



CEGU

Field Report

April 2025

**Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization
Division of Social Sciences, The University of Chicago**



Why CEGU? Why Now?

The idea for CEGU was developed during the closing months of the Covid-19 global pandemic, a period in which global carbon emissions were diminished as major states around the world engaged in various forms of lockdown to prevent further disease transmission. The Covid-19-induced drop in global CO2 emissions followed a decade in which social movements against continued fossil energy use and global climate inaction had gained considerable momentum, leading to important policy changes to encourage investment in renewable energy and to phase out our reliance upon fossil-fueled machines and infrastructures. This, coupled with the international commitments enshrined in the Paris Agreement of 2016, contributed to new momentum to advance strategies of decarbonization; to repair inherited forms of socio-environmental destruction; to develop new ways of preserving biodiversity; and to address entrenched forms of environmental injustice.

Four years later, planetary prospects for addressing climate and nature emergencies appear bleak. In absolute terms, global CO2 emissions are rising more quickly than ever before in human history. While investments in renewable energy continue to expand in some global regions (most notably in China), they have contributed to an overall increase in global energy consumption in which the share of fossil fuels continues to grow. Since 2020, fossil energy companies have been substantially expanding their infrastructures of extraction, production, processing, and distribution, and have reaped record profits, generally with strong financial backing and direct political support from their host states. Meanwhile, new political coalitions have been established in many of the world's most powerful states that are committed to the continued expansion of fossil energy use to support the pursuit of economic growth. In many cases, such strategies are grounded upon a denial of basic scientific facts regarding the causes of global warming and climate change. Others advance purported climate "solutions" that further entrench or expand the role of fossil energy.

Amidst this turbulent geopolitical environment, the devastating impacts of climate change are proliferating and intensifying around the world in the form of extreme weather, flooding, superstorms, megafires, and drought. In wave after wave of disaster and destruction, these processes are degrading and destroying everyday systems of habitation and ecosystems around the world, inducing widespread social suffering, displacement, trauma, disease, and death among humans and mass extinctions across the planetary biosphere. Despite the Paris Agreement's binding commitment to limit global warming to 1.5°C above Holocene temperature averages, we now appear to be entering an era of "overshoot" in which dominant

political institutions and economic actors focus their resources upon managing the devastation associated with climate and nature emergencies rather than addressing their root causes.* Many of these responses not only permit (or even intensify) the continued expansion of fossil energy investment and consumption in the name of economic growth targets, but exacerbate the closely related problem of biodiversity loss (for example, through unfettered deforestation). The increasingly hegemonic assumption appears to be that new technologies will be developed in the future—for instance, through carbon capture or climate geoengineering—that might alleviate the catastrophic biospheric impacts of fossil energy use and biodiversity loss and thus lay the groundwork for a “sustainable” model of economic growth.

This is the grim planetary context in which, in this booklet, we document and celebrate the last two years of CEGU’s wide-ranging activities in scholarship, pedagogy, and public engagement at the University of Chicago. CEGU’s central mission is to advance historically grounded, spatially attuned, holistic, public-facing, and critically oriented forms of research and teaching in environmental social science, humanities, and arts. Our faculty are centrally concerned with questions of theory, conceptualization, representation, and the politics of environmental knowledge, since interpretations fundamentally shape the operations of technology, investment practices, institutional logics, and material life. We are, in equal measure, systematically engaged with questions of environmental injustice, since the uneven sociospatial impacts of climate and nature emergencies have deep historical roots related to the pathways of global capitalist development, empire, colonialism, state formation, resource extraction, energy production and consumption, environmental transformation and degradation, and political mobilization around the world. Our faculty and students are deeply engaged with debates on environmental policy and political strategies while situating the latter within a broader historical, geopolitical, and geographical framework that is attuned to root causes—not only of contemporary climate and nature emergencies, but of our abject failure to date to address them in ways that might permit human survival and flourishing for future generations. Finally, CEGU engages with the diverse cultural formations that shape, and are shaped by, socioenvironmental relations and conditions, whether in literature, film, the visual arts, performance, or design practices. These media offer powerful windows into the lifeworlds of experience that animate the transformation of environments and that shape our imagination of possible biospheric futures.

In short, CEGU embraces and advances a transdisciplinary framework of inquiry that uniquely combines theories, methods, and insights from across the environmental social sciences, humanities, and arts, always in active dialogue and collaboration

* See Andreas Malm and Wim Carton, *Overshoot: How the World Surrendered to Climate Breakdown* (New York: Verso, 2024). The preceding paragraphs draw extensively upon Malm and Carton’s narration of the post-Covid-19 years.

with key streams of scholarship in the ecological, biological, and geophysical sciences, as well as in the design disciplines. On this basis, CEGU seeks to train students to think critically, independently, and holistically about socioenvironmental transformations and crises across space and time. Through coursework, participation in our scholarly events, and community engagement, CEGU students gain essential and urgently needed capacities to investigate and, ultimately, to shape our collective planetary future with scientific knowledge, practical intelligence, and creative imagination, as well as with an orientation towards the biospheric commons upon which all life depends.

This report offers a brief overview of CEGU’s latest work. The CEGU undergraduate major continues to flourish and expand due to our robust course offerings in diverse fields of socioenvironmental inquiry. The newly established CEGU Doctoral Certificate has grown rapidly into a key forum on campus for discussion of advanced scholarship in environmental social science and humanities. Our community studies curriculum is now taking shape and will be formally launched next year in the form of a new Community Studies Capstone within the CEGU major. CEGU’s faculty have meanwhile been busy producing world-leading research in key fields of socioenvironmental research on, among other topics, energy history and geography, urban environmental studies, environmental humanities, the environmental dynamics of ancient civilizations, geospatial visualization and spatial media, environmental social theory, environmental public health, politically informed aesthetics, and much more. CEGU also continues to organize a robust program of events related to scholarship and pedagogy oriented towards faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and the broader University community.

We are grateful to everyone within and beyond the University of Chicago who has participated in and contributed to CEGU’s work. In a time in which our planetary environmental situation appears especially dire, CEGU’s community of scholarship and learning offers a space of hope. It provides thinkers of various generations with substantial intellectual resources to understand the origins of our current predicament, and on this basis, to explore possible pathways towards more livable, equitable, and vibrant planetary futures for all.

—Neil Brenner
Chair, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization
Lucy Flower Professor of Urban Sociology

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ABOUT CEGU

Based in the Division of Social Sciences at The University of Chicago, the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU) is an interdisciplinary platform for critical thinking, advanced research, and innovative pedagogy on the societal and spatial dimensions of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other kinds of environmental transformation.

CEGU builds upon the University’s legacies of excellence in geographical studies while providing a divisional and inter-divisional platform for scholarship, teaching, and public events related to environment and society across time and space. With over 50 faculty affiliates drawn primarily from the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Humanities, CEGU seeks to investigate and respond to the environmental challenges of our time not only by advancing climate change awareness, but by actively centering contemporary planetary environmental emergencies in all aspects of social research and humanistic inquiry.

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The greatest challenge in understanding and addressing rapid environmental changes is the fragmentation of knowledge across disciplines. CEGU overcomes this by building a community of scholars and activists with diverse disciplinary expertise in the sciences, humanities, history, and art. Our work spans historical and contemporary contexts but is united by a shared commitment to sustainable resource management and environmental justice.

—Mehrnoosh Soroush, Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern Studies and CEGU

I'm so grateful for the vibrant intellectual community CEGU offers our University. As a graduate student working in the critical environmental social sciences, I have benefitted immensely from CEGU's courses, research funding, and invited guests.

I believe that bringing a sociological perspective to the current ecological and climate crisis is urgent, and CEGU helps me to do just that.

—Margot Lurie, Ph.D. Student, Sociology



CURRICULUM

Students at CEGU's annual hike at the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Through a historically grounded, contextually embedded engagement with diverse theoretical frameworks used in the social sciences and humanities, CEGU’s pedagogy attunes students to the contentious nature of knowledge on society and environment across time and space and prepares students not only to understand the intensifying environmental emergencies that are rupturing social life across the planet, but to shape societal responses to the latter through scholarship, practice, and community engagement. CEGU’s undergraduate curriculum prepares students to understand and confront the wide ranging societal, historical, and spatial dimensions of contemporary planetary environmental crises, including climate change, biodiversity loss, and other forms of large-scale socio-environmental transformation.

The new CEGU major and minor launched in Autumn 2023 with a set of foundational courses, core visual and spatial methods offerings, and a rich set of topical, experiential and practice-based electives on campus, in Chicago, and abroad. The new major and minor in Environment, Geography and Urbanization draws on the diverse interests and expertise of the CEGU faculty to interrogate the limits of inherited approaches to studying socio-environmental transformation and explore the prospects for developing new frameworks and methods for the critical analysis of such issues. The program provides students with strong foundations in spatialized and historical approaches to environmental studies, with more specialized thematic tracks available in urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, and environmental humanities.

CEGU’s undergraduate population continues to grow, graduating 49 students in 2023 and 52 students in 2024, with an active student body of over 100 students. CEGU students also participate in a 4th year capstone faculty mentored BA thesis or community studies project, and engage in practice through internships, a robust set of engaged speaker events, and experiences in Chicago and beyond. Graduates of the CEGU undergraduate major and minor will be well-equipped to conduct advanced research on socio-environmental processes, transformations, and crises across time and space, and to engage in diverse fields of environmental practice. The program combines scholarly inquiry, methodological training, experiential learning, and community engagement to prepare students to contribute to—and transform—the collective process of forging more equitable, livable, and hopeful planetary futures.

—Sabina Shaikh, Director of Academic Programs
& Director of Undergraduate Studies

CEGU MAJOR & MINOR



CEGU Students in Evan Carver’s September Term course, Berlin: Conflict, Community, and Sustainability.

FEATURED COURSES

Global Environmental Change

Soi Kim & Mary Beth Pudup, CEGU 20003

Critical examination of contemporary environmental crises requires deep immersion in key fields of environmental science that illuminate how societal processes have transformed the earth system. This course considers the genealogy of environmental problems in the modern world with reference to, among other core issues, the role of global land-use change, fossil energy, and waste production in climate change, biodiversity loss, water and soil contamination, and infectious disease transmission. The course introduces students to the major elements of earth system science and the study of global land-use change, with particular attention to key theoretical paradigms, methodological approaches, and forms of environmental and spatial data. Students will also gain familiarity with key fields of earth systems research such as the carbon cycle, hydrological processes; the physics and chemistry of the oceans and the atmosphere; the histories and geographies of carbon emissions; and planetary boundaries.

Introduction to Critical Spatial Media: Visualizing Urban, Environmental, and Planetary Change

Alexander Arroyo & Grga Bašić, CEGU 23517

This course introduces critical theories and techniques for visualizing interconnected transformations of urban, environmental, and planetary systems amidst the pressures of climate change, urbanization, and global economies of capitalism. Weekly lectures will introduce major themes and theoretical debates, paired with hands-on lab tutorials exploring a selection of methods in conventional and experimental geographic visualization. Thematically, the course will be organized around critical interpretations of the Anthropocene, a concept designating the epoch in which anthropogenic activities are recognized as the dominant force of planetary climatic and ecological change. We will present these interpretations through modules structured around different conceptual paradigms and alternative epochal designations (e.g. the Urbanocene, the Capitalocene, the Plantationocene). Through weekly lab exercises and a final, synthetic project, the course will move from critically analyzing prevalent theoretical frameworks, geospatial

data, and associated visualization techniques to creatively visualizing critical alternatives. Students will learn how to construct visual narratives through a variety of spatial media (e.g. maps, diagrams, visual timelines), scales (e.g. bodies, neighborhoods, landscapes, the planetary), and techniques/platforms (e.g. GIS, web mapping, basic programming language tools, and vector/raster visualization programs).

