



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

AMERIKA-INSTITUT
AMERIKANISCHE KULTURGESCHICHTE
DEPARTMENT FÜR ANGLISTIK UND AMERIKANISTIK



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Summer Semester 2023

How Green are the Germans?

Culture, History, and the Environment in Transatlantic Perspective

Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch (mauch@lmu.de)

3-6 ECTS credits

Credit Requirements

- regular and active class participation
- reading of texts
- oral presentation
 - research essay (ca. 25,000 characters plus additional work for 6 credits)

Course Description

Germany is globally seen as a successful environmental leader because of its renewable energy transition, environmental and climate protection, the nuclear power phase-out in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, and the rise of the Green Party. The US, on the other hand, has been criticized for its lax environmental regulations, high CO2 emissions and a "culture of waste". Where do the cultural imaginaries of the two countries come from? How valid are they?

This class examines the interaction between humans and the natural world in Germany in historical perspective; and it draws select comparisons with developments in the United States. We will study local and regional developments - through excursions and place-based workshops in Munich and Bavaria.

This seminar is part of a new Munich summer program offered by the Amerika-Institut during the summer term. It is open to LMU students and to students from US partner universities. The seminar is organized as a multiple-block seminar.

Course Schedule

Dates starting in mid-May through July (tbd)

4 block sessions and 2 full-day or two-day excursions.

Recommended Reading

Ault, Julia. *Saving Nature Under Socialism: Transnational Environmentalism in East Germany, 1968 – 1990*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Blackbourn, David. *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany*. Norton & Company, 2007.

Bruggemeier, Franz-Josef, Mark Cioc, Thomas Zeller, and Franz-Josef Brüggemeier. *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*. Ohio University Press, 2005.

Duerbeck, Gabriele, Urte Stobbe, Hubert Zapf, Evi Zemanek, Aaron Allen, Martin Bemann, Hannes Bergthaller, et al. *Ecological Thought in German Literature and Culture*. Lexington Books, 2019.

Kalb, Martin. *Environing Empire: Nature, Infrastructure and the Making of German Southwest Africa*. Berghahn Books, 2022.

Mauch, Christof. *Nature in German History*. Berghahn Books, 2004.

Mauch, Christof, and Thomas Zeller. *The World beyond the Windshield: Roads and Landscapes in the United States and Europe*. Ohio University Press, 2008.

Mauch, Christof, and Thomas Zeller. *Rivers in History. Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America*. University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.

McNeill, J., and Peter Engelke. *The Great Acceleration: An Environmental History of the Anthropocene since 1945*. Harvard University Press, 2016.

Milder, Stephen. *Greening Democracy: The Anti-Nuclear Movement and Political Environmentalism in West Germany and Beyond, 1968–1983*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Uekotter, Frank. *The Greenest Nation?: A New History of German Environmentalism*. The MIT Press, 2014.

Detailed Overview

Session 1

Nature and Industrialization around 1900

Assigned Readings

Mauch, Christof, and Kiran Patel. "Environment: Conservation vs. Exploitation." In *The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence*, edited by Christof Mauch and Kiran Patel, 180-193, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Uekötter, Frank. "Modern Times, Modern Problems: Controlling Smoke, 1880–1914." In *The Age of Smoke. Environmental Policy in Germany and the United States, 1880-1970*, edited by Frank Uekötter, 20-66, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009.

Rohkrämer, Thomas. "The Environment and Environmentalism." In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Imperial Germany*, edited by Matthew Jefferies, 317-332, Abingdon: Routledge, 2015.

Session 2

Assigned Readings:

Radkau, Joachim. "'The Desert Threatens': Environmental Fears in the Age of Crisis – the New Deal and Nazi Germany." In *The Age of Ecology. A Global History*, edited by Joachim Radkau, 46-60, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014.

Lekan, Thomas. "It Shall Be the Whole Landscape!" The Reich Nature Protection Law and Regional Planning in the Third Reich." In *How Green Were the Nazis? Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*, edited by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, 73-100, Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005.

Kirchhof, Astrid, and John R. McNeill. "Introduction: Environmentalism, Environmental Policy, Capitalism, and Communism." In *Nature and the Iron Curtain. Environmental Policy and Social Movements in Communist and Capitalist Countries, 1945-1990*, edited by Astrid Kirchhof and John R. McNeill, 3-14, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019.

Grady, Tim. "A Shared Environment: German-German Relations along the Border, 1945-72." *Journal of Contemporary History* 50, no. 3 (2015): 660–79.

Ault, Julia E. "Defending God's Creation? The Environment in State, Church and Society in the German Democratic Republic, 1975–1989." *German History*, Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2019: 205–226.

Friday, June 23 (Saturday June 24) Excursion (Bavarian National Park)

National Parks

Assigned Readings

Gissibl, Bernhard. "A Laboratory for the Implementation of "Wilderness" in Central Europe—The Bavarian Forest National Park." *Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia* (2014), no. 4.

