of History Shiv Nadar University, Patrik Oskarsson, PhD in International Development from University of East Anglia United Kingdom, [Peder Roberts](#) Researcher at KTH, Rinki Sarkar economist, Delhi. Commentators: [Gunnel](#)



**Polly Higgins** giving a talk during “Ecocide and Humanitarian Catastrophe in the Anthropocene” lecture in 2015.

[Cederlöf](#), Jaideep Chatterjee (Shiv Nadar University, India) [Per Högselius](#), [Arne Kaijser](#), Mekhala Krishnamurthy (Southern Nazarene University), Radhika Krishnan (Jawaharlal Nehru University) This workshop investigated the trajectories of boom and bust in the exploitation of natural resources, including hydropower as well as minerals, from the perspective of cultural and environmental choices rather than as economically-driven necessities. The question became particularly acute since the slowdown from 2013 in worldwide mining and resource extraction, with falling world market prices for base metals and energy resources leading to abandoned extraction sites, depressed

economies, and in many cases failures to adequately deal with environmental changes. This has been particularly true in Arctic Sweden. In states such as India where demand for electricity is only increasing, and where there are limited local energy resources (often highly polluting, notably coal), these cycles are particularly challenging.

#### **Conversation on the History of Capitalism – KTH 11 March 2016**

Organized by: [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)

Speaker: Vanessa Ogle, assistant professor of History (University of Pennsylvania) Vanessa Ogle introduced the burgeoning cross-cutting field called “History of Capitalism”

(engaging labor history, business history, colonial and slavery history, history of technology, the history of markets, and many others) in a conversation format.

#### **Modernizing climate in the environmental, atmospheric and geosciences – KTH 14-15 March 2016**

Organized by: [Daniel Svensson](#), Matthias Heymann (Aarhus University) and [Sverker Sörlin](#)

Participants: Per Holmlund (Stockholm University) Ninis Rosqvist (Stockholm University), Henning Rodhe (Stockholm University), [Annika E. Nilsson](#), Björn-Ola Linnér (Linköping University), Gunnar Ellingsen (University of Bergen), Ásdís Jonsdóttir (Oslo University/Reykjavik), Matthias Heymann (Aarhus University), Janet Martin-Nielsen (Aarhus University), Dania Achermann (Aarhus University), Matthias Dörries (University of Strasbourg), Philipp Lehmann (Max Planck Institute), Gregor Lax (Max Planck Institute), Gabriele Gramelsberger (University of Lüneburg), Vladimir Jankovic, (University of Manchester), Gabriel Henderson (Aarhus University), [Sabine Höhler](#), [Sverker Sörlin](#), [Katarina Larsen](#) and [Daniel Svensson](#) This workshop investigated the significant changes

in investigating and understanding of climate during the 20th century and particularly in the postwar period. It was organized in the framework of the project “Shaping Cultures of Prediction: Knowledge, Authority and the Construction of Climate Change”, based at Aarhus University, and linked to ongoing work on the historical science politics of climate change in the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH in Stockholm.

#### **Global South Urbanisms: Student Workshop at Namibian University of Science and Technology (NUST), Windhoek, Namibia 22-23 July**

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#) Drawing on the rapidly emergent literature that radically re-thinks how and from where we can think cities and urbanization, this seminar engaged with architect and urban planning students in Namibia. The workshop combined city walks and field excursions, with non/re-racialized mapping exercises and reading of literature. An open guest lecture was held by [Henrik Ernstson](#) for the university, and one evening included a public screening of his film with [Jacob Von Heland](#), “One Table Two Elephants”.

#### **Entitle Conference: Undisciplined Environments – at KTH and Teater Reflex, Kärrtorp. 20-24 March 2016**

Organized by: [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)

Presenters: [Marco Armiero](#), Kim Tallbear (University of Alberta), Ailton Krenak, Krenaki (Brazil), Catherine Larrère (Université de Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne), Alf Hornborg (Lund University), Nancy Peluso (University of California at Berkeley), Ugo Mattei (International University College, Turin), Amita Baviskar (Institute of Economic Growth in Delhi) Tonico Benites (Kaiowa Guarani leader and scholar), [Per Högselius](#), Katarina Pirak Sikku (Jokkmokk?), [Sverker Sörlin](#).

Why “undisciplined environments”? Shouldn’t society aim to discipline, control, and contain nature? The conference had 90 parallel panel sessions and non-academic interventions. We received almost 700 submissions on any topic of relevance to a broadly defined, undisciplined political ecology. We encouraged contributions in a variety of formats: academic presentations and round-tables, audio/video materials, documentary films, live performances (poetry, music, and drama), photo or art exhibits, graffiti, and others.

# UNDISCIPLINED ENVIRONMENTS

International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE)



Why “undisciplined environments”? Shouldn't society aim to discipline, control, and contain nature? The conference had 90 parallel panel sessions and non-academic interventions.

## Annual Seminar Series on Democratic Practices of Unequal Geographies: The Aesthetical and the Political of Unequal Geographies – University of Cape Town, 4-8 July 2016

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#) and [Andrés Henao Castro](#) (University of Massachusetts Boston)

This annual seminar series puts in conversation political philosophy and global south urbanism. We view the global south not as a geographical

signifier or ‘container’, but as an epistemological position and a field of experience of colonization, racism and particular movements of freedom that can invigorate social theory and democratic practices. This year we gathered a seminar on aesthetics and the political, focusing on questions of what is seeable and sensible as deeply political questions: What bodies and non-humans are seen, heard or felt and what ruptures and regulates

what is included and excluded? Among the 20 taking the course, [Daniele Valisena](#) came from the Division.

## Workshop and Training in Thinking Infrastructure with the Urban South, Makerere University, Kampala, 15-19 August, 2016

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#), [Shuaib Lwasa](#), [Peter Kasajja](#), and [Jonathan Silver](#). The scale, magnitude and intensity of urbanization in Africa has attracted increasing

attention on how to handle infrastructural challenges. This workshop created a meeting between students and researchers at the Urban Action Lab at the Makerere University in Kampala, with global South urban theorists and representatives from slum-dwellers of Kampala. It also integrated training in field work and theory with master and PhD students.

## Knowing by Doing: A Roundtable Discussion on the Epistemology of Practice in Landscape and Environmental Studies – KTH 25 August 2016

Organized by: [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)

Speaker: [Ruth Beilin](#), Professor in Landscape and Environmental Sociology (University of Melbourne) This was a roundtable discussion on the epistemology of practice in landscape and environmental studies, held at the Division. [Ruth Beilin](#) is an interdisciplinary social scientist principally researching rural and regional landscapes and reconnecting cities with their regions. She responds to the social and ecological realities of changing landscape management practices and policies by integrating social and biophysical ways of knowing—challenging

knowledge construction with a focus on methods that cause us to re-engage with seemingly known places and social structures.

## A discussion with Professor Joni Adamson – KTH 5 September 2016

Organized by: [María Isabel Pérez Ramos](#)

Convener: [Marco Armiero](#) [Joni Adamson](#) Professor of English and Environmental Humanities and Senior Sustainability Scholar (Arizona State University) met with interested PhD students and early career scholars to discuss the opportunities and challenges posed by the vibrant field of the Environmental Humanities.

## (Re)Imagining Future(s) - Delhi, 22-23 September 2016

Organized by: Joint Conference KTH-Shiv Nadar University Participants from the Division: [Marco Armiero](#), [Sabine Höhler](#) and [David Nilsson](#).

This two day curated workshop brought together people ranging from the fields of engineering to the arts to deliberate upon these questions. The aim of the workshop is not only to present participants with a diverse array of performative emancipatory politics from transnational perspectives but

also to act as a “place” that allows for exchanges as well as formulations of conceptual frameworks that necessarily involve abandoning older understandings of not only building, and politics, but also of selfhood and emancipation.

## Thinking Ahead with SEI and KTH: Africa and the New Urban Agenda – KTH 5 October 2016

Organized by: [David Nilsson](#) and SEI.

Panel: [Henrik Ernstson](#), [Sarah Dickin](#) (SEI) [Nelson Ekane](#) (KTH/SEI) [Nayoka Martinez Bäckström](#) (Sida) [Victor Adetula](#) (Nordic Africa Institute) and [Ilda Lindell Lourenco](#) (Stockholm University/Sida) KTH and SEI invited policy-makers, urbanists/ urban scholars, aid workers, journalists and other interested in sustainable urban transformations to a seminar, for a discussion about cities, Africa and the New Urban Agenda.

## Emancipation in an Urban Century: From More-than-human Political Moments to the Figure of the Anthropo-ob(S)cene — KTH 12-13 October 2016.

Organized by: [Henrik Ernstson](#), [Irma Allen](#) and [Daniele Valisena](#). This seminar used contemporary debates in



The urban heterogenous infrastructure landscape of Kampala, Uganda, shows two different types of toilets. To the right a dug pit latrine with a brick structure. To the left a pink three-story building that houses a community-toilet and bath which has been funded by the local neighborhood and built by a local branch of the Slum Dwellers Federation. The top two floors are used as a community space for meetings and during the days, as a school. Photo by Henrik Ernstson, 2017.

academic literature to discuss what emancipation means in an intensely more-than-human and rapidly urbanizing world. A dozen PhD students and early career scholars from the region's main higher education institutes participated, including KTH, Stockholm University, Södertörn University, Uppsala University, and The Stockholm School of Art and Design (Konstfack).