The Politics of Environmental Knowledge

Jessica Landau, CEGU 20002

How has “nature” been understood and investigated in the modern world? Building upon diverse approaches to environmental history and philosophy, the history of science, and cultural studies, this course surveys the major frameworks through which the environment has been understood, investigated, and transformed since the origins of global modernity. Such issues are explored with reference to the mobilization of science, technology, and politics in several major areas of socio- environmental transformation in the modern world. Case studies might explore, among other issues, empire, race, and public health; cities and infectious disease since the Black Death; the ‘great enclosures’ of land associated with settler colonialism; the ‘Green Revolution’ in industrial agriculture; strategies of resource stewardship, land conservation, terraforming, hydrological engineering and watershed protection; the politics of global warming; and current debates on urban sustainability, carbon capture and geo-engineering. The course also considers the rise and evolution of environmentalist movements and conservation strategies, and the contested visions of nature they have embraced. The course concludes by investigating the competing paradigms of knowledge, science, and environment that underpin divergent contemporary programs of environmental governance and visions of ‘sustainability’.

FEATURED COURSES (CONT.)

Methods in Environmental Humanities

Jessica Landau, CEGU 22102

What are the environmental humanities and how do their approaches differ from those of other humanistic disciplines? In answering these questions, this course will equip students with tools to reckon with some of our planet's most pressing concerns, including climate change and biodiversity loss, and emphasize the importance of approaching these issues through an interdisciplinary lens that includes humanistic lines of inquiry. Throughout the course, students will explore different methods used in the environmental humanities to gain an understanding of this emergent discipline as well as learn tools and methods they can employ in their own scholarship. Rather than work on long term research projects, however, students will sample and practice a variety of approaches to environmental humanities research and apply them to targeted case studies. This will include approaches from fields such as art history, Indigenous studies, animal studies, comparative literature, and history, among others.

Digital Geographies of Climate Justice

Alexander Arroyo, CEGU 22301

Struggles for climate and environmental justice are increasingly mediated by digital technologies and geospatial data, especially in the Global South. In Amazonia, for example, the plight of indigenous groups bearing the brunt of ecological dispossession and political violence by deforestation is frequently represented through remotely-sensed data showing time-series of canopy loss; in turn, these data are often prompted, groundtruthed, and mobilized by indigenous communities and affiliated activists in legal and political campaigns. In parallel, across the world ocean, countries across the Global South—from Papua New Guinea and Ecuador to Ghana—are partnering with watch-dog organizations using satellite imagery and GPS data to track illegal fishing and human rights abuses at sea, acting as an auxiliary ecological police force to identify and provide data to prosecute offending vessels. The proliferation of these digital geographic technologies and techniques pose a number of complex questions. Drawing on contemporary cases, experimental projects in “forensic” approaches to activism, and recent work in critical geography, aesthetics, STS, and political theory, this seminar will attempt to map out

these digital geographies of climate justice as they emerge. The course will also involve introduction to entry-level remote sensing + GIS workflows (no prior experience required) in a pair of intensive workshops led by guest lecturers/practitioners.

Disease, Health, and the Environment in Global Context

Christopher Kindell, CEGU 22100

Recent concerns about monkeypox, COVID-19, Zika virus, and Ebola have attracted renewed attention to previous disease outbreaks that have significantly shaped human political, social, economic, and environmental history. Such diseases include: smallpox during the 16th-century Columbian exchange; syphilis during the 18th-century exploration and settlement of the Pacific; bubonic plague in the late-19th-century colonization and urbanization of South and East Asia; and yellow fever during America's 20th-century imperial projects across the Caribbean. Through readings, discussions, library visits, and written assignments that culminate in a final project, students in this course will explore how natural and human-induced environmental changes have altered our past experiences with disease and future prospects for health. First, we will examine how early writers understood the relationship between geography, environment, hereditary constitution, race, gender, and human health. We will then analyze the symbiotic relationship among pathogens, human hosts, and their environments. Finally, we will explore how social factors (e.g. migration, gendered divisions of labor, poverty, and segregation) and human interventions (e.g. epidemiology, medical technology, and sanitary engineering) have influenced the distribution of infectious diseases and environmental risks.

FEATURED COURSES (CONT.)

Genealogies of Environmental Organizing and Activism Mary Beth Pudup, CEGU 21501

This course explores how organizations-civic, private, governmental-working in the field of environmental advocacy construct, deploy and are shaped by distinct discourses governing relationships between nature and society. The environment is a field of social action in which organizations attempt to effect change in large domains like resource conservation, access, stewardship, and a basic right to environmental quality in everyday life. The work of effecting change in these complex domains can assume a variety of forms including public policy (through the agencies of the state), private enterprise (through the agency of the market), ‘third sector’ advocacy (through the agency of nonprofit organizations) and social activism (through the agency of social movements and community organizations). State, market, civil society and social movement organizations are where ideas are transmitted from theory to practice and back again in a recursive, dialectical process. These contrasting forms of organization have different histories, wellsprings and degrees of social power. Moreover, they bring different epistemologies to their claims about being legitimate custodians of nature—that is to say they can be understood genealogically. As such, organizations working to effect environment change are at once animated by and constitutive of distinct discourses governing the relationships between nature and society. The course explores how those distinct discourses are associated with a suite of different organizational realms of social action; the goal is trying to connect the dots between discursive formations and organizational forms.

People in Motion: Rethinking Transit in Chicago and Beyond Evan Carver & Luke Joyner, CEGU 22900

How do you get from A to B? Within and between today’s urbanized areas, that seemingly simple question has become one of the most fraught and intractable problems. This course seeks to address questions about public transit across scales, from pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure at the level of individual intersections and blocks up to regional train

networks and beyond. Like other design studio courses, the class will be project-based, and will ask students to develop a wide understanding of existing systems, but also to learn through creative design projects that expand their sense of what’s possible. After working together to understand many existing transit solutions across different scales, to come to terms with and document Chicago’s transit landscape, and to dream speculatively about untested transit possibilities both low- and high-tech, students will focus on building a portfolio of creative suggestions for their respective “clients” (e.g., the University of Chicago, the 4th Ward Alderman). Alongside this project work, assigned readings and explorations around Chicago will immerse students in the culture and philosophy of moving people and things, across different moments past, present and future.

Sound & Environment Carlo Diaz, CEGU 25402

Huge sections of the Earth’s crust resonate across hundreds of miles: seismology, infrasound. Fish larvae differentiate tiny vibrations in ocean water produced by diverse coral ecosystems: hydroacoustics, ultrasound. Humans gather in large numbers to watch each other carefully manipulate air pressure: music, architecture, psychoacoustics. Each of these phenomena can be understood to fit within the field of sound studies, and each among many further examples has an effect upon each other, contributing to a delicately interlinked planetary system of pressure, vibration, and resonance within air, water, land, and body. This system is now in crisis. From the most densely populated cities to the remotest nature preserves and industrial hinterlands, the extraction, processing, transportation, and consumption of natural resources by humans interferes with delicate systems of sounding and listening essential to almost all forms of life on Earth. How can sound studies and audio technology help us navigate this moment? This course takes students through a survey of sound studies and audio technology, from physics, electronics, hearing, and psychoacoustics to the aesthetics, politics, and poetics of musical and non-musical sound production. Students will also learn the basics of acoustic recording, audio processing, and data sonification through hands-on workshops and collaborative projects

CALUMET QUARTER 2024: THE POWER OF PLACE



Students with Mark Bouman during Calumet Quarter 2024

Through a concatenation of cultural practices, social relations and economic processes—all within the indomitable crucible of nature—people don't just create places, they produce vastly different sorts of places: urban and rural, towns, cities, neighborhoods and villages and their myriad interconnections.

During the 2024 Spring Quarter, fourteen UChicago undergraduates devoted themselves to studying a region with which they were likely unfamiliar. That region was the Calumet: a diverse assemblage of natural and human landscapes hugging the southern shores of Lake Michigan, spilling across the Illinois and Indiana state border and associated with place names like South Chicago, Altgeld Gardens, Hegwisch, Pullman, Gary, Miller and Indiana Dunes National Park. Through three linked courses, students took a deep dive into the specific historical geography of the Calumet region south and east of Chicago and, along the way, gained insights and analytical skills relevant to understanding and approaching other places in order to learn their power. Lessons about the Calumet, in effect, would transcend the Calumet by offering frameworks to approach and understand other regions of the nation and world. The Calumet Quarter is a collaboration between Chicago Studies and the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization.

Objects, Place & Power

Jessica Landau, CEGU 26367

Objects are not only formed and interpreted through ideas of place and power, but also shape place and identity. This course looks at how material culture has, in part, formed understandings of the Calumet. Through methods drawn from art history and museum studies, we will look closely at objects, collections, and institutions in the region to analyze the power and politics of representation in placemaking.

Environmental Transitions & Unnatural Histories

Mary Beth Pudup, CEGU 26368

The course considers changes wrought in the natural landscape of the greater Calumet region beginning with indigenous Potawatomi and their forced removal. Students will examine how the Calumet's natural environment became collateral damage of the industrial capitalism that transformed the region into an economic powerhouse and explore efforts to rehabilitate the Calumet's rich biodiversity, identifying the challenges and achievements of this most recent environmental transition.

Planning for Land & Life in the Calumet

Mark Bouman, CEGU 26366

The course considers the global phenomenon of so-called cultural and historical "heritage sites" and explores the processes and rationales through which vastly different sorts of places earn that designation. Within that context, students will analyze the sustained effort to create a "Calumet National Heritage Area" in the southern reaches of Chicago and adjacent northwestern Indiana comprised of diverse landscapes, people and their often contentious histories.

SEPTEMBER TERM 2024



Students in *Remaking the Prairie*, 2024.

Remaking the Prairie: The Cultural Politics of Ecological Restoration

Jessica Landau, CEGU 20806

This course uses the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie as a case study to understand the environmental and cultural challenges of ecological restoration. In essence, we will look at the Midewin as an environmental humanities problem, asking the questions: What does it mean to restore a landscape or an ecosystem? What values or biases are in place in ecological restoration and how do we overcome them? The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, managed by the US Forest Service, is a restored prairie on the former site of the WWII era Joliet Army Ammunition Plant. Throughout the September Term, we will visit the site several times to meet with Forest Service employees, participate in environmental restoration work, collect data for ecological studies, and learn more about the complicated history of the prairie and efforts to restore it. Analysis of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and ecological restoration more broadly will be done from an interdisciplinary lens that takes seriously the sometimes-competing stakes of indigeneity, agriculture, settler colonialism, ecology, history, militarism, and recreation, among others.



Students in *Berlin: Conflict, Community, and Sustainability*, 2023.

