

**CONCEPTUALISING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:
CRITICAL REFLECTIONS FROM RUSSIA, 18TH-20TH CENTURIES**

St Petersburg, 22-23 March 2013

Hosted by the European University at St Petersburg

Location: 3 Gagarinskaia ul., Golden Hall

Programme

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH

11:00 – 12:30. Session 1 – Environmental factors in contemporary Russian history

Denis Shaw, Mastering the regional environment: Soviet geographers and the Stalin Plan for the Transformation of Nature

Nikolai Dronin, Weathering the Soviet Countryside: The Impact of Climate and Agricultural Policies on Russian Grain Yields, 1958–2010

Irina Chernyakova, Olli-Pekka Tikkanen, Human impact on boreal forest landscape in retrospect: Vodlozero National Park (North-West Russia)

Discussant Jonathan Oldfield

Lunch 12:30-14:00

14:00 – 15:00. Session 2 - Eurasian connections

Andy Bruno, The Mineralogical View: Alexander Fersman's Conception of Eurasian Environments

Marc Elie, Desertification and biosphere: Soviet earth scientists, internationalization of science, and land degradation in the Eurasian steppes, 1968-1992

Discussant Anatoly Pinsky

Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30. Session 3 - Resources in critical times

Erki Tammiksaar, Industrial production of oil-shales in Eastern Estonia during WWI

Julia Lajus, Conceptualising fish resources during WWI and in early Soviet times: from local users to the state

Discussant David Moon

16:30 – 17:00 Summing-up discussion

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

10:30 – 11:30. Session 4 - Soil, water and forest resources in 19th century Russia I

Anastasia Fedotova, Forestry Experimental Stations, the projects of the 1870s

Kelly O'Neill, Mapping and management of rivers from the mid 18th century to approx. 1840s

Discussant Marina Loskutova

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30. Session 5 – Soil, water and forest resources in 19th century Russia II

David Moon, The steppes as fertile ground for innovation in conceptualizing human-nature relationships

Eric Johnson, Geographic factors behind the Russian famine of 1891

Marina Loskutova, Humboldtian science, local knowledge and Russian 'enlightened bureaucrats': soil and climate research in the Ministry of State Domains in the 1840s-1850s

Discussant Catherine Evtuhov

Lunch 13:30-14:30

14:30 – 15:30. Session 6 - Conceptualising Nature and Natural Resources in the 18th century I

Greg Afinogenov, Roots of Power: Natural Resources and the Genres of Sinology

Rachel Koroloff, Corresponding Gardens: The Botanical Collections of the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences and the Aptekarskii Prikaz in the first half of the eighteenth century

Discussant Alexandra Bekasova

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30. Session 5 - Conceptualising Nature and Natural Resources in the 18th century II

Julia Herzberg, A Cold Empire: Taming Frost in the 18th Century

Alexei Kraikovski, Dutch knowledge for Russian water - transfer of Dutch marine harvesting expertise to Russia in the 18th c.

Alexandra Bekasova, Academic travel practices and the making of knowledge about space, places, and people of the Russian Empire. 1760s – 1830s

Discussant Denis Shaw

1730 -1800 Summing-up discussion