#### **Stories of the Anthropocene Festival – KTH Campus and Reflex Teater 26-29 October 2016**

Organized by: the Environmental Humanities Laboratory  
In November 2014, a group of scholars and artists

convened at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for the Anthropocene slam: A Cabinet of Curiosities. In a playful and creative way, presenters introduced objects that they felt embodied the Anthropocene. The Slam was then translated firstly into an exhibition, the Anthropocene Cabinet of Curiosities, on display at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, and secondly into an edited volume.

SAF built on and aims to recreate the experience of the Slam. SAF challenges participants to exit their comfort zone and embrace an imaginative and inventive mode with the ambition to engage with a wide audience. At SAF, participants had 30

minutes to narrate or tell their story to the public in any format, including (but not limited to) video, dance, song, or theater.

#### **Stockholm Archipelago Lecture– KTH 27 October 2016**

Organized by: [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#)  
Keynote Speaker: Michelle Murphy, professor of History and Women and Gender Studies (University of Toronto)  
“AlterLife in the Aftermath of Industrial Chemicals”  
Biomonitoring studies suggest that all people living today have PCBs and other persistent pollutants incorporated into their bodies.

Today life and embodiment are in a condition of having already been altered by industrial chemicals and environmental violence. We are connected and divided by these ubiquitous, yet unevenly distributed, chemical exposures that are also the extension of capitalist, colonial, and racist violence into the intergenerational future. Rooted in the histories of the Great Lakes region, this talk draws on the work of Frantz Fanon and Indigenous Reproductive Justice to develop the concept of afterlife as a decolonial orientation to already altered life with and against technoscience, Anthropocene narratives, and damage-based research.

#### **A Cosmopolitan Europe? On Borders, Brexits and Burkinis – Maynooth University 16 November 2016**

Convenor: [Miyase Christensen](#)  
A seminar of the project Cosmopolitanism from the Margins: Mediations of Expressivity, Social Space and Cultural Citizenship

#### **Post-Socialist Environments: Making, un-making and contesting natures in Central and Eastern Europe – University of Poznan, Poland, 25-26 November 2016**

Organized by: Agata Konczal (University of Poznań), Aleksandra (University of Poznań), Adam Mickiewicz (University of Poznań) and [Irma Allen](#)  
Presenters: Thomas Reuter (University of Melbourne), Michał Buchowski (Adam Mickiewicz University) and Piotr Matczak (Adam Mickiewicz University)  
The purpose of the seminar was to bring together particularly early career scholars, engaged with the politics of the environment in the post-socialist region, in order to share perspectives, experiences and challenges. We also aimed to build the beginning of a regional research network on postsocialist environments; and to facilitate discussion on the specificity and situatedness of ‘post-socialist’ research and its researchers.

**Roundtable “Methodologies and Approaches in Environmental Humanities” – KTH, 13 December 2016**  
Panel: MARCO ARMIERO, Libby Robin, SVERKER SÖRLIN and Cecilia Åsberg (Linköping University)

#### **Environment, Society, and the Making of the Modern World: The history and legacy of the UN Conference on the Human Environment**

**held in Stockholm, June 1972 – Skogshem & Wijk conference hotel, Lidingö 14-16 December 2016**  
Organized by: [Sverker Sörlin](#) and and the [KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory](#), together with The Laureate Research Program in International History, University of Sydney; Joint Center for History and Economics, Harvard/Cambridge; and the Sydney Environment Institute.  
Conveners: Glenda Sluga (University of Sydney), [Sverker Sörlin](#) and Paul Warde (University of Cambridge).

In 1972 the Swedish government took the initiative in organizing what proved to be a landmark event – the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. The approach of the fiftieth anniversary of this conference offered a timely opportunity to consider the role of international institutions in tackling the reciprocal impact of humans and the environment, as well as the history of the discourses of economic inequality, debates over rights to natural resources, and more.

Spring 2015

Monday 12 January, 13:15-14:45

**Sven Ove Hansson, Division of Philosophy, KTH**

“Experiments before science: What science learned from technological experiments”

Monday 26 January, 13:15-14:45

**Paul Josephson, Colby College/Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Stalin’s Water Workers: Nature Transformation in the Russian Empire, Continuity and Change, 1900-present”

Monday 16 February, 13:15-14:45

**Jan Kunnas, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Changing Valuations of Forest Utilization”

Thursday 26 February, 15:00-17:00

**Roundtable Discussion at KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory**“Moving Closer to Nature: A roundtable conversation about researching and thinking about nature, capitalism and situated ways of knowing”  
Panel: Michael Adams, Dan Brockington, Bill Adams  
Moderator: Henrik Ernstson

Monday 16 March, 13:15-14:45

**Salongen KTH Library (KTHB), Osquars backe 31**

Peter Stadius, Centre for Nordic Studies, University of Helsinki

“Arctic Sea Finland: Petsamo and the Finnish modernity project 1920-1944”

Monday 23 March, 13:15-14:45

**Martin Collins, National Air and Space Museum, Washington DC**

“Following a Multinational Corporation through the 1990s: Globalization, Markets, Ideology, Power and Other Travelogue Conundrums”

Monday 30 March, 13:15-14:45

**Miyase Christensen, Stockholm University/ Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH, and Annika E. Nilsson, SEI/ Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Arctic governance and the questions of ‘fit’ in an era of globally transformative change”

Monday 27 April, 13:15-14:45

**Dag Avango, Per Högselius and David Nilsson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Sweden and the Origins of Global Resource Colonialism: Exploring a Small Country’s

Natural Resource Interests in Africa, Caucasus and the Arctic, 1870-1930”

Monday 11 May, 13:15-14:45

**Rachel P. Maines, Cornell University**

“Tools of the Workbasket: Needlework since the Industrial Revolution”

Friday 5 June, 10:00-12:00

**Eric Paglia, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**“The Northward Course of the Anthropocene”  
Final Seminar in PhD education. Commentator: Aant Elzinga, University of Gothenburg

Monday 8 June, 13:15-14:45

**Sebastian Grevsmühl, Pierre et Marie Curie University Paris**

“The Space Perspective and the Invention of the Global Environment”

Fall 2015

Monday 14 September, 13:15-14:45

**María Isabel Pérez Ramos, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“The quest for sovereignty and survival: Environmental degradation and cultural resistance in Chicano Literature and the US Southwest”

(mittseminarium i forskarutbildningen)

Discussant: Priscilla Ybarra, University of North Texas

Tuesday 15 September, 13:15-14:45

**Suraya Scheba, University of Cape Town**

“Overcoming water scarcity for good? Querying the adoption of desalination technology in the Knysna Local Municipality of South Africa”

Monday 28 September, 13:15-14:45

**Hanna Vikström, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Scarcity and Strategy: Why Metals Became Scarce and How Actors Responded”

(mitt-seminarium i forskarutbildningen)

Discussant: Espen Storli, NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Monday 12 October, 13:15-14:45

**Jesse Olszynko-Gryn, University of Cambridge**

“Thin blue lines: Clearblue and the rise of pregnancy testing in British film, television and other media”

Thursday 29 October, 13:15-14:45

**John Durham Peters, University of Iowa**

“How Do Clouds Mean?”

Monday 2 November, 15:00-17:00

**Fourth Stockholm****Archipelago Lecture**

Noel Castree, University of Wollongong

“The humanities and global change research: relationships necessary, absent and possible”

Monday 9 November, 13:15-14:45

**Anna Svensson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**“Exploring Utopia and Universal Order Through the History of Botanical Collections”  
(mitt-seminarium i forskarutbildningen)  
Discussant: Jenny Beckman, University of Uppsala

Tuesday 24 November, 13:15-14:45

**Tuomas Räsänen, University of Turku**

“Does the dead wild animal have agency?”

Monday 30 November, 13:15-14:15

**Corinna Röver, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**“Reindeer Husbandry, Demography and Land Use in Historical Perspective”  
(Presentation av avhandlings- pm i forskarutbildningen)

Monday 14 December, 13:15-14:45

**Radhika Krishnan, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies,****Linnaeus University Växjö**

“Encounters with ‘development’: Iron ore and the changing contours of a mining community in Chhattisgarh, Central India”

Spring 2016

Friday January 22, 9:00-12:00.