Sunseri, Thaddeus. "Exploiting the *Urwald*: German Post-Colonial Forestry in Poland and Central Africa, 1900–1960." *Past & Present*, Volume 214, Issue 1 (2012): 305–342.

Jones, Karen. "Unpacking Yellowstone: The American National Park in Global Perspective." In *Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical Perspective*, edited by Bernhard Gissibl, Sabine Höhler and Pstrick Kupper, 31–49, New York: Berghahn Books, 2013.

Session 3

From the Conservation Movement to Political Ecology

Assigned Readings

Uekötter, Frank. "Getting in Motion: German Environmentalism, 1945 to 1980." In *The Greenest Nation? A New History of German Environmentalism*, edited by Frank Uekötter, 59-100, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2014.

Zelko, Frank. "The *Umweltmulti* Arrives: Greenpeace and Grass Roots Environmentalism in West Germany." *Australian Journal of Politics and History* 61 (2015): 397-413.

Milder, Stephen. "An "Other American". Petra Kelly and the Power of Green Politics in the United States." In *Making Sense of the Americas: How Protest Related to America in the 1980s and Beyond*, edited by Jan Hansen, Christian Helm and Frank Reichherzer, 245–65, Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2015.

Session 4

Fossil Fuels, Nuclear Power and Renewables: Germany's Contested Energy Mix in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Assigned Readings

Blackbourn, David. "The Culture and Politics of Energy in Germany: A Historical Perspective." *RCC Perspectives*, no. 4 (2013): 1–31.

Trischler, Helmuth, and Astrid Mignon Kirchhof. "The Long and Winded History of West Germany's Nuclear Phase-Out." In *Pathways into and out of Nuclear Power in Western Europe: Austria, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Sweden*, edited by Astrid Kirchhof, 124-169, München: Deutsches Museum Studies, 2020.

Morris, Craig, and Arne Jungjohann. "Energiewende: The Solution to More Problems Than Climate Change." In *Energy Democracy. Germany's ENERGIEWENDE to Renewables*, edited by Craig Morris and Arne Jungjohann, 1-14, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Schunz, Simon. "Transatlantic Relations and the Challenges of Climate Change and the Environment." In *Transatlantic Relations: Challenge and Resilience*, edited by Donald E. Abelson and Stephen Brooks, 79-100, London/New York: Routledge, 2022. Summer Semester 2023

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Rohkrämer, Thomas. "The Environment and Environmentalism." In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Imperial Germany*, edited by Matthew Jefferies, 317-332, Abingdon: Routledge, 2015.

Environment and Dictatorship: Nazi Germany and the GDR

Assigned Readings

Radkau, Joachim. "'The Desert Threatens': Environmental Fears in the Age of Crisis – the New Deal and Nazi Germany." In *The Age of Ecology. A Global History*, edited by Joachim Radkau, 46-60, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2014.

Lekan, Thomas. "It Shall Be the Whole Landscape!" The Reich Nature Protection Law and Regional Planning in the Third Reich." In *How Green Were the Nazis? Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*, edited by Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, Mark Cioc, and Thomas Zeller, 73-100, Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005.

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Excursion (Bavarian National Park)

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Excursion (Munich: Olympiapark and Isar River)

Urban Environments

Assigned Readings

Jochum, Georg. "Munich and Its Isar River: A Rafting Port on an Alpine River." *Environment & Society Portal, Arcadia* (2013), no. 18.

Kuen, Laura, Gesa Lüdecke, and Christof Mauch, eds., *Ecopolis Munich: Stories of Discovery*, Munich: Rachel Carson Center 2020

Lübken, Uwe. "Rivers and Risk in the City: The Urban Floodplain as a Contested Space." In *Urban Rivers: Remaking Rivers, Cities, and Space in Europe and North America*, edited by Stéphane Castonguay and Matthew Evenden, Lübken, Uwe. "Rivers and Risk in the City: The Urban Floodplain as a Contested Space." In *Urban Rivers: Remaking Rivers, Cities, and Space in Europe and North America*, edited by Stéphane Castonguay and Matthew Evenden, 130–44, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012.

Schiller, Kay, and Christopher Young. "Motion and Landscape: Otl Aicher, Günther Grzimek and the Graphic and Garden Designs of the 1972 Munich Olympics." *Urban History* 37, no. 2 (July 6, 2010): 272–88.

Guest speakers may include:

Prof. Dorothee Brantz TU Berlin

Dr. Steve Milder (RCC)

International Students who attend the Summer Program can also join the
RCCLunchtime Colloquium: Environment and Society- International Perspectives Every
Thursday 12:30-14:00

and the

Tuesday Discussion with Environmental Experts

Every Tuesday 16:30-17:30