Berlin: Conflict, Community, and Sustainability

Jessica Landau, CEGU 22311

This course will expose students to the dynamics of urban change in one of the most historically freighted and contested cities in the world. They will come to understand the complex histories behind Berlin's urban spaces, and the strategies adopted by local actors to deal with those histories while finding agency to shape them for the future. Students will experience first-hand how spaces have been defined by drivers like economic exigency, political ideology, violence, environmental conditions, non-human species, and technological development, and they will learn how contemporary challenges, including climate change, gentrification, and immigration butt up against competing ambitions for Berlin to become a "global city" and for it to maintain its distinct character. In addition, by considering Berlin as represented in film, this course explores techniques for defining and redefining the meaning of urban space using multisensory media. You will learn about—and ultimately use—film as a tool for analyzing urban space, shaping narratives, and reflecting on urban life in Berlin today.

STUDY ABROAD, AUTUMN 2024



Photography and digital art reimagining of the La Bièvre
by 4th year student, Joshua Chang Hyeon, 2024



Sabina Shaikh and study abroad students
with Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris.

Paris Urbanism: Cities, Nature, and the Planet

Sabina Shaikh, CEGU 22312

Cities, Nature, and the Planet, taught by Sabina Shaikh as part of the Paris Urbanism Study Abroad quarter, takes a contemporary look into how urbanization affects planetary health, focusing on cities as constructed objects and sites of global resource extraction, waste generation, biodiversity loss, and increasing social inequality and climate vulnerability; but also as centers of population, innovation and social organization, which can facilitate climate solutions. Using a range of approaches, students considered critiques of historical urban planning and linear city resource economies, and analyzed contemporary approaches related to environmental policy making, climate action planning, and community engagement with specific attention on environmental goals and equity outcomes. Students in the experiential course explored the city and its' regions from the perspective of climate planning and policy, visiting with city officials and sites focused on car free public spaces, sustainable mobility, social housing, and water innovation. For the class final project, students conducted creative reimaginings to uncover the Bièvre River. The Bièvre, which once flowed into Paris was exploited during the industrialization, modernization and the urban renewal of Paris and eventually buried and diverted into the modern sewer system in the early 20th century. The students considered how the Bièvre could be “daylighted” in Paris and reconnected to its flowing surface waters as an integral part of contemporary urban climate planning.

CEGU stands out as a center for critical thought and timely scholarship within the University, bringing together amazing faculty to teach classes that are noteworthy in their relevance and interdisciplinarity. I have grown as a scholar, theorist, and person because of the conversations started within this Committee.

—Nina Olney, Ph.D. Student

In my Winter 2024 Climate Justice course my undergraduate students repeatedly raised existential, relational, and emotional concerns about living during a time of climate change: how do they envision a meaningful future when so many projections invite despair? These questions, I argue, are one of the many reasons that studies of the environment require an interdisciplinary approach including the humanities and social sciences as we have at CEGU. Such an approach can offer broad offer resources on the possibilities of cultural continuance, building community, persisting, and even joy in the face of chronic challenges like climate change.

—Sarah Fredericks, Associate Professor of Environmental Ethics, Divinity School, the College, and CEGU

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW UNERGRADUATE CLINICAL PRACTICUM

In 2023–24, University of Chicago undergraduates who declared the major in Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU) were invited to participate in the Undergraduate Clinical Practicum in the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic, directed by CEGU Faculty Affiliate Mark Templeton, at the University of Chicago Law School.

The Abrams Environmental Law Clinic attempts to solve some of the most pressing environmental and energy challenges throughout the Chicago area, Great Lakes region, and the country. Through clinic participation, students learn substantive environmental law and procedures for addressing concerns through the courts, administrative agencies, and legislative bodies. Students develop core advocacy competencies, such as spotting issues, conducting factual investigations, performing practical legal research, advocating through written and oral communications, planning cases, managing time, and addressing ethical issues and dilemmas. In addition, students develop an appreciation for the range of strategic and tactical approaches that effective advocates use. The specific responsibilities for undergraduates are determined in consultation with Abrams clinical faculty.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Thanks to a generous gift from the Calvin and Freda Redekop family, CEGU offers financial support for undergraduate research that engages with CEGU themes, including socio-environmental studies, urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, environmental humanities, and more. Grants can be used to cover field work related expenses including travel costs, lodging expenses, access to archival or digital materials, and other research-related expenses. University of Chicago undergraduate students across all disciplines can apply for funding up to \$2,500 per person. Third-year students in the CEGU undergraduate program may apply for research support from the Charles M. Gray Research Fellowship fund, which is administered through a competitive application process by the Social Sciences Collegiate Division. Gray Fellows are expected to pursue original, faculty-mentored research. CEGU students also can receive funding for conference travel. CEGU students are awarded BA Thesis and BA Capstone prizes annually at our Undergraduate Research Symposium.

GRAY FELLOWS

Owen Castle	A Rusty Iron Grip: How the History of Company Control and Community Agency Shaped Republic, Michigan's Landscape
Sofia Erlin	Gateway to the Irradiated West: the Dynamics of Nuclear Waste Remediation in St. Louis, 1942-2024
C Hugh	Central Planning and Peripheral Protest: Contested Urbanism and Suburban Annexation in Paris (1852-1871) and Chicago (1889-1909)
Maya McWilliams	Post-Socialist Transition in New Belgrade's Blocks 33 and 37: Collective Memory, Resistance, and the Commodification of Space in Former Yugoslavia's Capital
Ella Tang	<i>Scarcely A Stone Stands</i> : Natural Disaster Resilience and the Impact of Post-Earthquake Housing Policies on Housing Affordability in 20th-Century San Francisco and Tokyo

UNDERGRADUATE REDEKOP GRANT RECIPIENTS

Adera Craig	Uncovering the Environmental Legacy of Industrialization: A Historic, Geographic Study of Landfill and Hydrology in the Lake Calumet Region
Juliet Cairney	Passing on a Legacy: Understanding the Role of Identity Formation and Social Relationships in Succession Planning on Intergenerational Family Farms in Rural Georgia
Owen Castle	A Rusty Iron Grip: How the History of Company Control and Community Agency Shaped Republic, Michigan's Landscape
C Hugh	Central Planning and Peripheral Protest: Contested Urbanism and Suburban Annexation in Paris (1852-1871) and Chicago (1889-1909)
Maya McWilliams	Post-Socialist Transition in New Belgrade's Blocks 33 and 37: Collective Memory, Resistance, and the Commodification of Space in Former Yugoslavia's Capital
Jada Potter	Transit in Theory and in Practice: The Undervalued Influence of Real Outcomes and Lived Experience on Transit Accessibility and Justice
Ella Tang	<i>Scarcely A Stone Stands</i> : Natural Disaster Resilience and the Impact of Post-Earthquake Housing Policies on Housing Affordability in 20th-Century San Francisco and Tokyo

2023-24 AWARDS

*honorable mention

BA Thesis Prizes

Chloe Thompson
Sofia Johansson
*Jane Candy

BA Capstone Prize

Tatiana Jackson-Saitz
*Anthony Oliveir
*Jefferson Reyes Diaz

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS PROJECTS, 2023-24

Graduating CEGU majors presented their research at the end of Spring Quarter 2024 as a part of the CEGU BA Thesis and Capstone Symposium. Thesis presentations were organized into six separate panel discussion moderated by CEGU faculty while Capstone projects were shared in poster and video sessions throughout the day.

Constructing Identity: (Re)Making ‘Armenian’ Space in Three American Cities

Shant Armenian

Sofia Johansson

Negotiating Ownership and Management of Public Green Space: How the TEP Ménilmontant Community Challenges Paris’s Top-Down Urbanization

From Brownfields to Greenspace: Evaluating the Calumet Open Space Reserve

Connor Bentley

Jonathan Garcia

Heads in the Sand: Beach Access and the Public Trust Doctrine under Future Climate Scenarios on Illinois’s Lake Michigan Coast

Addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Wastewater Treatment Plants through Stakeholder-Engaged Regulatory Frameworks

Jane Candy

Adam Light

Repairing Communities Through Demolition: Who the Chicago Housing Authority’s Plan for Transformation Benefited and Who It Left Behind

The Important Role of the Physical Environment on Greenway Development: A Comparative Analysis of The Chicago Lakefront Trail, the Atlanta Beltline, and the Hudson River Waterfront and Walkway

Kimberly Carrillo Rivera

Will Sampson

Electrifying Residential Heating in Chicago: Equitable Decarbonization through Heat Pump Technologies

Governing International Climate Finance: Earmarked Funding’s Outsized Influence in the UN

Domingo Cortinez

Nathan Sander

A Symbol of the City’s Wellbeing: Frederick Law Olmsted, Public Health, and Central Park, 1858-1893

Planning Beyond Cars: Natural Disasters, Public Transportation, and Municipal Evacuation Palns in Seattle, Washington

Savannah Doty

Regina Shen

Missed Opportunities: The Impact of Opportunity Zones on Small Business Development in New York City

Between Tradition and Innovation: Balancing Architectural and Societal Heritage through Conscious Stewardship of Garden Cities since 1903

Nate Drew

Alexander Stern

Mixed-Income, Mixed Motivations: Drivers of Socioeconomic Diversity in Rogers Park, Chicago and North Hollywood, Los Angeles

Problematizing Temporary Protected Status Policy in Constructing a Framework for Climate Migration in the US

Will Harding

Chloe Thompson

Aging During Environmental Crisis: Extreme Weather Vulnerability, the Age-Friendly City Framework, and Intergenerational Environmental Justice in Chicago

A User of What, Exactly? Infrastructures of Energy Transition and Planetary Digital Subjectivity

Eli Harrell

Carly Weigel

Muddying the Waters: The Upper Mississippi River, Nitrates, and Environmental Regulation in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa



EXPOSITIONS MAGAZINE

Expositions Magazine—CEGU’s student-led publication—embodies critical engagement with urban spaces and environments by equipping students to effectively communicate complex environmental and urban issues to a wider audience. As a college course, *Expositions* is uniquely designed to help students transform theoretical knowledge and abstract data into practical and persuasive public communication, culminating in the creation of a magazine with professional-level production values and accessible, intelligent writing. Students are challenged to meet rigorous standards, and in the process they hone a broad array of analytical and representational tools, learning to use various media effectively and understanding the impact of media formats and editorial choices. Students also participate in a collaborative publishing process in the context of a diverse and dynamic team. A core group of 20–30 students, from first-years to fourth-years, works with up to a dozen contributing authors on each issue, along the way developing practical skills such as author-editor relationships and facility with graphic, web design, and print production workflows.

Expositions represents a key component of CEGU’s mission to foster academic excellence and impactful public engagement. In the 2024–2025 school year, *Expositions* is publishing its 10th issue and the following year will celebrate its 5th anniversary. These significant milestones illustrate students’ continued commitment to addressing critical global challenges in this mode and underscore the centrality of *Expositions* in the CEGU curriculum.

Expositions is supported by CEGU faculty member Evan Carver and Project and Communications Coordinator and Lecturer Carlo Diaz.