**Eric Paglia, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**“The Northward Course of the Anthropocene: Transformation, Temporality and Telecoupling in a Time of Environmental Crisis”  
(PhD Dissertation Defense)  
Opponent: John R. McNeill, Department of History, Georgetown University

Monday 8 February, 10:15-11:45

**Henrik Ernstson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH/University of Cape Town**

“Situated Ecologies: Thinking Sustainable Urbanism in a ‘World of Cities’”

Thursday 25 February, 10:15-12:15

**Anne Gough, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Who is Secure? Trespassing, traversing and bordering fortified landscapes”

**Daniele Valisena, Division of History of**

**Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Claiming the landscape: labor, body, migration and space of belonging in Berlin, Wallonia (and Montreal)”  
(Presentations of dissertation PMs in research education)

Friday 26 February, 10:00-12:00

**Helen M. Rozwadowski, University of Connecticut, Avery Point**

“Legacy of the Blue Frontier: Ocean Science, Metaphor, and Law of the Sea”

Thursday 10 March, 13:15-14:45

Vanessa Ogle, University of Pennsylvania

“European Time for the World? The Global Transformation of Time, 1870-1950”

Wednesday 16 March, 10:15-12:15

**Irma Allen, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Coal culture: Mining Poland’s past, present and future”

**Jesse Peterson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Landscapes of Waste and Water” (Presentations of dissertation PMs in research education)

Monday 4 April, 13:15-14:45

**Olof Hallonsten, Lund University / Division****of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“The Accelerators of the Knowledge Society: European and North American Big Science Transformed”

Monday 18 April, 13:15-14:45

**Katharina Cramer, University of Konstanz**

“The Science-Politics Interfaces of European Big Science in the late 20th Century”

Monday 2 May, 13:15-14:45

**Peter Bennesved, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Umeå University**

“Sheltered Society: A Century with the Swedish Air-Raid Shelter”

Monday 16 May, 13:15-14:45

**Daniel Svensson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Rationell träning: Vetenskapliggörandet av träning för längdskidåkning / Rational training: Scientific methods of exercise in cross-country skiing”  
(Final seminar in research education)

Discussant: Jonny Hjelm, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Umeå University

Monday 30 May, 13:15-14:45

**Steve Woolgar, University of Linköping**

“It could be otherwise: the case of Jimmy Savile”

Fall 2016

Thursday 25 August, 13:30-15:00

**“Knowing by Doing: A Roundtable Discussion on the Epistemology of Practice in Landscape and Environmental Studies”**

Guest Speaker: Ruth Beilin, Professor Landscape and Environmental Sociology, School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Melbourne, Australia

Monday 5 September 5, 13:15-14:45

**Joni Adamson, Global Institute of Sustainability/ Department of English, Arizona State University**

“Integrating Knowledges, Forging New Constellations of Transdisciplinary Practice”

Monday 26 September, 13:15-14:45

**Johan Gärdebo, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“A Sense for the Environment. The Rise of Swedish Satellite Observation, 1972-1998»

(Mid-term seminar in research education)

Discussant: Mats Fridlund,

Department of Engineering Design and Production, Aalto University

Monday 10 October, 13:15-14:45

**Lydia Barnett, Department of History, Northwestern University / MPI Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin**

“The Theology of Climate Change in Early Modern Europe”

Monday 24 October, 13:15-14:45

**Suyash Jolly, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Smart Grid Development in India: Separating Promises from Messy Reality”

Monday 7 November, 13:15-14:45

**Camelia Dewan, Department of Geography, Environment and Development Studies, Birkbeck University of London**

“Embanking the Sundarbans: Historicising ‘Climate Risks’ in Bangladesh”

Monday 21 November, 13:15-14:15

**Ulrika Bjare, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Internal and External University Governance and the Relation to Academic Freedom”  
(Presentation of dissertation PM in research education)

Monday 28 November, 13:15-14:45

**Karen Lykke Syse, Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), Oslo University**

“Feeding Foreigners: Norwegian Recreational Landscapes and food cultures in the 19th Century”

Friday 9 December, 13:00

**Daniel Svensson, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Scientizing Performance in Endurance Sports: The Emergence of ‘Rational Training’ in Cross-Country Skiing, 1930-1980”  
(PhD dissertation defence)  
Opponent: Helena Tolvhed, Department of History, Stockholm University

Monday 12 December, 13:15-14:45

**Peder Roberts, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH, and****Lizé Marie van der Watt, University of Umeå / Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, KTH**

“Between Science and Politics: How Arctic Research Survived and Thrived in the Cold War – and Beyond”

Monday 19 December, 13:15-15:15

**María Isabel Pérez Ramos, Division of History**



**Hanna Vikström served** on the board of the Swedish Chemical Historical Society (*Kemihistoriska nämnden*).

**Lize-Marié van der Watt served** on the editorial board of *Historia*, the Journal for the Historical Association of South Africa, on the evaluation committee of the Chinese-Nordic Arctic Research Centre (CNARC), and on the Swedish National Committee for Global Environmental Change (with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, KVA).

**Nina Wormbs served** as a member of the management committee of the *Journal of Environmental Humanities* (Duke University Press) and as Chair of the Tensions of Europe research network. She was also a member of the Board of the Nobel Museum and a member of the Advisory Councils of the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat and of the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media.

**Paul Josephson**

**professor in history** at Colby College, Maine, USA, specialist in the history of twentieth century science and technology, who also studies the philosophy of science and Neo-Luddism. During his stay, Paul taught a postgraduate course on Comparative Environmental History of Large Scale Technologies in the 20th Century. January to April 2015.

**Leandro Sgueglia**

**PhD student in gender studies** at the University of Naples, Italy. Leandro worked on women activists and the waste crisis in Campania. February to March 2015.

**Tuomas Räsänen**

**researcher at the** department of European and World History at the University of Turku, Finland. His post-doctoral research concerns the interaction between humans and certain iconic wild animals in the Finnish society. April 2015

**Rachel P. Maines**

**professor at Cornell** University, USA. Rachel's principal research interests are in the history of technology, especially building codes and engineering standards. During her time at the division Rachel taught in the undergraduate course AK2202 "Gender and Technology", and held a Higher Seminar. May 2015.

**Ole Jon Eide**

**PhD student, University** of Stavanger, Norway. Ole Jone studied the history of Norway and international law in the Arctic. May to June 2015.

**Sebastian Grevsmühl**

**lecturer and research** associate at Pierre and Marie Curie University (UPMC, OSU Ecce Terra) in Paris. During his stay at the Division, Sebastian was involved with the workshop "The Making of Earth imagery". June 2015.

**Song Yunwei**

**associate professor at** the School of History at Renmin University of China in Beijing. She visited the Division to work with Per Högselius in the Swedish Resource Colonialism project, specifically on Swedish natural resource-related activities in China in the early 20th century. September to December 2015.

**Katharina C. Cramer**

**PhD student at** the University of Konstanz (Germany) at the Research Group "Global Processes" lead by Jürgen Osterhammel. During her time at the division, she particularly focused on the early history of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility ESRF by tracing the process from the set-up of a working group on synchrotron radiation at the European Science Foundation in 1976 to

the signing of ESRF's Convention in 1988. April to May 2016.

#### Ekaterina A. Kalemeneva

**PhD student** at Higher School of Economics Campus in St. Petersburg / St. Petersburg School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Department of History. April to May 2016.

#### Ole Kallelid

**PhD student** in history at the University of Oslo. His PhD topic is a comparison between Swedish and Norwegian politics in the 1960s and 1970s. May to June 2016.

#### Salvatore Altiero

**postdoc fellow and filmmaker** from Rome with a PhD in law. Salvatore was funded by a grant from Italy. June to August 2016.

#### Roberta Biasillo

**guest researcher** in Environmental History. Together with Marco Armiero she was a co-author an article on environmental history and more specifically on the 1882 disaster flooding the North-Eastern Italy. September to December 2016.

#### Mistra Arctic Sustainable Development

Project leader: Carina Keskitalo (Umeå University)

Participants at the Division: Dag Avango, Sverker Sörlin, Peder Roberts, Nina Wormbs, Sabine Höhler, Daniel Svensson, Jan Kunnas, Corinna Röver, Lize-Marié van der Watt

Funding agency: Stiftelsen för miljöstrategisk forskning (Mistra)  
Duration: 2014-2018

**The program seeks** to develop a nuanced understanding of local and subnational governance challenges in the European Arctic with the aim to increase the capacity of local and regional decision makers to make informed decisions related to sustainable development. The program focuses on seven economic (and governance) sectors: mining, forestry, oil- and gas, fisheries, tourism, reindeer husbandry and municipal planning. A central research task is to investigate how laws and regulations for resource exploitation has been constructed and changed over time and why as well as how Arctic communities have responded to those changes and to new extractive industries.

#### Sustainable Community Development and the Legacies of Mining in the Nordic Arctic

Project leader: Dag Avango

Participants at the Division: Dag Avango, Peder Roberts, Corinna Röver, Hanna Vikström, Anna Åberg  
Funding agency: Nordregio  
Duration: 2014-2016

**This project explores** the legacies of mining in Arctic mining communities in the Nordic countries. The project is focused on field research and is linked to the Mistra Sustainable Development program. The point of departure for the project is the interest and importance of mining to communities in the Arctic. The promise of improved incomes, employment opportunities and living standards is balanced against concerns related to social and ecological disruption. Such debates are centrally concerned with legacies: what effects will mining have on societies and local environments, and what effects will persist even after the end of operations?



Mining heritage. Qullissat, Greenland. Photo: Dag Avango.

This project examines three communities in which mining was (and in some cases still is) the dominant industry – Kiruna in Sweden, Qullissat in Greenland and Pyramiden and Longyearbyen in Svalbard – to better understand the social and cultural as well as the economic and environmental legacies of mining in Arctic regions of Norden. By providing new insights into how Arctic communities interpret and use the material and immaterial heritage of mining, the study will contribute to current debates within research and policy on how to achieve sustainable resource utilization and economic development in the Arctic. The project will thus provide an important contribution to understanding how communities can remain economically and socially sustainable at the local level and a counterweight to macro-level considerations of how mining revenues will affect national-level economies.



