



W 15:00 – 17:50

McKenzie 375

# Hist 608. Colloquium: Environmental History of the North Pacific

Associate Professor

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363 McKenzie Hall

Office Hours: Monday / Tuesday, 9:30 – 11:30



The Pacific Coast of Kamchatka

## Introduction

This colloquium interrogates the historical literature on the North Pacific Ocean from Japan, through Russia, to Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. In the colloquium we will investigate the historical utility of non-standard geographical frames of analysis, the usefulness of trans-national history, and the challenges involved in writing the history of the oceans.

## Required books

Kenneth Ames and Herb Maschner, *Peoples of the Northwest Coast*

Brett Walker, *The Conquest of Ainu Lands*

David Igler, *The Great Ocean*

Josh Reid, *The Sea Is My Country*

Sonja Luehrmann, *Alutiiq Villages under Russian and U.S. Rule.*

Bruce Grant, *In the Soviet House of Culture: A Century of Perestroikas.*

Matthew Morse Booker, *Down by the Bay: San Francisco's History between the Tides*

Frank Zelko, *Make It A Greenpeace!*

Jakobina Arch, *Bringing Whales Ashore: Oceans and the Environment in Early Modern Japan*

Donovan Hohn, *Moby Duck*

**Key Journals:** *Arctic Anthropology, Journal of Pacific History, Pacific Historical Review, Alaska History, BC Studies, Sibirica: The Journal of Siberian Studies*

**Grading.** *All requirements must be completed to earn a final grade in this course*

1. Discussion Participation 25%

Your participation is the key to the success of this class. Think of our discussions as lively conversations about issues of mutual interest to all of us. Our purpose is to explore, analyze, and reflect on the arguments made in the readings and the evidence they use to support those arguments. To participate fully you should come prepared for each class by critically reading all the assigned materials. You should take notes indicating what you think were the books' strengths, weaknesses, and key contributions to the fields.

2. Class Presentation 10%

For each set of readings, one of you will be asked to help lead the discussion. You should submit a list of 5 – 10 questions at least 24 hours before class. These should be broad questions that will help us explore the readings' main themes, arguments, and methods.

2. Book Précis 20%

For 2 of the books, of your choice, you will write a formal book review, approximately 1000 words in length. The review will be due at the end of the class whose book you have chosen.

3. Public Presentation 10%

On March 10, we will undertake a field trip to the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston, joining an international group of environmental historians, many of whom work on ocean history. During the field trip you will have a chance to share a 5-minute presentation of your final paper in progress.

4. Final paper 35% **Due March 23**

This is an historiographical paper, c. 15 – 20 pages long, that should focus on a clearly-defined aspect of North Pacific environmental history. You should approve your topic with the professor by February 7. A preliminary bibliography will be due on February 14.

## Class Schedule

### Week 1. Jan 10. Approaches to Regional and Oceanic History

Required Reading:

Kären Wigen, "AHR Forum: Oceans of History," *The American Historical Review* 111 (June, 2006), 717 – 721.

David Armitage and Alison Bashford, "Introduction," *Pacific Histories: Oceans, Lands, Peoples*. New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2014.

Greg Hanlon, "Losing Oceania to the Pacific and the World," *The Contemporary Pacific* 29:2 (2017): 286- 318.

Ryan Tucker Jones, "Running into Whales: The History of the North Pacific from below the Waves" *American Historical Review* 118 (April, 2013), 349 – 377.

Ryan Tucker Jones, "Kelp Highways, Siberian Girls in Maui, and Nuclear Walruses: The North Pacific in a Sea of Islands," *Journal of Pacific History*

Suggested Reading:

Matt K. Matsuda, "The Pacific," *The American Historical Review* 111 (June, 2006): 758 – 780.

## Week 2. Jan 17. An Indigenous North Pacific?

### Required Reading:

Margaret Lantis, "The Alaskan Whale Cult and its Affinities," *American Anthropologist* 40:3 (Jul – Sep, 1938): 438 – 464.