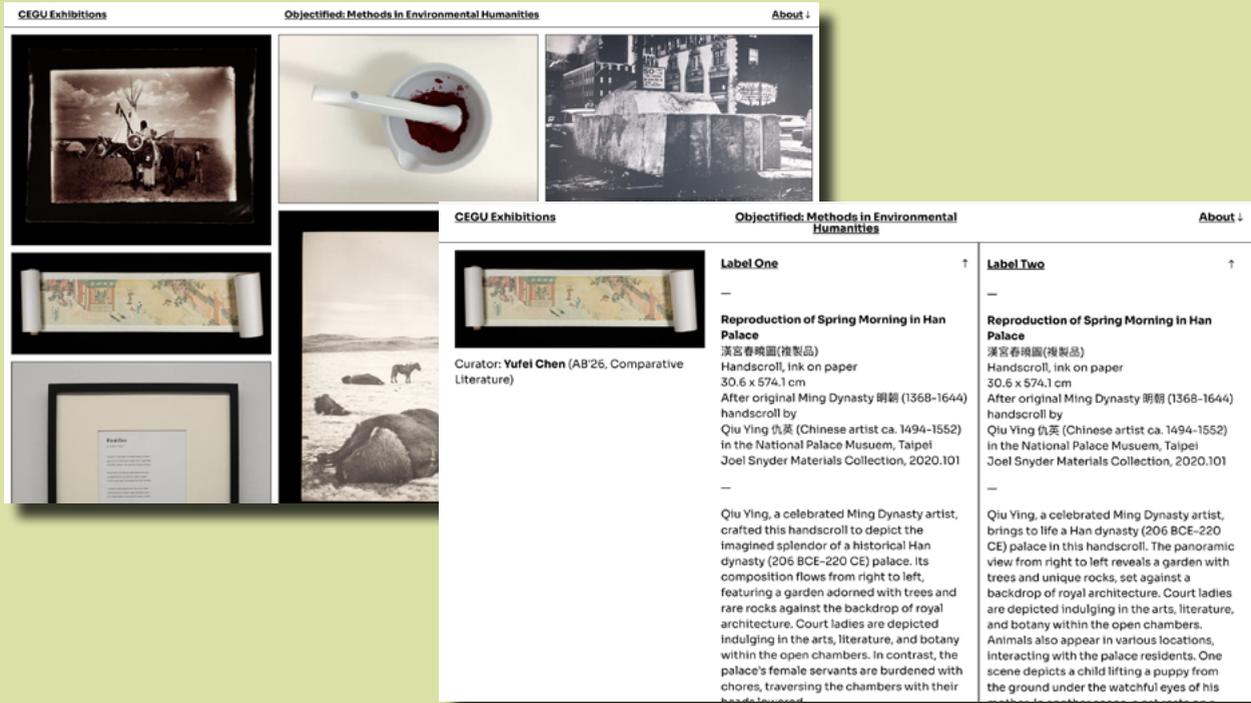
CEGU and *Expositions* provided an arena within which my peers and I could explore interdisciplinary collaboration and research. CEGU's generous support helped us imagine new forms of journalistic and visual storytelling that would respond to our most pressing concerns and interests relating to built and natural environments. *Expositions'* greatest strength, however, is the sense of community it fosters—one that helps define an evolving set of shared moral, intellectual, and creative values.

—Shant Armenian, AB'24



Expositions, Winter 2024

CEGU EXHIBITIONS

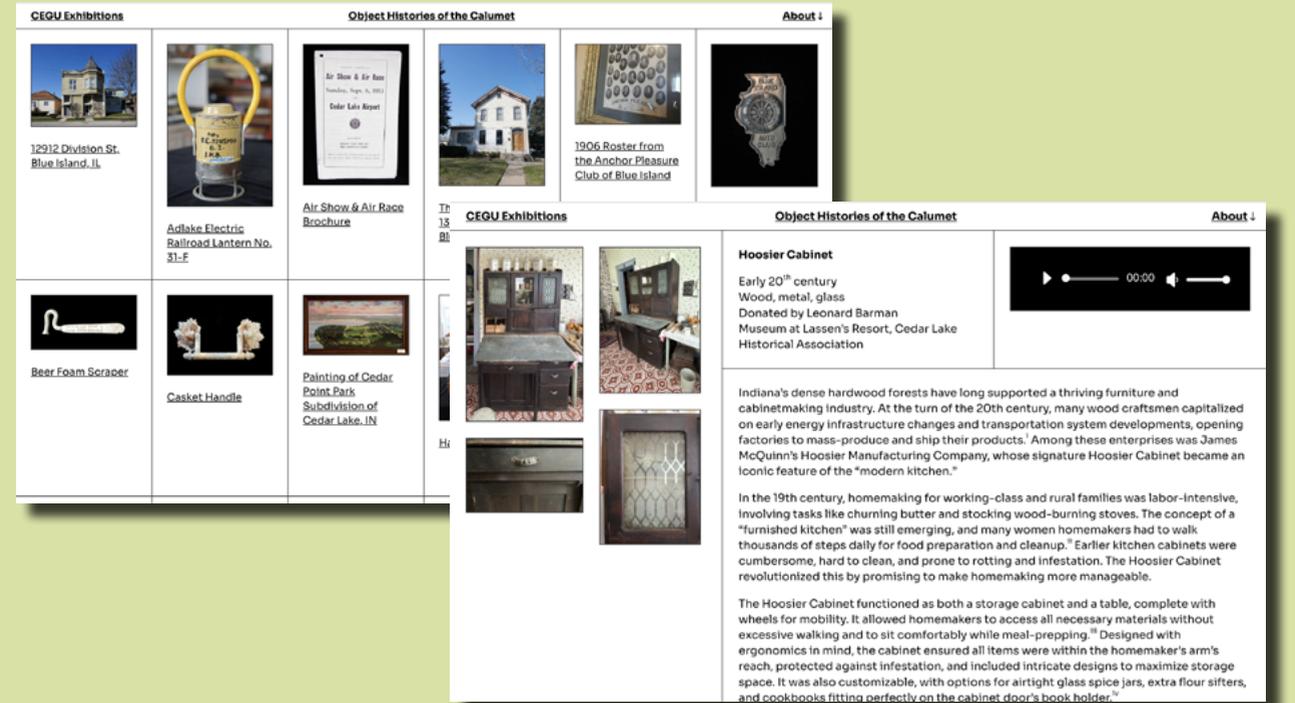


Objectified: Methods in Environmental Humanities

Curated by Jessica Landau and the students of *CEGU 22102: Methods in Environmental Humanities*

Objectified: Methods in Environmental Humanities is an exhibition featuring selections from the Joel Snyder Materials Collection and beyond. The materials and objects included in the exhibition represent a reckoning with some of the planet’s most pressing concerns, from climate change to biodiversity loss, through humanistic inquiry.

Staged in the CWAC Exhibitions space on the 2nd floor of the Cochrane-Woods Art Center during Winter Quarter 2024 in collaboration with Dr. Jessica Landau and students in the Methods in Environmental Humanities seminar offered by the Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization (CEGU), the exhibition foregrounds an interdisciplinary lens through which the contributors approach the environmental humanities. Students interrogate how humanistic disciplines such as art history, Indigenous studies, animal studies, comparative literature, and history serve as emerging methods through which we might understand the environment. Collectively, the student curators contemplate our everyday relationships with the built environment, natural resources, and stolen land through humanistic lines of inquiry.



Object Histories of the Calumet

Curated by Jessica Landau and the students of *CEGU 26367: Objects, Place, and Power: Collecting and Display in the Calumet*

During the Calumet Quarter at The University of Chicago, students simultaneously enroll in three courses focused on the history, culture, geography, and ecology of the Calumet Region. Designed as a “study abroad at home” sequence focused on experiential learning, students participate in weekly field trips to the Calumet and complete practical, hands on research as part of their coursework.

In one of the courses, *CEGU 26367: Objects, Place, and Power: Collecting and Display in the Calumet*, students studied the ways in which material culture is both created by a specific sense of place and shapes identity in the region. Through a partnership with local historical societies and museums, students in the course studied individual objects to learn how their histories are connected to broader ones of the region and nation. Please browse their reports here, including some podcasts discussing a behind-the-scenes look at their research processes, as students learned about the power and politics of visual representation in placemaking.

CEGU DOCTORAL CERTIFICATE

The Doctoral Certificate in Environment, Geography and Urbanization is intended to support advanced research, build intellectual community, and facilitate scholarly collaboration among doctoral students and faculty working in diverse fields of environmental social science and environmental humanities. Grounded in the regular meetings of the Environmental Studies Colloquium as well as specialized doctoral coursework in environmental social science and environmental humanities, the CEGU Doctoral Certificate aims to contribute to the further development of innovative, interdisciplinary doctoral research in these areas.

The CEGU Doctoral Certificate is open to all full-time Ph.D. students in the Division of Social Sciences and the Division of Humanities at the University of Chicago. Students pursuing a Ph.D. in other Divisions or Schools at the University may also petition to pursue the certificate if they can demonstrate that the relevant requirements may be completed in conjunction with their program of doctoral study.

PH.D. RESEARCH

Thanks to a generous gift from the Redekop family, CEGU offers funding awards for Ph.D. research projects engaged with CEGU themes, including socio-environmental studies, urban environmental studies, energy histories and geographies, environmental humanities, and more. University of Chicago Ph.D. students across all disciplines can apply for funding up to \$5,000 per researcher.

Grants can be used to cover field work related expenses including travel costs, lodging expenses, access to archival or digital materials, and other research-related expenses. Preference is given to students who are pursuing the CEGU Doctoral Certificate.

2023–24 PH.D. RESEARCH AWARDS

Alice Diaz Anthropology	Multivalent Approaches to the Anthropocene: Finding Answers in the Memefication of Sacred Aesthetics
Zackery Gostisha History	Building the British Empire in Jamaica
Zi Yun Huang CHSS	A History of Plankton Science from Protoplasm to Petroleum
Ashley Jackson Anthropology	A Project of Counter-Mapping: Tracing Intimacy and Touch Between Valero Energy and the Greater Memphis Area
Daliyah Killsback Anthropology	Northern Cheyenne Water Governance and the Spatial Politics of Bottled Water
Tyler Lutz English	Unruling the Subcontinent: Environment and Empire Between the Lines
Megan MacGregor Anthropology & CHSS	Research on the Microbiome
Max Maydanchik Economics	Complementarity in Electric Vehicles and Residential Solar
Ashima Mittal Anthropology	Making Air Breathable in India: ‘Imperialist Ecologies’ of 21st Century Capitalism
Carol Iglesias Otero Anthropology	Oil Out of Joint: Handling Time, Work, and Weather in Mexico’s Sureste Petrolero
Betsy Priem Sociology	Adapting to Climate Change: How Institutions Influence Local Decisions
Angela Wachowich English	Half Calf: An Entangled History of Colonial Leather Books



EVENTS

“Embodying Climate,” January 2024

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES: HOW AN ENVIRONMENTAL NGO AMPLIFIED ONE TOWN'S STRUGGLE AGAINST MINING

October 27, 2023 | 1155 E. 60th St.

Megan Black, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
with discussant **Elizabeth Chatterjee**, CEGU

The talk examined how Friends of the Earth helped make Crested Butte, Colorado's fight against the multinational mining firm AMAX a household name in the 1970s (while neglecting to provide the same level of dug-in support to other communities that, unlike this town, were not inhabited by a nature-seeking group of white elites), asking about the possibilities and limitations of multiscalar activism seeking to move from local to global.