### **Towards “Just Sustainability” – Grassroots Initiatives to Merge Social and Environmental Justice**

Project leader: Marco Armiero  
Participants at the Division: Marco Armiero, Sverker Sörlin, Susanna Lidström  
Funding agency: International Social Science Council  
Duration: 2014-2015 (seed grant)

**In the face** of multiple and overlapping global crises, demonstrated by an intricate blending of socio-ecological problems, JUSTAINABILITY focuses on grassroots organizations and local communities worldwide who resist contamination, expropriation and exploitation while experimenting with alternative sustainabilities. Those experiences have contributed to an accumulation of transformative knowledge that allows us to understand and react to the multiple crises in different ways. Strengthened both with academic and practitioner partners in eight countries (Brazil,

India, Italy, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Sweden and Turkey), JUSTAINABILITY aims (a) to recover and understand the envisioned alternative sustainabilities, (b) to catalyze the interaction of their proponents, and (c) to legitimize and incorporate grassroots knowledge and experiences in the collective search for transformations to sustainability.

### **Science and Modernization in Sweden: An institutional approach to historicizing the knowledge society**

Participants at the Division: Katarina Larsen, Sverker Sörlin, Nina Wormbs  
Funding agency: Marianne och Marcus Wallenbergs Stiftelse  
Duration: 2013-2018

**The research programme** is hosted by the Center for the History of Science at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The aim of the programme is to research the history of Swedish science in the modern era and to help develop the professional community of Swedish historians of science. The research project will focus on the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The Academy has been central for the development of Swedish science and for the relationship between science and forces of political change throughout the modern period.

### **Views from a Distance: Remote Sensing Technologies and the Perception of the Earth**

Project leader: Nina Wormbs  
Participants at the Division: Nina Wormbs, Sabine Höhler, Johan Gärdebo  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2013-2016

**This is a project** about viewing Earth from a distance. Both the views from remote observation points and the resulting images are extraordinary. Since the 1960s, we have been presented with awe-inspiring pictures of the entire globe taken from space. We tend to overlook, however, that elaborate sensing technology often mediates the long distances between the observer and the image. These distances are geographical as well as epistemic: remote sensing technology does not ‘see’ but perceives the Earth in complicated ways. The resulting images convey the coherence and completeness of photographic pictures, but they only emerge through intricate processes of translating large sets of discrete data into consistent visual formats. The processes of generating, aggregating and translating data points into a visual whole are imbued with the ambitions, interpretations and applications of different actors in international and transnational settings. This project aims to disaggregate the Earth imagery of landmasses, ice and seascapes. By analyzing the decisions, methods, money and technologies that enter the assembling of such imagery, we hope to explore and explain the political and social conditions of translating situated observations into global images and also to elucidate their global consequences.

## History of Norwegian Polar Politics

Project leader: Einar-Arne Drivenes (University of Tromsø/Norway's Arctic University)

Participants at the Division: Peder Roberts

Funding agency: Norwegian Foreign Ministry (main), Norwegian Research Council (contributing)

Duration: 2013-2015

**The research project "Norsk polarpolitikk 1870–2014"** explores Norwegian polar politics in both theory and practice from the end of the 19th century to 2014. The project will provide a comprehensive and methodologically sophisticated view of the topic area, resulting in a book written collectively by the project members. Although Norway remains the central focus, a key goal is to locate Norwegian politics within the broader international context, not least given the importance of the Arctic to international affairs in the present.

## Sweden and the Origins of Global Resource Colonialism: Exploring a Small Country's Natural Resource Interests in Africa, Caucasia and the Arctic, 1870-1930

Project leader: Per Högselius

Participants at the Division: Dag Avango, Per Högselius, David Nilsson, Hanna Vikström

Funding agency: Swedish Research Council

Duration: 2013-2015

**This project investigates** the role of Swedish actors in the emergence of global resource colonialism in the period 1870-1930, focusing on three colonial arenas where both the Swedish government and private Swedish companies have been active – the Arctic, Africa and the Caucasus. During this period, Europe became an industrial center, and several European states took colonies in Africa and Asia in order to gain access to natural resources and export markets. Sweden had no such colonies but gained access to resources and markets in other ways. The project aims to investigate how Swedish actors acted in this context and why. We believe that some of the main characteristics of the Swedish way of interacting with other players in terms of global resources were established during this period.

## KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory

Project leader: Director, Marco Armiero

Participants: Everyone in the Division  
Funding Agency: Based on a donation by Carl Bennet; in addition multiple funding sources.

Duration: Originally 2012-2018, now made permanent.

**The KTH EHL** was founded in 2011 and started operation in early 2012 as a cross-cutting unit of the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH. It was part of long term efforts in the Division to foster the Environmental Humanities. The immediate reason for its founding was a generous donation from industrialist Carl Bennet, which was matched by internal KTH funds. The KTH EHL has developed well under its initial phase and has already achieved a high visibility. It can also be seen as the humanities element of the recent campus-wide KTH Sustainability Initiative (KTH-S.) The work in the KTH EHL is built on the extensive research developed in the Division in the last two decades, especially in the fields of history of technology, science and energy and in STS. Those areas remain at the core of the KTH EHL though it has also expanded in other directions such as environmental history, eco-criticism, and political ecology.

## Centres of Excellence and Impact Agenda

Project leader: Katarina Larsen

Participants at the Division: Katarina Larsen

Funding Agency: Vinnova, KTH Impact 3C: Create, Capture, Communicate

Duration: 2015-2016

**The creation of** competence centres specialized in thematic areas addressing societal challenges has been guided by an effort "to build bridges between science and industry in Sweden by creating excellent academic research environments in which industrial companies participate actively and persistently in order to deliver long-term benefits" (Vinnova 2016). This analysis of centres of excellence examine closer collaborative efforts involving researchers from university and industry, which helps us to better understand how research centres define and create and impact and how their knowledge translation processes are put into practice in interaction between academia and industry. Some key questions are: "What challenges are centers addressing when balancing the ambition to achieve broader societal impact alongside academic excellence?" "What are the key management strategies and organizational mechanisms in use to create impact in material science research centers?"

The broader implication of these questions is concerned with heuristics of academia's societal impact and academic excellence in the context of the technical university with a long tradition of collaboration with industry. The study examines the impact agenda of Centres of excellence through analysis of assessment reports and interview material combined with analysis of scientific publications from centres. Particular attention is paid to analysis of VinnExcellence centres, created between 2005 and 2007, existing alongside other initiatives, such as strategic research areas (SRAs), challenge driven innovation and societal challenges.

## Cosmopolitanism from the Margins: Mediations of Expressivity, Social Space and Cultural Citizenship

Project leader: Miyase Christensen

Funding agency: Swedish Research Council

Duration: 2012-2016

**There has been** a return to cosmopolitanism both in cultural studies and political science to account for a variety of developments and phenomena from multiculturalism and marginal communities to global social movements and environmental crisis. In its late-modern sense and in the urban West, cultural cosmopolitanism implies an openness toward the Other and ethically oriented self-reflexivity articulated as boundary-crossing and questioning of dominant mortal/aesthetic categories of classification. Yet, both our actual and mediated social spaces of living and of "being" remain highly segregated, with certain norms and ideals occupying the centre while Others are being pushed to the periphery and marginality. In order to reconcile embodied articulations of morally/ideologically progressive acts with the realm of

cultural citizenship and cosmopolitanism, our purpose is to extend the cosmopolitan debate and the question of social change to a lesser-scrutinized area, to the margins (and the marginals) of Cosmopolis by studying three groups of expressivity: a) urban explorations; b) street art; and, c) gender and sexuality based identities and art and activism based on those. What binds these three categories together in this project is 1) an understanding of identity formation and expression as spatially defined communicative processes and, 2) the performative and embodied character of such expressive identities.

### Arctic Governance and the Questions of 'Fit' in an Era of Globally Transformative Change: A Critical Geopolitics Of Regional International Cooperation

Project leader: Annika E. Nilsson (SEI)  
Co-applicant at the division: Miyase Christensen  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2015-2018

**Regional international governance** has emerged as a significant topic in literature and practice. It is particularly relevant in the Arctic region, which is changing rapidly in ways that fundamentally affect ecosystems and societies, at the same time as access to new resources and shipping routes has raised political stakes. This project addresses the question: What are the potential and limitations of Arctic international regional governance to contribute to stakeholders' differently positioned goals and priorities? In a context where drivers of change are often global yet powers to intervene lie mainly at the national and subnational levels, it analyzes the role of Arctic regional governance through a critical geopolitics lens. We will use content analysis of policy statements and media coverage as well as interviews to analyze how various actors frame challenges in relation to governance fit - the appropriate scale and scope of governance in relation to the problem to be solved - and how different framings travel in a mediated world. The development of Arctic governance, with the Arctic Council as a central feature, has been part of the construction of the Arctic as a region. Global environmental change, globalization, and geopolitical shifts now challenge this framing, with a need to understand how stakeholders leverage alternatives that favor their particular interests.

### Rational Training. Scientific Methods Of Exercise In Cross-Country Skiing

Project leader: Sverker Sörlin  
Participants at the Division: Daniel

**This project investigated** the history of cross country skiing training, mainly in Sweden, during the period 1940-1970. Meetings and conflicts between experiential and scientific knowledge in cross-country skiing were the focus. The aim was to study the ways in which scientific training methods have been created

Svensson  
Funding agency: Swedish National Centre for Research in Sports  
Duration: 2011-2016

### Markets, Spatial Order and Sustainable Urban Futures: Porti Franchi and the Spatial History of the Market

Project leader: Sverker Sörlin  
Project participants at the Division: Sverker Sörlin, Jesper Meijling  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2010-2015

and motivated and what impact these methods have had among the athletes and coaches in elite cross country skiing. Today, the role of science in athletic exercise and performance is obvious. However, this has not always been the case, and there is still a lively debate about scientific training methods within the cross-country skiing society. One of the main centers for physiological research about exercise has been the Royal Central Institute of Gymnastics (GCI) in Stockholm. GCI have made important and globally recognized contributions to physiology. Some of these results have been important for sports, not least cross-country skiing. Within the project we have tried to answer the following questions: when, where and how were scientific training methods introduced? What purpose did the researchers have to pursue this direction of research? How did the scientific results affect the practice of elite cross country skiers and coaches? How did scientists and practitioners follow up and secure the results of scientific training?