I.S. Gurvich, "Ethnic Connections across Bering Strait," in *Crossroads of Continents*

Ames and Maschner, *Peoples of the Northwest Coast*

Jon Erlandson, "The Kelp Highway Hypothesis: Marine Ecology, the Coastal Migration Theory, and the Peopling of the Americas," *Journal of Island & Coastal Archaeology* 2 (2007): 161 – 174.

### Suggested Reading:

Madonna Moss, *Northwest Coast: Archaeology as Deep History*

Ben Fitzhugh, *The Evolution of Complex Hunter-Gatherers: Archaeological Evidence from the North Pacific*. New York: Kluwer, 2003.

Steve Langdon, "Comparative Tlingit and Haida Adaptation to the West Coast of the Prince of Wales Archipelago," *Ethnology* 18:2 (Apr, 1979): 101 – 119.

Todd Braje and Torben Rick, eds, *Human Impacts on Seals, Sea Lions, and Sea Otters: Integrating Archaeology and Ecology in the Northeast Pacific*. Berkeley: UC Berkeley Press, 2011.

## Week 3. Jan 24. Japanese and Russian North Pacifics

### Required Reading:

Brett Walker, *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590 – 1800*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

Martina Winkler, "From Ruling People to Owning Land: Russian Concepts of Imperial Possession in the North Pacific, 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries." *Jahrbucher fur die Geschichte Osteuropas* 59:3 (2011)

Suggested Reading:

Ilya Vinkovetsky, *Russian America: An Overseas Colony of a Continental Empire*.

Ryan Tucker Jones, *Empire of Extinction: Russians and the North Pacific's Strange Beasts of the Sea, 1742 - 1867*

Kelly A. Eldridge, "An Analysis of Archaeofauna Remains Recovered from a Russian Period Camp on St. Paul, Pribilof Islands, Alaska" *Arctic Anthropology* 53:2 (Feb, 2016).

Michael Etnier, et al, "Alutiiq Subsistence Economy at *Igvak*, a Russian-American *Artel* in the Kodiak Archipelago," *Arctic Anthropology* 53:2 (Feb., 2016).

**Week 4. Jan 31. The North Pacific in an Age of European Exploration**

Required Reading:

David Igler, *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush*. Oxford: University of Oxford Press, 2013.

Suggested Reading:

Julie Cruikshank, *Do Glaciers Listen: Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination*. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Press, 2005.

Douglas Cole and Maria Tippet, "Pleasing Diversity and Sublime Desolation: The 18<sup>th</sup>-Century British Perception of the Northwest Coast," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 65:1 (January, 1974).

John Gascoigne, *Encountering the Pacific in the Age of Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

John Ryan Fischer, *Cattle Colonialism: An Environmental History of the Conquest of California and Hawai'i*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015.

### **Week 5. Feb 7. The Changing Indigenous North Pacific**

Required Reading:

Josh Reid, *The Sea Is My Country: The Maritime World of the Makah Indians*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015.

Suggested Reading:

Robert Boyd, *The Coming Spirit of Pestilence: Introduced Infectious Diseases and Population Decline among Northwest Coast Indians, 1774 – 1874*. Seattle, 1999.

Lissa Wadewitz, *The Nature of Borders: Salmon, Boundaries, and Bandits on the Salish Sea*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012.

### **Week 6. Feb 14. \*\*\*\*\* No Class \*\*\*\*\***

Please use this week to make substantial progress towards your final paper and final paper presentation

### **Week 7. Feb 21. Transoceanic Histories in a Period of Transition**

Required Readings:

Bathsheba Demuth, Selections from Dissertation

Sonja Luehrmann, *Alutiiq Villages*, Chapters 2, 3.

Suggested Reading:

Kayano Shigeru, *Our Land Was a Forest. An Ainu Memoir*.

David Arnold, *The Fishermen's Frontier: People and Salmon in Southeast Alaska*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008.

Mark Sokolsky, "Taming Tiger Country: Colonization and Environment in the Russian Far East, 1860 – 1940," Unpublished PhD Dissertation.