Co-sponsored by International House.

**FRIENDS IN
HIGH PLACES**

HOW AN ENVIRONMENTAL
NGO AMPLIFIED ONE TOWN'S
STRUGGLE AGAINST MINING

MEGAN BLACK
(MIT)

WITH DISCUSSANT
ELIZABETH CHATTERJEE
(UCHICAGO CEGU)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023
12:00–1:30PM CT
ROOM 142, 1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

EMBODYING CLIMATE: REFLECTIONS ON *RUTH DUCKWORTH: LIFE AS A UNITY* IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

January 25, 2024 | Smart Museum of Art

Saadia Mirza, American University in Paris + UChicago
Alberto Ortega-Trejo, School of the Art Institute + UChicago
Joshi Radin, Chicago-Based Artist/Writer
 Introduction by **Jessica Landau**, CEGU
 Moderated by **Alexander Arroyo**, CEGU

Individual and collective experiences of climate change are mediated simultaneously by embodied encounters with extreme weather events and by now-familiar abstractions of climate models and satellite imagery. As we grapple with the increasing dissonance between everyday life and epochal climatic and environmental change, how might we hold these intimate and remote forms of sensing in generative tension? How might we learn from the space between what we can touch, smell, see, or hear and what we can observe or study from afar? This event explores how the prescient work of sculptor Ruth Duckworth might guide us through that space, offering insight and inspiration for ways of knowing climate and its many forms of change through embodied aesthetic practice. In so doing, Duckworth points toward new forms of climate media attuned to the multiple scales of transformation—climatic, environmental, social, bodily—to which we must so urgently attend.

Co-sponsored by the Smart Museum of Art.

EMBODYING CLIMATE

REFLECTIONS ON
RUTH DUCKWORTH: LIFE AS A UNITY
 IN AN ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

SAADIA MIRZA
 (AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN PARIS
 & UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

ALBERTO ORTEGA-TREJO
 (SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE OF
 CHICAGO & UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO)

JOSHI RADIN
 (CHICAGO-BASED ARTIST/WRITER)

INTRODUCTION BY **JESSICA LANDAU**
 MODERATED BY **ALEXANDER ARROYO**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
 6:00-7:30PM

SMART MUSEUM OF ART
 5550 S. GREENWOOD AVE.

SMART MUSEUM OF ART
 &
 COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
 GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NEW ARCTIC FRONTIERS? FISH, OIL, MINERALS AND THE ECONOMIZATION OF THE OCEAN

March 28, 2024 | 1155 E. 60th St.

Tone Huse, University of Tromsø
Berit Kristoffersen, University of Tromsø
Alexander Arroyo, CEGU
 Moderated by **Michael Watts**, UC Berkeley

This lunchtime seminar explored the remaking of Arctic seascapes as a frontier space for an expansive and growing ocean economy. Panelists reflected on how the Arctic Ocean and surrounding seas are paradoxically made increasingly valuable as they are made increasingly vulnerable to multiple pressures: polar-amplified warming, sea ice retreat, pollution, deep sea mining and drilling, surveying and surveillance, harvesting and over-exploitation at an unprecedented rate and scale.

Focused primarily on the Norwegian context, the event featured Tone Huse (Associate Professor, University of Tromsø) who presented work from her recent book *Nature-made Economy* (MIT Press 2023, with Kristin Asdal) on the commodification of Arctic cod as a prism for understanding the economization of the ocean, followed by Berit Kristoffersen (Associate Professor, University of Tromsø) and Alexander Arroyo (Affiliated Faculty CEGU/Senior Research Associate & Associate Director, Urban Theory Lab, University of Chicago) who presented research on the role of the ice edge in shaping new oil, gas, and (most recently) seabed mineral frontiers. Michael Watts (Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley), collaborator on this research, acted as moderator and provided a short commentary after the presentations.

Co-sponsored by the Peter Sather Center for Advanced Study at the University of California, Berkeley.

NEW ARCTIC FRONTIERS? FISH, OIL, MINERALS AND THE ECONOMIZATION OF THE OCEAN

ALEXANDER ARROYO
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

tone huse
UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

BERIT KRISTOFFERSEN
UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

MICHAEL WATTS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY

—

THURSDAY
MARCH 28, 2024
12:00PM

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

—

ORGANIZED BY THE
**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION**
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU

WITH SUPPORT FROM THE
**PETER SATHER CENTER FOR
ADVANCED STUDY**
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

PAST & FUTURE COMMONS SECOND ANNUAL CEGU CONFERENCE

May 9–10, 2024 | International House

Keynotes by **Jake Bittle** and **Silvia Federici**

Panels Featuring **Alyssa Battistoni, Sharad Chari, Susanna Lidstrom, James McCarthy, Robert Nichols, Marcy Norton, Alvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, Matthew Shutzer, Omar Dahbour, Flora Lu,** and **Ashley Dawson**

Organized by **Fredrik Albritton Jonsson, Oliver Cussen, Sabina Shaikh,** and **Nicole Whalen**

The twin emergencies of climate change and biodiversity loss have led to a revived interest in the past and future of “the commons”—in land that exists prior to or beyond private property, where social relations and natural resources are governed without the regulation of the state. To what extent do historical, existing, and imagined examples of the commons—from the precapitalist village, the urban commune, or the global commons—offer models for sustainable and democratic forms of political ecology? How might renewed attention to the commons allow us to reconsider the environmental consequences of previous and ongoing processes of enclosure and dispossession? The habitability of the planet depends on the fate of our planetary commons in the earth, atmosphere, and ocean (phytoplankton, wetland plants, soil biota etc.). In pointing beyond the traditional institutions of the state and the market, the commons offer ways of rethinking the societal, spatial, and ethical dimensions of climate change, reorienting our understanding of the relationship between urban and rural, local and planetary, the global north and the global south, the human and the non-human.

Co-sponsored by International House.

PAST & FUTURE COMMONS

SECOND ANNUAL
CEGU CONFERENCE



**MAY 9–10, 2024
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE**

CALVIN & FREDA REDEKOP LECTURE
IN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
SILVIA FEDERICI

FRIZZELL FAMILY LEARNING
& SPEAKER SERIES
JAKE BITTLE

PANELS FEATURING
**ALYSSA BATTISTONI
SHARAD CHARI
SUSANNA LIDSTROM
JAMES MCCARTHY
ROBERT NICHOLS
MARCY NORTON**

**ÁLVARO SEVILLA-BUITRAGO
MATTHEW SHUTZER
OMAR DAHBOUR
FLORA LU
ASHLEY DAWSON**

ORGANIZED BY
**FREDRIK ALBRITTON JONSSON
OLIVER CUSSEN**

**SABINA SHAIKH
NICOLE WHALEN**

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

 THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU

GEOPOETICS OF URBAN RIVERS

October 17–18, 2024

RIVERS AND POWER

Thursday, October 17, 2024

Franke Institute for the Humanities

A Conversation on the Imaginaries, Materiality, and Culture of Urban Waters, with **Dilip da Cunha & Rachel Havrelock**

Becky Lyons (Welcome Remarks)
Jennifer Scappettone (Introduction)
Aaron Jakes (Moderator)

The relationship of water to power has taken shape across plural scales of space and time, governing how cities and their extensions as “landscape” have been designed, constructed, represented, and operated over the millennia. These keynotes opened up a dialogue surrounding the dynamic of water and power; they served to open a binational symposium addressing challenges facing urban watersheds across the globe in a time of climate change and the diminishing effectiveness of regulatory apparatuses—when urban riversheds, long treated as waste sinks and logistics systems, are being sporadically reclaimed for wildlife and recreation, but also as scenographic instruments of gentrification and narrative control. The conversation between da Cunha and Havrelock foregrounded the role of wetness as a vital agent within urbanized territory, challenging the production of the “river” as an ideological instrument, and the extractivist and colonial perspective that has governed the manipulation of water in the modern age.

This event provided the philosophical and thematic grounding for “floating” practice-based workshops held the following day on the Chicago River.

Co-sponsored by the International Institute of Research in Paris, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, CNRS/IRL HumanitiesPlus, and the Department of English.

FLOATING WORKSHOP ON THE CHICAGO RIVER

Friday, October 18, 2024

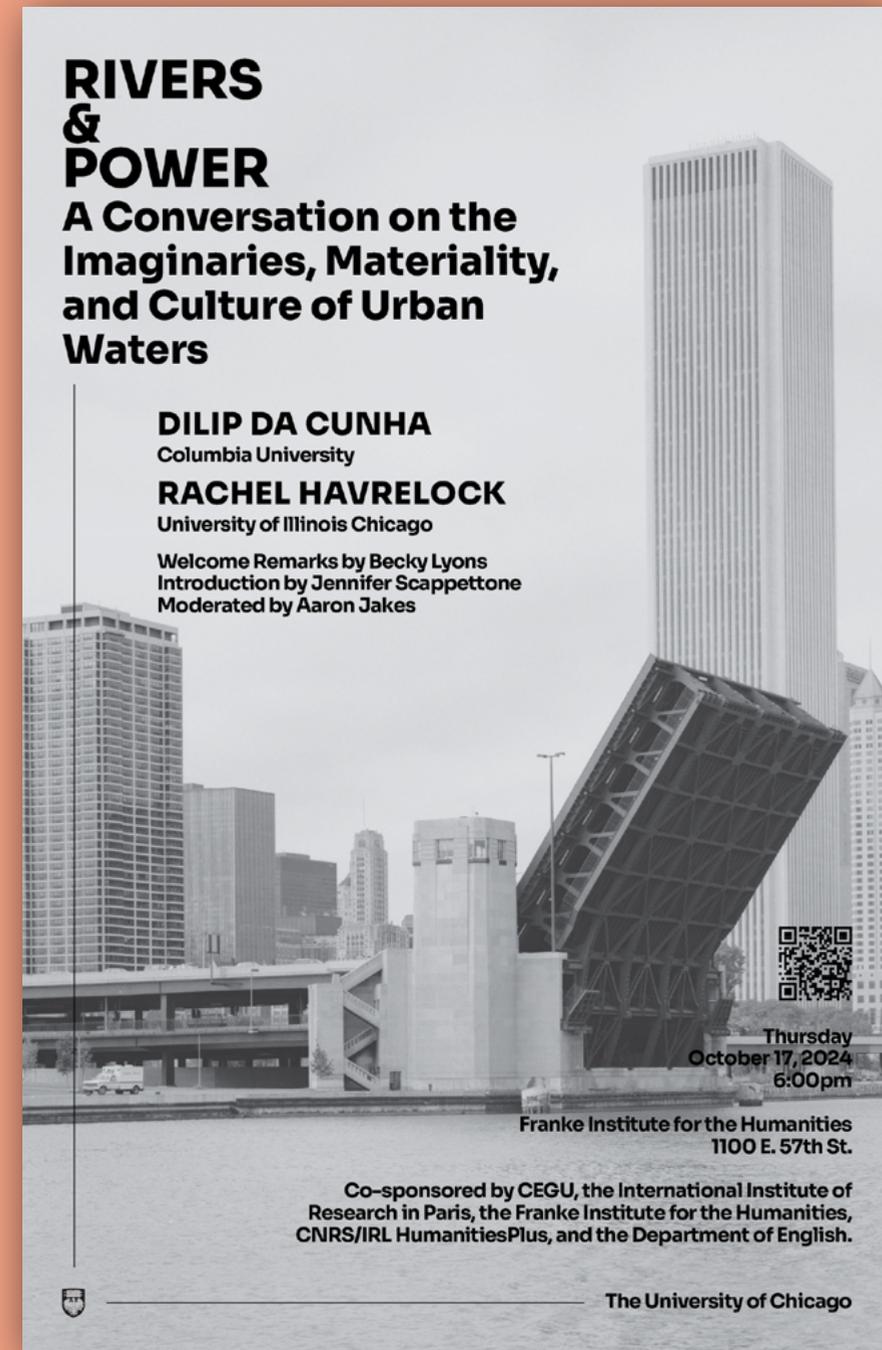
North Shore Marine to Ping Tom Park

Featuring **Austin Happel, Rachel Havrelock, Norman Long, Lize Mogel, Phil Nicodemus, Rebecca Snedeker, and julie ezelle patton**

This floating workshop took place on a boat ride along the Chicago River from North Shore Marine in Bucktown on the North Branch to the Damen Silos, disembarking at Ping Tom Park, and moved to the Chicago Maritime Museum. The workshop convened 40 scholars, students, and community members, including artists, writers, activists, and designers, to engage in cross-disciplinary creative practice. Three practicing artists heavily involved in challenges facing urban watersheds were paired with experts on the Chicago watershed to offer workshops on the boat.