**The purpose of this project** is to analyse the market as an integrated dimension of urban planning and design – the market as a marketplace: its spatial order and relation to planning. The research will be chiefly historical and will focus on the free market towns, the *porti franchi*, starting in Italy in the 17th and 18th centuries. The study will thus concentrate on beginnings. Comparisons will be made with current urban design where marketization is again a structuring factor with uncertain consequences for sustainable urban futures. The early spatial organization of the market place will thus speak to the present and vice versa. The *porti franchi* appear like a series of “innovative milieu,” with distinct common traits, scattered across Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. The project will uncover the spatial programming of the market place by means of studying what could be defined as its constitution (its legal and political design) and its situation (the resulting physical design object), both in relation to what is here termed spatial planning technologies. Understanding the spatial “subtext” or “grammar” of the capitalist market should be useful for the planning and management of new market situations (“market solutions”) in defined areas and built spaces, a recurrent case in an increasing number of public sector structures today (public buildings, suburban shopping centres, hospital areas, etc.) with grave risks of becoming obstacles to sustainability.

### Saving Nature: Conservation Technologies from the Bibli-cal Ark to the Digital Archive

Project leader: Sabine Höhler  
Participants at the Division: Anna Svensson  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2015-2017

**This project analyzes** collecting and classification practices in the history of botany as technologies of conservation. Nature conservation is most commonly associated with protecting nature from human-induced destruction, as in the case of biodiversity conservation. However, protective measures are built on a number of conservation technologies: preserving objects through collecting and stabilizing objects through classification. Since the early modern period, increasingly sophisticated technologies have been developed to organize and preserve as well as transport and transcribe collected items.

The project takes a diachronic approach – from the beginning of the systematic collecting of plants for scientific purposes in the early modern period to the botanical databases of the present. Adopting a comparative perspective, we aim to understand the practice and the meaning of nature collections in shifting historical contexts. Studying the similarities and differences in epistemology, architecture, infrastructure and economy of collections, we explore why and how collecting and archiving nature became so central to projects of nature conservation. The project brings together expertise from across history of science, cultural history, literature studies and museum studies to explore writing comparative history with the aim of enabling early modern and modern historians to mutually benefit from their specific knowledge and perspectives.

### Between Science and Politics: How Arctic Research Survived and Thrived in the Cold War – and Beyond

Project leader: Peder Roberts  
Participants at the Division: Lize-Marié van der Watt  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2015-2017

**The Arctic is** currently the subject of a great deal of well-funded scientific research – much of it coming from Sweden. This project explores how Arctic research emerged as an important field after 1945, how it changed throughout the Cold War and what legacies this period of considerable growth and change has left in terms of current Arctic science politics. How did the emergence of the Arctic as a vital military theater after 1945 shape research agendas? What role did the broader shift toward ecological consciousness play in making the Arctic a valuable site for environmental monitoring – and how important were military surveillance technologies in facilitating such projects? Can we think of Arctic research as a site for international cooperation in addition to a matter for national agencies? The project involves a comparative study of institutions, namely the Arctic Institute of North America (Canada and the United States), the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (USSR/Russia), and the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat. Through a

focus on the bodies that organized and facilitated research, we will explore how and why different research fields came to be prioritized at different times, to what extent collaboration across national borders was possible and, perhaps most importantly, how Arctic knowledge production became regarded as a worthy subject of state support. Based at the Division, the project also involves partners at the Higher School of Economics in St Petersburg.

### 50 Years in Space: Documenting Swedish Space Activities

Project leader: Nina Wormbs  
Participants at the Division: Nina Wormbs and Johan Gärdebo  
Funding agency: Swedish National Space Board  
Duration: 2016-2017

**This project aims** to document Swedish space history through interviews, witness seminars and the gathering of personal recollections. It builds on the experience from Från matematikmaskin till IT and wants to contribute to the understanding of the multifaceted Swedish activities in relation to space in academia, industry and the state.

### Writing with Undisciplined Discipline: An Environmental Humanities Workshop

Project leader: Jesse Don Peterson  
Project participants at the Division: Irma Allen, Johan Gärdebo, María Isabel Ramos-Perez, Daniele Valisena  
Funding agency: The Seed Box: A Mistra-Formas Environmental Humanities Collaboratory  
Duration: 2016-2017

**This workshop experiments** with undisciplining disciplinary writing practices in academic scholarship, particularly in the humanities. The workshop divides time between small group discussions and close readings with strategy and training sessions where participants practice and experiment with writing techniques informed by the environmental humanities.

The two-day workshop also serves as a springboard to develop a Swedish environmental humanities network through writing practice and sharing. This project takes steps towards developing an on-going writing-support network; ideas and proposals for future workshops, papers and conferences at national and international levels; and interdisciplinary, collaborative and experimental texts in environmental humanities.

By achieving these aims, the workshop addresses how to not just improve scholarly writing but also enhance its scientific rigor and, at the same time, broaden the audience for environmental humanities work.

### Understanding Marine Environmental Change: Ocean Narratives From 1950 to the Present

Project leader: Susanna Lidström  
Project participants at the Division: Susanna Lidström  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2016-2020

Oceans are key indicators of global environmental change and play a central role in the earth's climate, especially the high seas with its vast volumes of water. At the same time, the high seas are a difficult environment to govern and protect. Marine scientists argue that the way we have understood the oceans in the past needs to be radically changed in order to facilitate more and better marine policies and protection. To effect that change, we need not just new science and technologies but also profoundly new stories that can transform how we regard the sea. This project studies how these new stories take form in the genre of non-fiction ocean literature and examines public science writing about the sea in relation to contemporary societal and academic developments of environmental thought.

### Mining Heritage as a Resource for Sustainable Communities: Lessons for Sweden from the Arctic

Project leader: Dag Avango  
Participants at the Division: Peder Roberts  
Participants at other universities: Albina Pashkevich (Dalarnas Högskola)  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2016-2019

This project is conducted in close interaction with the Nordic Centre of Excellence REXSAC – Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities. The project examines the legacies of mining in the context of communities around the northern parts of the Nordic countries, in order to inform contemporary discussions on the future of mining communities in northern Sweden. The material remains of mining – from ecological damage to operational equipment and transport infrastructure – persist long after the end of activities and the end of mining-generated income. Mining sites are often sites of cultural memory, central to the identity of the communities that depended upon them. Yet different communities have taken very different approaches to these legacies, from actively incorporating them into new economies (tourism in particular) to leaving them behind with no further consideration.

In this project, researchers from KTH cooperate with scholars from Dalarnas Högskola, using approaches from industrial and cultural heritage studies in addition to history and archeology to understand the conditions under which Arctic mining legacies become particular resources for local communities. Through field studies, archive work and interviews with stakeholders, we explore how even the most physically resistant mining legacies are constantly open for reinterpretation by different groups and thus able to support different visions for the future of local communities. In comparison to the research project with a similar name funded by VR (see below), this research project focuses

less on environmental legacies of mining and more on the development of mining tourism and heritage tourism.

### Mining Heritage as a Resource for Sustainable Communities

Project leader: Dag Avango  
Participants at the Division: Peder Roberts, Camilla Winqvist  
Participants at other universities: Ninis Rosqvist (Stockholm University)  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2016-2021

This project examines the legacies of mining in the context of communities around the Nordic regions of the Arctic in order to inform contemporary discussions on the future of mining communities in the Nordic Arctic. The project is conducted in close cooperation with the Nordic Centre of Excellence REXSAC – Resource Extraction and Sustainable Arctic Communities. At the heart of the project is the material remains of mining, from ecological damage to operational equipment and infrastructures that persist long after the end of activities and the end of mining-generated incomes. Mining sites are often sites of cultural memory, central to the identity of the communities that depended upon them. Yet different communities have taken very different approaches to these legacies, from actively interpreting them as industrial heritage, using them as a basis for new economies, to leaving them as non-economic places of local memory.



Luleälven, Norrbotten. Photo: Dag Avango.

In this research project researchers from KTH and Stockholm University cooperate to explore how communities in the Arctic can handle the material and immaterial legacies of mining when building post-industrial futures. We use approaches from industrial and cultural heritage studies, history, archaeology, and physical geography to understand how communities can deal with legacies of mining – societal as well as environmental. Through field research, archive work and interviews with stakeholders, we explore how even the most physically resistant mining legacies are constantly open for reinterpretation by different groups and thus able to support different visions for the future of local communities. With mining in the Arctic as a subject of intense contemporary debate and the future of mining communities in Norrbotten under considerable scrutiny, lessons from around the Arctic can help inform responsible decision-making.

### The Role of Local Innovation for a Transformative Shift Towards Sustainable Water and Sanitation in African Cities

Project leader: David Nilsson  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2016-2018

**Despite decades of reforms** and numerous pilot projects, huge service inequalities persist in access to water supply and sanitation (WSS) in African cities. The WSS systems in Africa seem not to follow the historical development pattern of similar systems in the North, and existing change theories are ill-suited to African contexts. This project aims at developing and promoting knowledge about how local innovation can contribute to a transformation of these systems for a more equal access.