Aelxander Dolitsky, *Allies in Wartime: The Alaska-Siberia Airway during World War II*

Otis Hayes, *The Alaska-Siberia Connection: The World War II Air Route*

Ross Coen, "Owning the Ocean: Environment, Race, and Identity in the Bristol Bay, Alaska, Salmon Fishery, 1930 – 1938," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 104:3 (Summer, 2013): 133 – 150.

William Tsutsui, "The Pelagic Empire: Reconsidering Japanese Expansion," in *Japan at Nature's Edge*. Honolulu, 2014.

Arthur McEvoy, *The Fisherman's Problem: Ecology and Law in the California Fisheries, 1850 – 1900*. Cambridge, 1990.

Roy McLeod and Phillip F. Rehbock, eds., *Nature in its Greatest Extent: Western Science in the Pacific*. Honolulu, 1988.

**Week 8. Feb. 28. North Pacific Coasts in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**



Required Reading: Matthew Morse Booker, *Down by the Bay: San Francisco's History between the Tides*

Brett Walker, "Mercury," in *Toxic Archipelago*

Suggested Readings:

Jeff Wheelwright, *Degrees of Disaster: How Nature Reels and Rebounds*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994.

Joseph Taylor, *Making Salmon: An Environmental History of the Northwest Fisheries Crisis*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001.

Connie Chiang, *Shaping the Shoreline: Fisheries and Tourism on the Monterey Coast*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2008.

Carmel Finley, *All the Fish in the Sea: Maximum Sustainable Yield and the Failure of Fisheries Management*. Chicago, 2011.

Mansell Blackford, *Pathways to the Present: US Development and its Consequences in the Pacific*. Honolulu, 2007.

## **Week 9. March 7. Decolonization (plus Jakobina Arch guest visit)**

Required Reading:

Bruce Grant, *In the Soviet House of Culture*

Katherine Reedy-Maschner, "Deprivation and Abundance: The Role of Salmon and 'Other Natural Resources' in Sustaining Indigenous Aleut Communities," in *Keystone Nations*

Jakobina Arch, *Bringing Whales Ashore: Oceans and the Environment in Early Modern Japan*

Suggested Readings:

Bruce Braun, *The Intemperate Rainforest: Nature, Culture, and Power on Canada's West Coast*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

Peter Coates, *Trans-Alaska Pipeline Controversy*

Benedict J. Colombi and James F. Brooks, *Keystone Nations: Indigenous Peoples and Salmon across the North Pacific*

Kate Reedy-Maschner, *Aleut Identities: Tradition and Modernity in an Indigenous Fishery*. Montreal, 2010.

Christine Shearer, *Kivalina: A Climate Change Story*. Chicago, 2011.

\*\*\*\*\* **March 10,11 Field Trip to OIMB** \*\*\*\*\*

**Week 10. March 13. The Future of the History of the North Pacific**

Required Reading:

Donavan Hohn, *Moby Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea*  
... New York: Penguin Books, 2012.

Zelko, *Make it a Greenpeace! The Rise of Counterculture Environmentalism*.  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Chapters 3,4,7,8

Here is the best resource for homework help with HIST 370 : Environmental History of U.S at Pacific Lutheran University. Find HIST370 study guides, notes, and. Environmental History of U.S Questions & Answers. Environmental History of U.S Documents. The history of human induced environmental change in the Pacific to the present, with emphasis on the historic past. This paper will provide an understanding of the approaches to the past that environmental historians are developing, as well as the particular historical issues stemming from resource use by human beings in the Pacific Islands. Paper title. Environmental History of the Pacific. Paper code. HIST337. Subject. Prerequisite. 18 200-level HIST, ARTH or ARTV points. Schedule C. Arts and Music. Notes. Students who have not passed the normal prerequisite may be admitted with approval from the Head of Department. Contact. [judy.bennett@otago.ac.nz](mailto:judy.bennett@otago.ac.nz). More information link. View more information on the Department of History, Art History and Visual Culture's website.