We wished to tap and expand participant perspectives surrounding this waterway via creative prompts delivered while we were on the water, opening up a comparative imaginary through analogies with other urban watersheds.

What’s special about this event is that the audience was really a full participant; it was composed of specialists and students from a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives, traveling together, following creative prompts and sharing knowledge. We have imagined this counter-cruise as a pedagogical opportunity to elicit and discuss creative artifacts hailing from water experts who might not consider themselves artists at all, and to demonstrate that art can offer up genuinely new thinking surrounding urban watersheds.



RIVERS & POWER
A Conversation on the Imaginaries, Materiality, and Culture of Urban Waters

DILIP DA CUNHA
Columbia University

RACHEL HAVRELOCK
University of Illinois Chicago

Welcome Remarks by Becky Lyons
Introduction by Jennifer Scappettone
Moderated by Aaron Jakes

Thursday
October 17, 2024
6:00pm

Franke Institute for the Humanities
1100 E. 57th St.

Co-sponsored by CEGU, the International Institute of Research in Paris, the Franke Institute for the Humanities, CNRS/IRL HumanitiesPlus, and the Department of English.

The University of Chicago

RUIN TO RENEWAL: REIMAGINING DEGRADED LANDSCAPES

February 21, 2025 | Social Science Research Building

Craig E. Colten, Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University

From a marshy “wasteland” to a sprawling manufacturing complex to a scattered assemblage of industrial ruins, Chicago’s southeast side has experienced massive environmental transformations guided by more than one dream of landscape improvement. What can we learn from the processes of degradation and restoration that occurred in this wetland-turned-industrial zone? How might attunement to these cycles prepare us both for new rounds of modification and, more speculatively, for the impending, forced dereliction of coastal cities facing sea-level rise?

Over a long and distinguished research career, Craig E. Colten has focused on perilous landscapes created by the combined forces of industrial contamination, ecological change and malign neglect both in Chicagoland and southern Louisiana. He is the author of seven books and dozens of articles that have shaped the field of environmental historical geography. Before taking up his position at LSU, Craig Colten spent a decade at the Illinois State Museum where he conducted the definitive research on industrial hazardous waste disposal in northern Illinois.

Co-sponsored by the Urban Theory Lab and CEGU.

RUIN TO RENEWAL
Re-Imagining Degraded Landscapes

Craig E. Colten
Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Anthropology
Louisiana State University

Friday
February 21, 2025
3:00pm

Tea Room
Social Science Research Building
1126 E. 59th St.

Urban Theory Lab & Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization

The University of Chicago
cegu.uchicago.edu

ENERGY—CAPITAL—METABOLISM

April 24–25, 2025

Social Science Research Building & 1155 E. 60th St.

Calvin & Freda Redekop Lectures in Environment and Society
by **Dominic Boyer** and **Laleh Khalili**

Panels Featuring **Sabine Barles, Robert Suits, Rebecca Wright, Martín Arboleda, Julia Mead, Niu Teo, Robin McDowell, Sachaet Pandey, Myles Lennon,** and **Daniela Ruß**

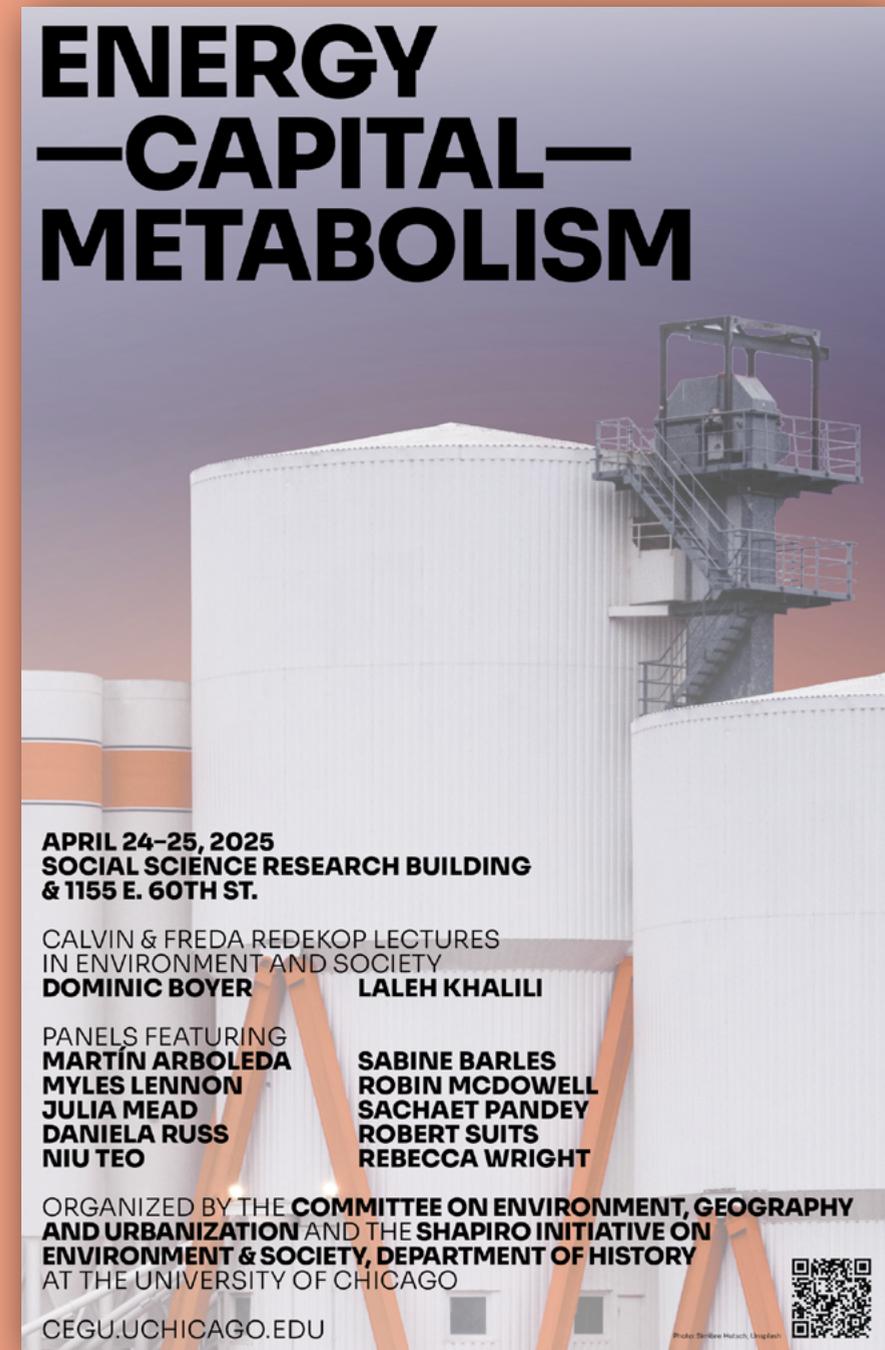
For too long, energy studies have tended to focus on familiar fuels considered in isolation, especially oil and coal. This conference instead seeks to explore new “metabolic” approaches that trace diverse flows of energy, their combinations, and their transformative dynamics, materialized in spatial infrastructures, built environments, and institutions, throughout economy and society. In this holistic understanding, the concept of energy can extend across the whole web of life, from hydroelectric reservoirs and fodder grass to chicken protein, tailing ponds, and nuclear waste. It encompasses the vital sociometabolic processes that mediate, flow, and result from diverse sites of capitalist development and biogeophysical transformation, ranging from the domestic household and the metropolitan region to the factory farm and the financial terminal, as well as the waste dump and, indeed, the planetary biosphere as a whole.

Such a perspective opens up urgent new questions for scholars working across the environmental social sciences and humanities. How have the dynamics of capital—across time and space—shaped and been shaped by (geo)political strategies to harness, store, distribute, and deploy diverse forms,

combinations, and assemblages of energy (including fossil fuels)? How have historical and contemporary forms of empire, military power, and territorial governance mediated the energetics of capitalist development across diverse spheres of life, from extraction, production, and transportation to social reproduction and waste management? How have changing infrastructures for appropriating, processing, transporting, and deploying energy in turn shaped historical structures of power, profit, and ideology? Which downstream sectors, from agriculture to aluminum and fertilizer production, deserve attention as major energy consumers, and thus as drivers of historical and ongoing forms of socioenvironmental destruction and crisis? How might such holistic understandings of energy metabolism inform our understanding of contemporary strategies and struggles to restructure inherited fossil fuel-fired, carbon-intensive forms of social life?

In this conference, established and early-career scholars working on such questions in the environmental social sciences and humanities gather to share their insights and discuss emerging research agendas with the CEGU community.

Organized by CEGU and the Shapiro Initiative on Environment and Society, Department of History



**ENERGY
—CAPITAL—
METABOLISM**

**APRIL 24–25, 2025
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING
& 1155 E. 60TH ST.**

CALVIN & FREDA REDEKOP LECTURES
IN ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY
DOMINIC BOYER **LALEH KHALILI**

PANELS FEATURING
MARTÍN ARBOLEDA **SABINE BARLES**
MYLES LENNON **ROBIN MCDOWELL**
JULIA MEAD **SACHAET PANDEY**
DANIELA RUSS **ROBERT SUITS**
NIU TEO **REBECCA WRIGHT**

ORGANIZED BY THE **COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY
AND URBANIZATION** AND THE **SHAPIRO INITIATIVE ON
ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU.UCHICAGO.EDU

Photo: Barbara Helach, Unsplash



FRIZZELL LEARNING & SPEAKER SERIES

Established in 2013 thanks to a generous gift in commemoration of the life, accomplishments, and aspirations of Alexandra Frizzell, the Frizzell Family Speaker and Learning Series is a student-organized program of events in agriculture, environment, and health from the perspective of the social sciences. A young woman whose boundless curiosity about the world fueled audacious learning and strong ties to friends and family alike, Alex exemplified the undergraduate for whom wisdom builds upon intelligence. For her, life knowledge, the inspiration of community, and enhancing the chances of others fueled commitment to learning, as well as joy in life. The goal of the series is therefore to better enable students to interact with thought leaders, relevant alumni, faculty, and locally based advocates to build skills, knowledge, and confidence in relation to the above topics.