Our research involves case studies in three cities in Uganda and Kenya: Kampala, Kisumu and Nairobi. We focus on WSS in low-income areas, including technical as well as organisational innovations, and combine secondary sources with primary data collected in the field. The case studies will help us to adapt existing theoretical models to the African city context based on well-established theories on change and innovation such as Large Technical Systems, Multi Level Perspective and Strategic Niche Management. We analyse the interface between local level innovation and the existing socio-technical regimes, as well as contextual landscape factors such as societal values, economy, human rights, etc. Essentially, we believe that much more needs to be understood about the processes or alignment between these three different levels in order to enable a transformative shift towards sustainable water and sanitation services in African cities.



Joint workshop with participants from Uganda and Kenya. Photo: David Nilsson.

The project is carried out over three years by KTH researchers David Nilsson (Div. for History of Science, Technology and Environment) and Pär Blomkvist (Div. for Industrial Dynamics), combining expertise on Africa, water and sanitation, history, technology change and innovation. We also collaborate with University of Nairobi (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda), Stockholm International Water Institute and local organisations in Kenya and Uganda.

A first scientific output from the project was an article by David Nilsson (2016), published in NTM Journal of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, titled: “The Unseeing State: How Ideals of Modernity Have Undermined Innovation in Africa’s Urban Water Systems”

### The Social Ecology of Natural Resource Exploitation

Project leader: Gunnel Cederlöf  
Participants at the division: Dag Avango, Peder Roberts  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2015-2016

**Global links and** critical environments in India, Scandinavia and the Arctic allow us to find common and comparative grounds for research on social ecology, rural and urban heritage studies and natural-resources exploitation in Indian, Scandinavian and Arctic environments. While India is emerging on the global scene as an economic power at high human and environmental costs, Scandinavia and the Arctic respond by increasing extraction sites for

industrial exploitation of minerals and energy sources. The changing scene calls for comparative studies across otherwise rarely associated regions. By organising two reciprocal workshops on core aspects of the larger theme, we aim to invite scholars specialised in Indian, Scandinavian or Arctic research. The ambition is to facilitate the formation of a new empirical and conceptual field in environmental humanities and social sciences. The first workshop discusses “The social ecology of natural resource exploitation” (KTH 2015) and the second “Global views on local urban ecologies: heritage, development, urban planning” (Delhi 2016).

### India-China Corridor

Project leader: Gunnel Cederlöf  
Participants at the division: Dag Avango, Peder Roberts  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2015-2017

**This project studies** the formation of polities in the India-China Corridor during the establishment of the British Empire in Asia. It investigates two related aspects: the role of natural conditions and the impact of human mobility on the formation of subjects and polities in the region connecting Bengal and Yunnan, conceptualized as the India-China “Corridor.” This is a heterogeneous region. Diverse ecologies and societies have made for complex spatial politics. Climatic conditions and varied topographies have generated flexible livelihoods and forms of social control. Its millennium-old communication routes connected two empires, the Chinese and Mughal India. The paths crossed resource-rich territories that linked Central and East Asia with global trade via the Bay of Bengal. At the coast and port cities, the finely textured web of overland routes met with equally fine-meshed sea routes. Though at the margin of empires, the region was globally connected and even local markets sold English handkerchiefs and Chinese silks. The region changed dramatically in the modern period.

From the late 19th century onwards, governments strove to replace the early-modern commercial and human flows with strict controls on movement, and, in the 20th century, nation-state borders closed. Strategic rivalries, territorial contests and inner political tensions have significantly altered societies along this important trans-regional connective corridor. Though marked by colonial and imperial politics, the Cold War and troubled modern nation-state formation, the region is once again opening up to the world economy, immediately drawing global attention. Today, India and China are rapidly emerging as global powers. Emphasising the flows within and across the region, this project will develop the India-China “Corridor” as a concept to elaborate the complex interaction of humans, knowledge and nature under the impact of fluctuating climatic conditions and changing political landscapes.

The project targets the turn of the tide, the transformative century 1820-1920, when the British and Chinese empires took hold of the region. Thus, it connects historical research that hereto has been separated into either early-modern state-centred and Silk Road history or the history of modern state formation and ethno-histories. Van Schendel (2005a&b) questions such territorial epistemologies that produce “methodological nationalism” and coins the concept “Zomia” to stress commonalities in the mountain region from Afghanistan to Vietnam and China. As a methodological innovation and rereading of the historical records, this project transgresses the Regional Studies framework by spanning South, Southeast and East Asia. Through analyses of spatial conceptions, the project enables novel historical research on one of the present-day world’s geopolitically most strategic regions. The last century’s political events cannot be understood properly without such temporal and spatial reframing. The project asks: What is the impact of natural conditions and mobility on the formation of new polities and forms of governance when the British Empire established control in the India-China Corridor?

The project aims to accomplish four objectives: 1) to establish a general historical trajectory of climate and ecological change in the region across the 19th century; 2) to examine the formation of governance and polity under colonial rule from the aspect of subject and citizen rights, with a specific focus on minority politics, mobility and migration, including querying whether subject rights formed in particular ways in this geopolitically sensitive “Corridor”; 3) to explore the significance of mobility in the context of security and global trade and 4) to develop the concept the India-China “Corridor” to enable comparative history within the large region. In sum: What are the historical and contemporary social and natural forces that shaped this keyzone of India-China relations?

### **Omvandling och fasta tillstånd: Materialvetenskapens etablering vid svenska universitet**

Project leader: Johan Gribbe  
Funding agency: Vinnova  
Duration: 2016

**Materials science is** a cross-disciplinary research field with roots in several classic natural sciences disciplines and strong links to applications in several commercially relevant areas of technological development. It emerged in the mid-20th century by the recombination of scientific ambitions and experimental opportunities foremost in physics, chemistry, metallurgy and engineering. In Sweden, the first traces of university research activities in what would become materials science are seen in the early 1960s, and

a decade later several activities had been added, some of which also used the name “materials science” as a novel, cross-disciplinary scientific identity. Since the early- to mid-1970s, materials science has gradually grown to become an area of strength of Swedish science.

This project explores the evolution of the field of materials science within Swedish universities during the last fifty years. The project resulted in the report *Omvandling och fasta tillstånd: Materialvetenskapens etablering vid svenska universitet* (Vinnova analys 2016:06), published in October 2016.

### Strategic Action and Response Strategies in a Changing Swedish Higher Education Landscape 1993-2013

Project leader: Lars Geschwind  
(The School of Education and Communication in Engineering Science - KTH)  
Participants at the Division: Mats Benner, Katarina Larsen  
Funding agency: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond  
Duration: 2015-2017

**Universities have a** broad range of missions in society: as guarantors of academic integrity, providers of professional training and partners in social and economic change processes. Historically, the management of these roles has been implicit, where governments have steered universities via detailed and piecemeal regulations of funding, employment conditions, organisation, etc. However, the current governance model downplays detailed regulations, expecting universities to identify their own strategies and missions. In the light of this transformation, our main interest lies in how universities interpret and act upon these new regulatory conditions. How do they develop leadership roles, organisational structures, plans and models for priority-setting, external relations and recruitment to meet these expectations but also to maintain their internal organisational relations? We take a longitudinal and comparative approach to these issues, starting with the early 1990s and ending at present times. Key concepts are rationalisation, renewal/continuity and sense-making processes. The issue we are raising resonates with cutting edge issues in higher education policy, engineering education and research policy. Our approach, a focus on how initiatives are framed and legitimised with a comparison across institutional models and settings within a common scientific area (Engineering/Technology), is original.

### Where is Science Going?: Research Governance and Scientific Impact in Asia

Project leader: Mats Benner  
Funding agency: Knut och Alice Wallenbergs Stiftelse  
Duration: 2015-2020

**The aim of** the proposed project is to inquire into the scientific investments made in China, India, Japan, South Korea and Singapore over the last decade (2000-2015), asking how their scientific profiles have evolved in terms of national and international collaboration, renewal and composition of the research cadre, institutional publication and impact patterns. This will in turn be related to the institutional configurations of research gov-

ernance in the countries. On the basis of this research, we will be able to portray a coherent picture of the evolution of research in these countries and how their research governance model(s) are evolving. We will also be able to shed light on the linkages between these research systems and those of European and North American countries, including whether they represent attractive collaborate nodes in the multipolar research system and how collaborative models with them could and should be devised. We will also examine the degree to which funding and governance models in the identified countries nurture transformative research. Does the increased productivity of research in these countries match their long-term impact, and if this is the case can we define a “transformative index”?

### Universities as Societal Pillars? A Platform for Research on the Impact of University

Project leader: Mats Benner  
Funding agency: Vinnova  
Duration: 2015-2021

**The proposed project** explores how universities operate, how they interact with their environments, and how that interplay shapes how they organize their core activities. The project assumes that universities worldwide share many characteristics but that universities also differ significantly depending on their historical evolution and their local and national embeddedness. To illuminate this, this project will study how universities interact with governments, funders and stakeholders, how they structure their tasks, and how they shape the relationship between funding, organization and the aforementioned activities.

