

Biographies

Kevin C. Brown received his PhD in history from Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pa., U.S.) in May 2012; his dissertation was titled, “‘The Great Nomad’: Work, Environment, and Space in the Lumber Industry of Minnesota and Louisiana from the 1870s to the 1930s.” This project wove together the histories of workers, capitalists, and forests to document both the rationale behind and the consequences of the rapid movement of the lumber industry through these two different states. While studying at Carnegie Mellon, in addition to working on his degree, Brown developed and hosted the weekly radio show on WRCT-Pittsburgh, “History for the Future,” which explored the historical underpinnings of contemporary social issues through interviews with historians and social scientists. He currently works as a journalist in New York City.

Lawrence Culver is associate professor in the Department of History at Utah State University, USA. His areas of research and teaching include the cultural, environmental, and urban history of the US and North America. He received his PhD from UCLA, and his doctoral dissertation received the 2005 Rachel Carson Prize for best dissertation from the American Society for Environmental History. His first book, based on that dissertation, is *The Frontier of Leisure: Southern California and the Shaping of Modern America* (Oxford 2010). He has also published articles and reviews in a variety of academic journals, as well as essays in anthologies including *American Environments: Climate–Cultures–Catastrophe* (2012), *Greening the City: Urban Landscapes in the Twentieth Century* (2011), and *A Companion to Los Angeles* (2010). In 2010 Culver was a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany, and will return there as a fellow in 2013. His new book project, “Manifest Disaster: Climate and the Making of America,” explores the role of climate and perceptions of climate in the history of the US and North America.

Uwe Lübken joined the Rachel Carson Center in 2009 as a research fellow; he is currently the Director of the project “Disaster Migration in a Historical Perspective,” which is part of “Climates of Migration,” a joint project between the RCC and the KWI Essen. He completed his habilitation thesis on the history of flooding on the Ohio River in 2010; it will be published as part of the RCC series, *Umwelt und Gesellschaft*, with Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht in 2013. He studied history and economics at the University of Cologne, where he received an MA in 1996. He was awarded a dissertation fellowship by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and research grants by the German Historical Institute (Washington DC), the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library (Hyde Park, New York), the Rockefeller Archive Center (Sleepy Hollow, New

York), and the Roosevelt Study Center (Middelburg, Netherlands). In 2002, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne, where his dissertation “Bedrohliche Nähe: Die USA und die nationalsozialistische Herausforderung in Lateinamerika” was awarded the Erhardt Imelmann Prize. The revised dissertation was published as a book in 2004 by the Steiner Verlag. From 2004 to 2008, he worked as a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. He has taught American history at the University of Cologne, postwar German and European history at the Cologne School of Journalism, and Environmental History at the LMU Munich.

Giacomo Parrinello is an historian with an interest in the relationships between humans and the environment through time. His research deals with disasters and society, urbanization processes, and resources use and conservation, with a specific focus on Europe over the last two centuries. He earned a PhD in history at the University of Siena (2011) funded by a grant from the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (Ministero dell’Istruzione, dell’Università e della Ricerca). He spent part of his doctorate in Canada as visiting scholar at the Université de Montréal, thanks to a grant from the University of Siena. Parrinello studied at the Université Denis Diderot - Paris VII and the University of Bologna, where he received a BA in contemporary history (2004) and an MA in European history (2007). He has been awarded grants and scholarships from the European Society for Environmental History, the American Society for Environmental History, the European Association for Urban History, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). His current research considers the impact of earthquakes on urbanization processes, and is aimed at completing a manuscript tentatively entitled “Disaster Urbanism: Earthquakes and the Making of Modern Urban Environments.”

Vipul Singh is an associate professor of history and environment at Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi, India. He completed his PhD at the University of Delhi. His thesis, “The Marathas in Rajasthan in the Eighteenth Century: A Study of Socio-Economic Relationships,” explores the political implications of land use and cropping patterns in eighteenth-century Marwar, a semi-arid zone. His recent book, *The Human Footprint on Environment: Issues in India*, touches on one of the most pressing issues of contemporary world: the way human activities have historically changed the face of the globe. Presently, Singh is conducting research on the Ganges basin, exploring the long-term historical implication of embankment.

David Soll is an assistant professor in the Watershed Institute for Collaborative Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, USA. He attended the University of Wisconsin between 1960 and 1970, receiving a BA, MS, and PhD. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Brandeis University, and in 1972 he joined the Department of Biology at the University of Iowa. In 1989 he was awarded the Roy J. and Lucille Carver/Emil Witschi Professorship of the Biological Sciences. In 2005, he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement

of Science (AAAS) and in 2006 a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. In 2009 he was awarded the Lucille K. George Medal from the International Society of Human and Animal Mycology. He is best known for the computer-assisted analysis of cell motility, the discovery of phenotypic switching in *Candida albicans*, monoclonal antibody technologies, the molecular epidemiology and evolution of the hemiascomycetes, and, most recently, the evolution of signal transduction pathways. He has published over 350 articles.

Annelies Zoomers is Professor of International Development Studies (IDS) at Utrecht University and chair of the IS-academy on land governance (LAN-Dac). After finishing her PhD in 1988, she worked for the Netherlands Economic Institute (Rotterdam) and the Royal Tropical Institute (Amsterdam) on long and short-term consulting assignments for various organizations (Worldbank, IFAD, DGIS, ILO, EU, DGIS etc.) in various countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Between 1995 and 2007, she was Associate Professor at the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (Amsterdam), and was Professor of International Migration at the Radboud University (Nijmegen) between 2005 and 2009. She has published extensively on sustainable livelihoods, land policies, and the impact of privatization, tourism, and international migration. She is a member of the permanent commission for development cooperation (COS) under the auspices of the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) and member of the world connectors.