January 5, 2024

Weather Report: A CEGU Teach-in on Climate-Nature Emergencies

Alexander Arroyo and Mary Beth Pudup

February 1, 2024

Weather Report 02

Alexander Arroyo and Mary Beth Pudup

April 22, 2024

Journeys Beyond the Quad: An Earth Day Student-Alumni Mixer

May 9, 2024

Whose Land Is It To Lose? Climate Change, Managed Retreat, and the Commons

Jake Bittle

WEATHER REPORT

A CEGU TEACH-IN ON CLIMATE-NATURE EMERGENCIES

The summer of 2023 was the hottest ever recorded on planet earth and—wait for it—next summer is expected to be hotter. Seemingly every extreme weather event—be it wildfires, flooding, or heat emergencies—is greeted as the “new normal” instead of what it should be: a clarion call for collective study and action. This event takes up that challenge and creates a CEGU forum for student-driven conversations that grapple with the climate and nature emergency as it is happening. This is an invitation to talk about root causes of the emergency, map efforts underway to address those causes and finally and urgently, imagine alternative futures.

The event will begin with a brief introduction by CEGU faculty + students and will move on to an open discussion and brainstorm about what kinds of student-led CEGU initiatives and events we can develop to address the climate-nature emergency. Come ready to share ideas and get inspired! Snacks and drinks will be provided. This event is part of the Frizzell Family Learning & Speaker Series.

ORGANIZED BY ALEXANDER ARROYO & MARY BETH PUDUP
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023, 4PM | URBAN LOUNGE, 1155 E. 60TH ST.
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WEATHER REPORT 02

On November 30th, 2023, the United Arab Emirates convened the 28th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—COP28 for short—in Dubai. Over the course of two weeks, negotiators from almost 200 nations took stock of progress made since the 2015 Paris Agreement—too slow, and not enough—and debated ways to transition away from fossil fuels—a debate influenced, no doubt, by the overwhelming presence of fossil fuel industry lobbyists and their political allies. Despite strenuous disagreement between delegates and scathing critique from activists, in his closing remarks on December 13th UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell proclaimed that COP28 signalled the “beginning of the end” of the fossil fuel era.

But amidst such mixed messages emerging from COP, are there other signals in the noise? What really happened offstage? What were activists and other unsanctioned participants demanding, and why? Are carbon markets and other market-based technofixes the only answer? What can we learn from COP28 from the bottom-up? Come join students from UChicago’s COP28 delegation and Professor Berit Kristofferson (UIT, Norway) to get an inside story on the politics of climate change and discuss the way forward.

ORGANIZED BY ALEXANDER ARROYO & MARY BETH PUDUP
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024, 4–5PM | URBAN LOUNGE, 1155 E. 60TH ST.
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

JOURNEYS beyond **THE QUAD**
an Earth Day student-alumni mixer

FRIZZELL FAMILY
LEARNING and
SPEAKER SERIES

Monday, April 22
6:30-7:30PM
The Urban Lounge,
1155 E 60th St

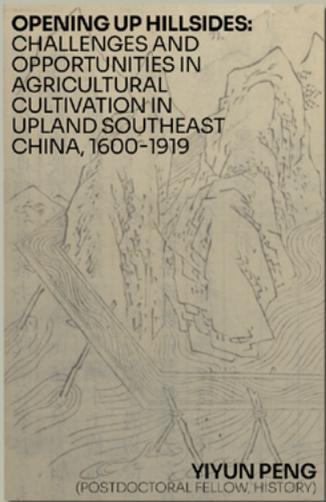
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

The CEGU Colloquium is a forum for discussion of advanced research in environmental social science and humanities among faculty, students, postdoctoral scholars, and invited guests. The CEGU Colloquium provides an opportunity for Ph.D. students enrolled in the CEGU Doctoral Certificate to share work in progress and to receive critical feedback on their projects from the CEGU scholarly community. CEGU’s faculty also regularly present their work, including new or forthcoming publications as well as early-stage ideas for new projects. We also welcome presentations from postdoctoral fellows and other scholars on campus who are engaged in environmental research, including those working in the ecological, biological, and geophysical sciences. The Colloquium also invites distinguished scholars from other institutions to present their latest research and to engage with CEGU’s work.

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

OPENING UP HILLSIDES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION IN UPLAND SOUTHEAST CHINA, 1600-1919



YIYUN PENG
(POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, HISTORY)

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
4:00PM CT

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN ROOM, SSRB
(ROOM 224, 1126 E. 59TH ST.)

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

in partnership with the
EAST ASIAN TRANS-REGIONAL
HISTORY (EATRH) WORKSHOP

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

SHOULD NATURE HAVE RIGHTS?



ELAINE COLLIGAN
PHD STUDENT, POLITICAL SCIENCE

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 20, 2023
12:00-2:00PM CT

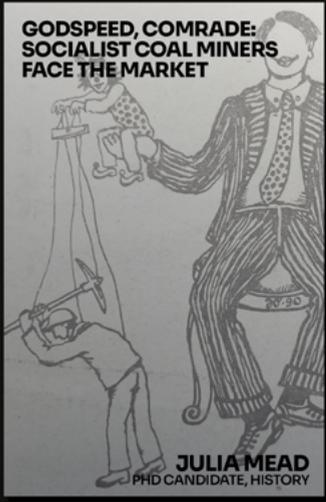
ROOM 142
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

GODSPEED, COMRADE: SOCIALIST COAL MINERS FACE THE MARKET



JULIA MEAD
PHD CANDIDATE, HISTORY

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2023
4:00-5:30PM CT

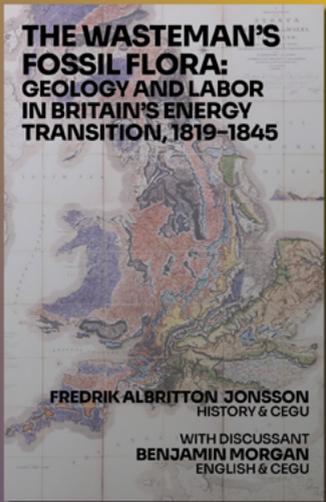
JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN ROOM (224)
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH BUILDING

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

THE WASTEMAN'S FOSSIL FLORA: GEOLOGY AND LABOR IN BRITAIN'S ENERGY TRANSITION, 1819-1845



FREDRIK ALBRITTON JONSSON
HISTORY & CEGU

WITH DISCUSSANT
BENJAMIN MORGAN
ENGLISH & CEGU

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 17, 2023
12:00-2:00PM CT

SSRB TEA ROOM
1126 E. 59TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

CHAOS IN THE HEAVENS: THE FORGOTTEN HISTORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE, 15TH-20TH CENTURIES



JEAN-BAPTISTE FRESSOZ
CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE
SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS), PARIS

FRIDAY
JANUARY 26, 2024
12:30PM CT

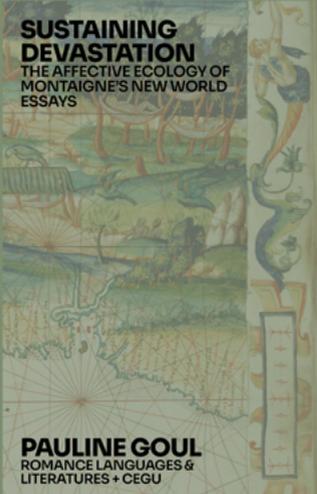
MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION
&
COMMITTEE ON CONCEPTUAL AND
HISTORICAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

SUSTAINING DEVASTATION THE AFFECTIVE ECOLOGY OF MONTAIGNE'S NEW WORLD ESSAYS



PAULINE GOUL
ROMANCE LANGUAGES &
LITERATURES + CEGU

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM



UNSAFE HARBOUR: A POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF POSTWAR MARSEILLE

VENUS BIVAR
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

FRIDAY
MARCH 29, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM



ANCIENT WATER HISTORY AND MODERN POLICY MAKING: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S PLACE IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

MEHRNOUSH SOROUSH
CEGU + NELC

WITH RESPONDENT
MARY BETH PUDUP
CEGU

FRIDAY
APRIL 12, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

EXPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE



YUTING DONG
HISTORY & CEGU

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

COMMUNAL HOUSING AND CLIMATE CHANGE CAN DECOMMODIFIED HOUSING STRENGTHEN CLIMATE RESILIENCE?



DERICK ANDERSON
INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT, CEGU
PHD CANDIDATE, UIUC

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2024
12:30PM CT

SSRB TEA ROOM (201)
1125 E. 59TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM



THE RANGE AND ITS ARRANGEMENTS

EMMA PASK
PHD CANDIDATE, ANTHROPOLOGY + CHSS

WITH RESPONDENT
HADEEL BADARNI
PHD CANDIDATE, ANTHROPOLOGY

FRIDAY
APRIL 19, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM



THE PRICE IS WRONG: WHY THE MARKET WILL NEVER SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

BRETT CHRISTOPHERS
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

WITH INTERLOCUTOR
JO GULDI
EMORY UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY
MAY 3, 2024
12:30PM CT

ROOM 344
1155 E. 60TH ST.

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY
OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM



SHOUTING OBSCENITIES ON LIVE TV, OR MODES OF POPULAR THEORIZING ABOUT THE 2021 WILDFIRES IN GREECE

FRIDAY
MAY 17, 2024
12:30PM CT

MANSUETO LOUNGE
1155 E. 60TH ST.

ALYSSA MENDEZ
PHD STUDENT, ANTHROPOLOGY

CEGU
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CEGU COLLOQUIUM

On Ruralization in Brazilian Politics: From Post-Abolition to BigAg



Christopher Lesser
Assistant Professor
Global Studies
UNC-Charlotte

Friday, October 11
2024
12:30–2:00pm
Room 344
1155 E. 60th St.

The University of Chicago

Committee on Environment,
Geography and Urbanization

CEGU Colloquium

THEATRES OF EMPIRE



A Humanist Environmentalism of Colonial Space

Tyler Lutz
PhD Student, English

Friday, January 24, 2025, 12:30pm
Room 344, 1155 E. 60th St.