The project outlines how the different tasks and missions of universities have evolved over time, how a historical pattern of relationships between tasks and authority have developed in Sweden in the last 100 years in particular and how that pattern shapes contemporary conditions in Swedish universities. It relates the missions of the university to institutional specificities, such as patterns of state governance, interplay with stakeholders in industry, government and civil society, and the division of labour between universities and other providers of research and education and vice versa, that the institutional properties of universities shape how policies, funding arrangements and other forms of patronage are being formulated and implemented. It seeks to elucidate differences and similarities in the institutionalization (and change) of universities within three different contexts: Sweden, the UK and Germany, and using relevant comparisons with the evolution of university roles in North America and Asia.



**Urban environments** often give rise to conflicts that in turn can help to understand more structural conflicts in a society. During his ethnographic field work in Cape Town, Henrik Ernstson has followed a struggle to stop a shopping mall at the Princess Vlei wetland from where this photo is taken. Photo: Henrik Ernstson, 2013.

### Ways of Knowing Urban Ecologies (WOK-UE)

Project leader: Henrik Ernstson  
Participants at the Division: Jacob von Heland and Sverker Sörlin.  
Project members: Marnie Graham, Macquarie University; Jane Battersby, University of Cape Town; Mary Lawhon, University of Oklahoma; Anna Storm, Stockholm University; Joshua Lewis, Tulane University.  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2011-2016

**This project has** developed knowledge around social, cultural and political dimensions of urban ecology and natural resource management in urban spaces with a particular focus on Cape Town in South Africa. This has led to four in-depth case studies across a highly unequal gradient from rich to poor and white to black that have surfaced tensions and contested understandings of urban nature in postcolonial and post-apartheid contexts, including how plants, sand dunes, urban forests and wetlands form part in social practices of articulating alternative knowledges in relation to scientific practices. Across all studies, the multiple and sometimes silenced histories of Cape Town become highly active and performative in how conflicts and resolutions are played out. A parallel case study has also been developed in New Orleans, USA (see the MOVE project). The WOK-UE project has been key in developing several vibrant collaborations, platforms and research projects including: The Situated Urban Political Ecologies Collective (SUPE) with work in several African and global South cities (see the projects HICCUP and TLR in particular); The Situated Ecologies Platform, curated by Henrik Ernstson with “Tactical Symbiotics,” a collaboration with Konstfack’s Martín Ávila around design, ecology and bio-semiotics; The Visual Environmental Humanities, with researcher and film-maker Jacob von Heland (with the film *One Table Two Elephants*). The project has produced an upcoming edited volume with MIT Press, *Grounding Urban Na-*

*tures: Histories and Futures of Urban Ecologies* edited by Henrik Ernstson and Sverker Sörlin.

### Socioecological Movements in Urban Ecosystems (MOVE)

Project leader: Henrik Ernstson  
Project Members: Joshua Lewis, Tulane University; Mario Diani, Trento University; Pippin Anderson, University of Cape Town; Wayne Zipperer, USDA Forest Services; Lorien Jasny, University of Exeter; Susan Parnell, University of Cape Town; Thomas Elmqvist, Stockholm University.  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2012-2017

**The MOVE project** investigates urbanized ecosystems as ‘bastard ecologies’ that have emerged through hotly contested geographies that have created new interactions between humans, species, vegetation, and the built environment and created novel versions of ‘the living’. Through this lens, and working with a highly interdisciplinary team, the MOVE project works to understand how various forms of human collective action can be viewed as not only producing cultural, social or political changes, but also biophysical and ecological changes.

The study compares how historical investment patterns and urban planning paradigms in Cape Town and New Orleans, two port-cities with a long history of systematic apartheid and racial segregation, have produced cultural and environmental changes and how civil society organizations in the contemporary situation mobilize around and through this historically patterned urban environment. We use ecological vegetation studies and archival material, paired with in-depth case studies in historically marginalized Black/Coloured neighborhoods in Cape Town and New Orleans. The project includes the CIVNET project that has interviewed and analysed the fragmented social network of over 120 civil society organisations in Cape Town. Theoretically the project works to combine ecological and social sciences to develop situated urban political ecological (SUPE) accounts and socioecological analyses.

### The FILM: Ways of Knowing Urban Nature, “One Table Two Elephants”

Project leaders: Jacob von Heland and Henrik Ernstson  
Funding agency: Formas  
Duration: 2014-2017

**The film “One Table Two Elephants”** is a film about knowledge and urban nature developed by Jacob von Heland and Henrik Ernstson. It forms part of the “Ways of Knowing Urban Ecologies” research project (PI Henrik Ernstson) and an associated Communication Project Grant from Formas (PI Jacob von Heland) that is producing a documentary film essay that takes place in Cape Town while also reflecting on what it means to use film as a tool for research within the Environmental Humanities. A first version of the film has been seen by hundreds and also led to the funding of a new grant into the Visual Environmental Humanities.

### HICCUP — Heterogeneous Infrastructures of Cities in Uganda Project: Thinking Infrastructure with the South

Project leader: Henrik Ernstson  
Project members: Shuaib Lwasa, Makerere University; Jonathan Silver, Sheffield University; Mary Lawhon, University of Oklahoma; and Peter Kaisajja, Makerere University  
Funding Agency: Swedish Research Council  
Duration: 2016-2019

**Building on African** urbanist literature, the HICCUP project challenges the notion of the “infrastructure ideal”, the goal that service provision should be created through a uniform solution throughout the city. Instead, the project focuses on describing and analyzing the much wider landscape of infrastructure configurations that poor urban dwellers have created and fought for to improve services in relation to state and private sectors. This landscape of “heterogeneous infrastructure configurations” are deeply embedded in everyday realities, while connected to local-to-international geographies and networks. In close collaboration with Makerere University in Kampala, we are developing in-depth urban infrastructure ethnographies, which will be complemented with historical archival research and oral histories, alongside the spatial mapping of formal/informal infrastructure arrangements across Kampala. The project contributes to a vibrant and emergent literature to develop situated and political ecological frameworks to explain how infrastructure services are navigated, distributed and fought over, and how more just and sustainable cities can be achieved, particularly in the global South.

### Turning Livelihoods to Rubbish? Impacts of Formalisation, Financialisation and Technologization of Waste Management

Project leader: Henrik Ernstson (Co-PI)  
Project members: Erik Swyngedouw, University of Manchester (PI); Mary Lawhon, University of Oklahoma (Co-PI); Nate Millington, University of Cape Town; Kathleen Stokes, University of Manchester; Anesu Makina, University of Florida.  
Duration: 2015-2018

**The TLR project** examines global trends in waste management which are reducing access to the livelihoods generated from waste for the urban poor. Environmental concerns from different actors, and awareness of the financial benefits of waste are contributing to the formalization, the financialisation, and the use of technology to replace labour of handling waste. This could improve health for the urban poor, but also undermine livelihoods developed around waste and recycling and feeds into a wider arena of governance responsibilities. We are examining specific interventions in South African waste management, from collaborative efforts between state and civil society to contested issues of using incineration to burn waste. In parallel we will trace national-to-international waste business/state capital relations, in particular those linked to the UN’s clean development mechanisms and carbon markets. Together this seeks to understand competing claims to waste and the governance processes through which these claims are adjudicated. In collaboration with partners we will do desk-top research on the situation in Ghana and Uganda to increase comparability of our research to low-income countries of Southern Africa. Theoretically we draw upon research in urban political ecology and development studies.

### The United Toxic Autobiographies of Europe – TOXICBIO

Project leader: Marco Armiero  
Participants at the Division: Ilenia Iengo  
Funding agency: The Seed Box: A Mistra-Formas Environmental Humanities Collaboratory  
Duration: 2016-2017

**This capacity-building project** aims to foster the production and collection of toxic autobiographies in collaboration with grassroots associations and local researchers. A new genre in the US environmental writing, toxic autobiography is a distinct product of marginalized groups denouncing the environmental injustice in which they feel trapped (Newman). As such, toxic autobiographies are a prototype of counter-history, challenging mainstream narratives on progress, common good, and science. They represent a unique blend of narrative and history, of science and politics, of personal and collective. As a literary genre, toxic autobiographies are almost absent in Europe. This is related to the double weakness of environmental justice in Europe, both as a social movement and a scholarly field of study.

Environmental (in)justice is not only occurring in places but also in the lives and bodies of people. It does not happen only in the present but it is also embedded into the memories of those who have been exposed to unequal environmental risks. We are proposing a modular project composed by two interconnected segments: The Guerrilla Narrative Labs and the TOXICBIO digital platform. With the expression ‘Guerrilla Narrative’ we mean the occupation of the mainstream memory with counter hegemonic storytelling and the sabotage of toxic narratives, that is, of narratives which reproduce/silence injustice. Our team will design an online platform dedicated to the gathering of Toxic Autobiographies.

### Environmental Humanities for a Concerned Europe, ENHANCE

Project leader: Marco Armiero  
Participants at the Division: Irma Allen, Anne Gough, Jesse Petersen, Daniele Valisena  
Funding agency: European Training Networks (ETN)  
Duration: 2015-2019

**Environmental Humanities** is a relatively new but rapidly expanding field that complements environmental science and public policy by focusing on the cultural, historical, and ethical dimensions of environmental issues. The field has attracted several interdisciplinary research networks linking academic partners in Europe as well as in the two countries that have led the way so far, Australia and the US.

At present, however, there is no single training programme designed to provide analytical and complementary skills to inexperienced researchers across Europe in this research area; nor is there a coordinated European network whose explicit purpose is to build links between humanities-based research and the work of associated partners in those green businesses,

sustainable industries, and cultural and environmental organisations that are committed to finding new ways of addressing ecological issues and managing technological change.

ENHANCE will do both of these things by joining the forces of four European centres of expertise in Environmental Humanities – the University of Leeds (UL), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich (LMU), the Deutsches Museum, Munich (DM), and the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm (KTH) – and by providing intersectoral training that will lead to career pathways through several related areas, including environmental consultancy, research and development, museum and heritage management, green business, sustainable technologies, media and communications industries, and not-for-profit work. The network's five intersectoral Associated Partners (APs) – Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Stiftung Bündnis Mensch & Tier, Sveriges Radio, and the Capannori Research Center for Zero Waste (CRRZ) – will contribute to and benefit from the research programme through secondments that integrate cultural, historical, and ethical understanding of relevant environmental issues with public, third sector, and industry interests. ENHANCE will also contribute to European policy on environmental adaptation, with a particular emphasis on minimizing risks from climatic change and conserving cultural and environmental heritage.

### **Climate Security with Local Authorities (CLISEL) From Insecurity Takers to Security Makers: Mobilizing Local Authorities to Secure the EU Against the Impacts of Climate Change in Third Countries**

Project leader: Ilenia Ruggiu (THE UNIVERSITY OF CAGLIARI)  
Participants at the Division: Marco Armiero (Local Coordinator); Ethemcan Turhan  
Funding agency: European Commission  
Duration: 2016-2019

**CLISEL proposes an** innovative approach to the question of how Europe can be secured from the impacts of climate change in third countries. Most academic and policy initiatives to date have focused on the direct security impacts of climate change in Third Countries and/or on the indirect impacts on international security (e.g. concerning regional economic or political stability). While those initiatives offer invaluable insights, CLISEL is based on the presumption that many indirect impacts on Europe's security emerge and are felt on the local scale, within Europe itself. This is overlooked by most existing initiatives on the so-called climate-security nexus, and the conditions under which local authorities act upon climate change (in)security within their operations are not well understood.

To fill this gap, CLISEL explores the climate-security nexus from the perspective of local authorities and communities, based on the

idea that innovations in the exercise of regulatory power at local level can contribute to enhance the understanding of the indirect security implications of climate change in third countries. In particular, CLISEL looks at the issue of climate-induced migration, an issue often cited as an indirect security dimension of climate change, from the perspective of local administrators in Sardinia (Italy). The aim is to understand the extent to which migrants from ecologically vulnerable third countries are perceived as a security issue, the reasons why that is (not) the case, as well as the policies and actions through which local administrators can ward off the emergence of a security crisis within their territory.

Sardinia was chosen for several reasons: Sardinia is a region of southern Europe that currently facing the problem of irregular disembarkments of boats coming from Africa and has urgent security issues; at the same time it hosts a population of immigrants who have been settled there for at least 20 years and its communities have a tradition of hospitality.

### **HoNESt (History of Nuclear Energy and Society)**

Project leader: Arne Kaijser  
Participants at the Division: Arne Kaijser.  
Funding agency: European Commission  
Duration: 2015-2019

**HoNESt (History of Nuclear Energy and Society)** involves an interdisciplinary team with many experienced researchers and 24 high profile research institutions. HoNESt's goal is to conduct a three-year interdisciplinary analysis of the experience of nuclear developments and its relationship to contemporary society with the aim of improving the understanding of the dynamics over the last 60 years. HoNESt's results will assist the current debate on future energy sources and the transition to affordable, secure and clean energy production.

Civil society's interaction with nuclear developments changes over time; and it is locally, nationally and transnationally specific. HoNESt will embrace the complexity of political, technological and economic challenges; safety; risk perception and communication, public engagement, media framing and social movements; etc. Research on these interactions has thus far been mostly fragmented. We will develop a pioneering integrated interdisciplinary approach, which is conceptually informed by Large Technological Systems (LTS) and Integrated Socio-technical System (IST), based on a close and innovative collaboration of historians and social scientists in this field. HoNESt will first collect extensive historical data from over 20 countries. Historians and social scientists, through the lens of an

innovative integrated approach, will jointly analyze these data in order to improve our understanding of the mechanisms underlying decision-making and associated citizen engagement with nuclear power. Through an innovative application of backcasting techniques, HoNESt will bring novel content to the debate on nuclear sustainable engagement futures. Looking backwards to the present, HoNESt will strategize and plan how these suitable engagement futures could be achieved. HoNESt will engage key stakeholders from industry, policy makers and civil society in a structured dialogue to insert the results into the public debate on nuclear energy.

### Colonial Natural Resources and Swedish Foreign Policy 1914-1989

Project leader: Per Högselius  
Funding agency: The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences  
Duration: 2015-2018

**The project explores**, from a Swedish perspective, the interaction between two central features of what historians have called the “short twentieth century” (1914-1989): the unprecedented geopolitical turbulence during the period and the explosive growth of global natural resource extraction that supplied rapidly growing industrial economies. The project will contribute to new perspectives on Swedish foreign, security and industrial policy and to recent debates on the “colonialist history of non-colonialist countries.”

We will test three hypotheses: (1) colonial natural resources became so important for Swedish industry that the government found it necessary to actively support Swedish involvement in what may be called “global resource colonialism”; (2) the government made active use of colonial natural resources as a foreign policy tool in its efforts to build stable political relations with resource-rich countries and regions in the (post)colonial world; and (3) Sweden’s neutrality policy and official status as a non-aligned country proved instrumental in strengthening Swedish (post)colonial resource interests.

Using a theoretical framework built on the concepts of “strategic resources,” “securitization,” “economic vs. political levers,” and “national styles,” we explore the links between Swedish industrial and political actors in three resource-rich colonial regions: Africa, Siberia/Central Asia and the Arctic.

### World Heritage and Local Communities

Participants at the Division: Kati Lindström  
Funding Agency: Shizuoka Prefectural Government, Japan  
Duration: 2015-2018

**This project is** commissioned by the World Heritage Centre Division at Shizuoka Prefectural Government and asks how does local population at Mt Fuji World Heritage site and other Japanese world heritage nominations relate to the “outstanding universal value” extrapolated by global experts and whether or not the Eurocentric expert terms in which heritage is conceptualised (“nature,” “culture,” “heritage,” “religion” and “progress,” to name a few) accommodate the values and lifestyles of local inhabitants. The core of the project is *Fujisan, sacred place and source of artistic inspiration*, inscribed in the World Heritage List in 2013, but some comparative field work is carried out on other Japanese world heritage nominations as well, for example at *Tomioka Silk Mill and related sites* and *Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution*.



**Surveying** the component sites of the Mt Fuji World Heritage at the Fifth Station of Yoshida Ascent (ca 2400 m) on Mt Fuji. (Under the grant World Heritage and Local Communities from Shizuoka Prefectural Government). Photo: Kati Lindström.

### Research Aid Revisited

Project leader: Sverker Sörlin  
Participants at the Division: Sverker Sörlin and David Nilsson  
Funding Agency: The Expert Group for Aid Studies/Expertgruppen för biståndsanalys, EBA.  
Duration: February 2016-May 2017.

**What role should** research aid have in future Swedish development assistance? How should we understand research aid in relation to aid in general and to Swedish research policy? This study will analyze, from a historical perspective, Swedish research aid as part of the Swedish development cooperation and as a part of Swedish and international research policy from the 1970s until today. The study will focus both on aid efforts for the strengthening of research capacities in place in developing countries and on aid-financed development research carried out in Sweden. The findings will then be used to assess different policy options for research aid given the global challenges and changes that affect the research agenda and the world, not least after the financial crisis of 2008. The authors will discuss possible changes of future research aid role, policy and direction in the light of the various global changes and challenges. Working title: “Understanding Swedish research aid in the current state of world development – a historically grounded analysis of future policy options.”

### Integrative Knowledge Environments – in a World Facing Transformative Challenges

Project leaders: Anders Ekström, Department of History of Science and Ideas, Uppsala University, Sverker Sörlin. Assistant: Corinna Röver.  
Funding agency: Swedish Research Council, VR.  
Duration: 2015-2016.

This project consisted of two carefully prepared and curated workshops in 2016, one at the Swedish Research Council, VR, in January, the second at KTH in March. The background to the workshops was the interest in major societal transformations and the growing needs for new forms of knowledge production and dissemination. The focus was on integrative approaches. A total of 40 participants from the Nordic countries, Germany, Netherlands, and the UK discussed questions such as: What institutional forms are currently tested around the world? How should responsibilities and missions be distributed between different parts of the research and educational system? A report is available on: <https://publikationer.vr.se/produkt/integrativa-kunskapsmiljoer-rapport-fran-tva-seminarier-varen-2016/>

### Negotiating Pathways to Multifunctional Landscapes: A Pilot Model in the Jämtland Mountains

Project leader: Sverker Sörlin  
Participants at the Division: Sverker Sörlin, Daniel Svensson  
Funding Agency: Swedish Environmental Protection Agency  
Duration: 2016-2017

The mountain environment is simultaneously over-exploited and under-utilized. Consequently, the challenge is to enable and balance multifunctional use in ways that combine sustainable livelihood for local populations, recreational use, regional business development as well as national environmental goals related to both the natural and cultural environment. An essential starting point for the project will be to analyse and apply a landscape-based, expanded trail concept that encompasses more than existing physical trails. This trail concept will be used as a tool to engage different interests and to minimize conflicts between different users, while aiming to enhance the experiences and landscape values for all users. This approach is also highly relevant to various forms of nature conservation, which include current discussions about a new national park in the area.

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