The University of Chicago

Committee on Environment,
Geography and Urbanization

CEGU Colloquium

THE ELECTRIC NEW DEAL



Roosevelt's National Power Policy & the American State's Changing Relationship to Energy

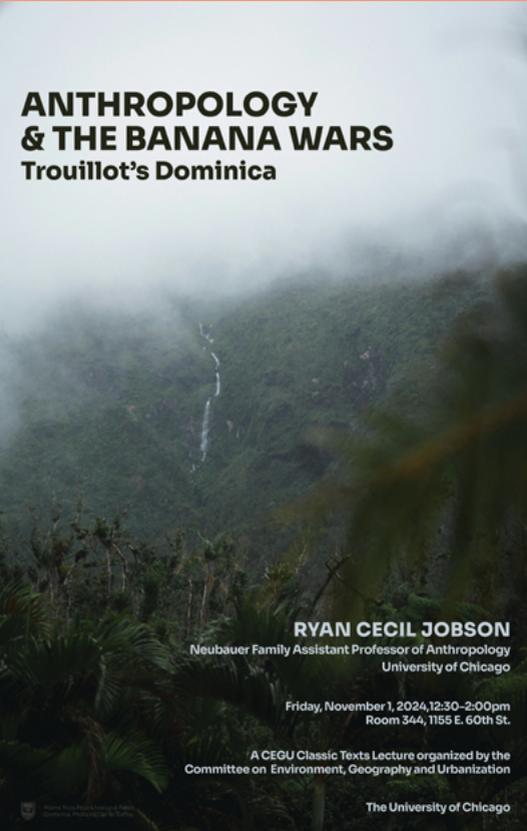
Margot Lurie
PhD Student, Sociology

Friday, January 31, 2025, 12:30pm
Room 344, 1155 E. 60th St.

The University of Chicago

Committee on Environment,
Geography and Urbanization

ANTHROPOLOGY & THE BANANA WARS
Trouillot's Dominica



RYAN CECIL JOBSON
Neubauer Family Assistant Professor of Anthropology
University of Chicago

Friday, November 1, 2024, 12:30–2:00pm
Room 344, 1155 E. 60th St.

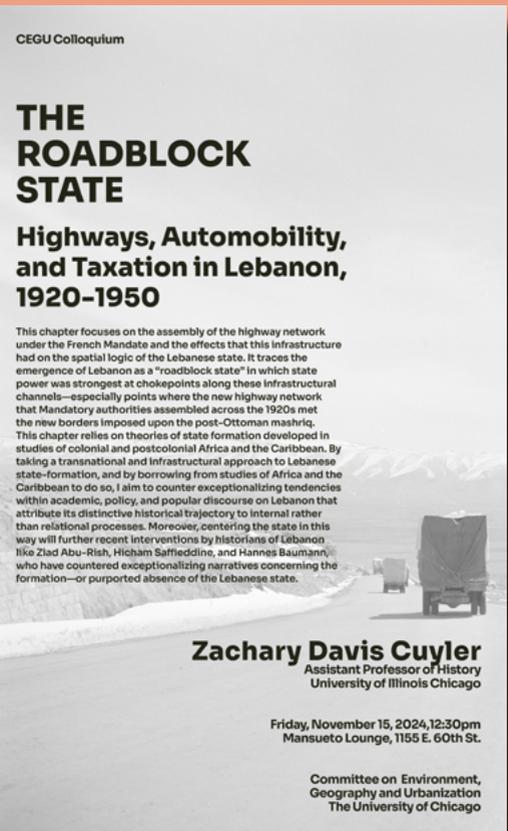
A CEGU Classic Texts Lecture organized by the
Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization

The University of Chicago

CEGU Colloquium

THE ROADBLOCK STATE
Highways, Automobility, and Taxation in Lebanon, 1920–1950

This chapter focuses on the assembly of the highway network under the French Mandate and the effects that this infrastructure had on the spatial logic of the Lebanese state. It traces the emergence of Lebanon as a "roadblock state" in which state power was strongest at chokepoints along these infrastructural channels—especially points where the new highway network that Mandatory authorities assembled across the 1920s met the new borders imposed upon the post-Ottoman mashriq. This chapter relies on theories of state formation developed in studies of colonial and postcolonial Africa and the Caribbean. By taking a transnational and infrastructural approach to Lebanese state-formation, and by borrowing from studies of Africa and the Caribbean to do so, I aim to counter exceptionalizing tendencies within academic, policy, and popular discourse on Lebanon that attribute its distinctive historical trajectory to internal rather than relational processes. Moreover, centering the state in this way will further recent interventions by historians of Lebanon like Ziad Abu-Rish, Hicham Saffieddine, and Hannes Baumann, who have countered exceptionalizing narratives concerning the formation—or purported absence of the Lebanese state.



Zachary Davis Cuyler
Assistant Professor of History
University of Illinois Chicago

Friday, November 15, 2024, 12:30pm
Mansueto Lounge, 1155 E. 60th St.

Committee on Environment,
Geography and Urbanization
The University of Chicago

CEGU Colloquium



Design, A Philosophical Problem for Urban Agroecology

Adam Nocek
Associate Professor
Philosophy of Science and Technology
Arizona State University

Friday, February 28, 2025, 12:30pm
Room 344, 1155 E. 60th St.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY AND URBANIZATION

CEGU Colloquium

TOWARDS A 'RURAL TAKE-OFF'
Agricultural Intensification and Ecological Change, 1979–2000



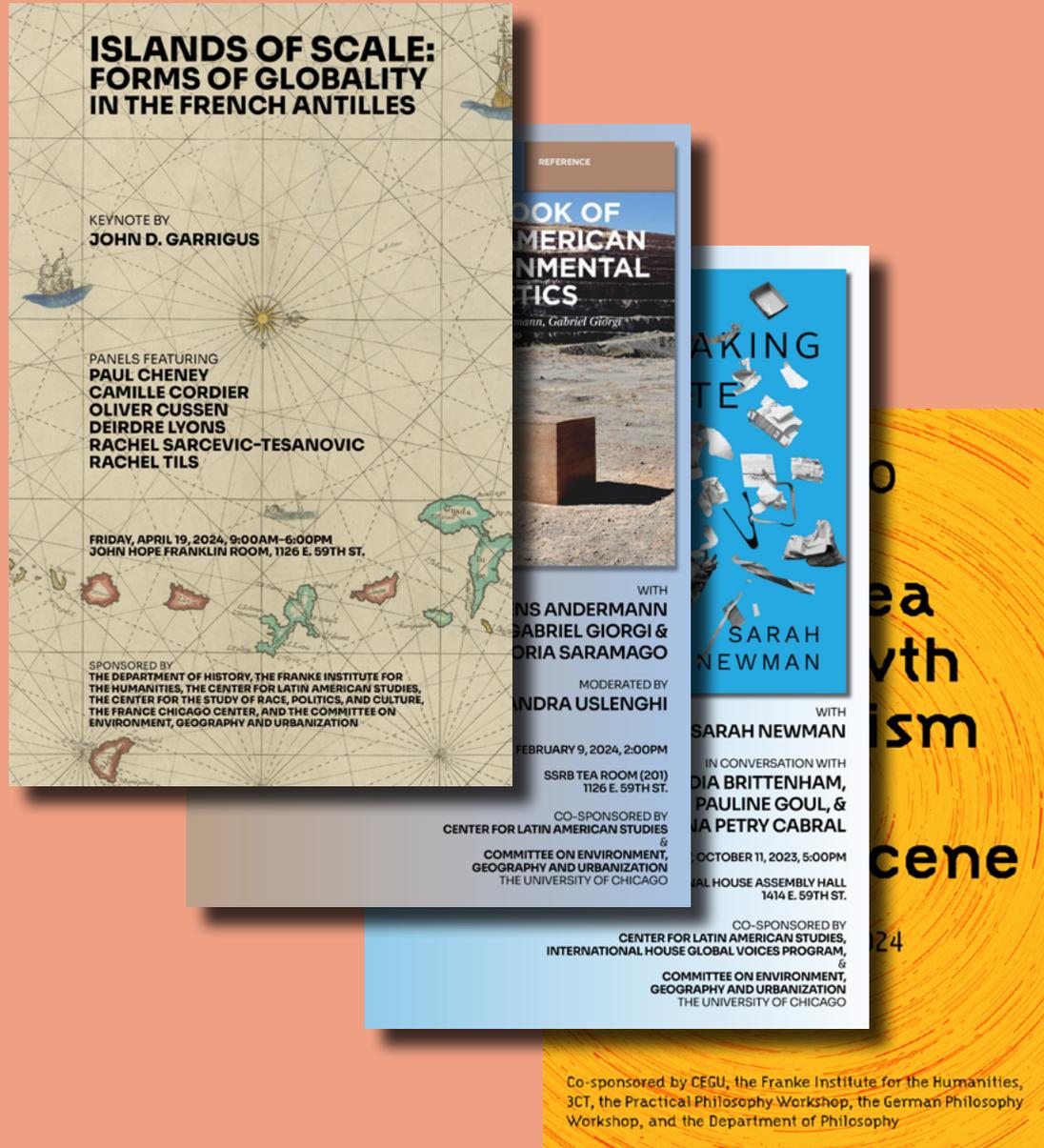
Rohan Chatterjee
PhD Student, History

Friday, March 28, 2025, 12:30pm
Room 344, 1155 E. 60th St.

The University of Chicago

Committee on Environment,
Geography and Urbanization

CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



October 11, 2023

Unmaking Waste: New Histories of Old Things

Sarah Newman, Claudia Brittenham, Pauline Goul, and Mariana Petry Cabral
Center for Latin American Studies, International House, and CEGU

November 8, 2023

Revisiting Data Center Energy-Use Estimates: The Fact, Fiction, and Future of Data Center Energy Use

Arman Shehabi
Department of Computer Science and CEGU

February 9, 2024

Handbook of Latin American Environmental Aesthetics

Jens Andermann, Gabriel Giorgi, Victoria Saramago, and Alejandra Uslenghi
Center for Latin American Studies and CEGU

April 19, 2024

Islands of Scale: Forms of Globality in the French Antilles

John D. Garrigus, Paul Cheney, Camille Cordier, Oliver Cussen, Deirdre Lyons, Rachel Sarcevic-Tesanovic, and Rachel Tils
Department of History, Franke Institute for the Humanities, Center for Latin American Studies, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, France Chicago Center, and CEGU

May 15, 2024

Environmental Activism and Its Democratic Implications

Brian Balogh and Sarah Fredricks
Chicago Center on Democracy and CEGU

May 22, 2024

Marx's Idea of Degrowth Communism in the Anthropocene

Kohei Saito
3CT, Franke Institute for the Humanities, Practical Philosophy Workshop, German Philosophy Workshop, Department of Philosophy, and CEGU

October 8, 2024

From the Formation of Anthropos in Ancient Greece to its Contemporary Dissolution

François Hartog and Dipesh Chakrabarty

Department of History, Department of Classics, Franke Institute for the Humanities, and CEGU

October 21, 2024

Earthborn Democracy: A Political Theory of Entangled Life

Joel Alden Schlosser and Evan Carver

Seminary Co-op Bookstore and CEGU

October 28, 2024

The Transgressing Sea: Dealing with a Non-Human Agency at the Edge of the World

Manuel Álvarez-Martí-Aguilar

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, Department of Classics, and CEGU

October 29, 2024

Wasting & Wanting: An Extractive Supply Chain Approach to Outer Space Geographies

Julie Michelle Klinger and Alexander Arroyo

Urban Theory Lab and CEGU

January 30, 2025

Grieving Geographies, Mourning Waters: Environmental Racism and Mestizaje in Mexico

Yoalli Rodríguez Aguilera

Center for Latin American Studies and CEGU

February 12, 2025

Speculative Worldbuilding Amid the Climate Crisis

Matt Bell

Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society and CEGU

February 14, 2025

Plastic: An Autobiography

Allison Cobb and Jennifer Scappettone

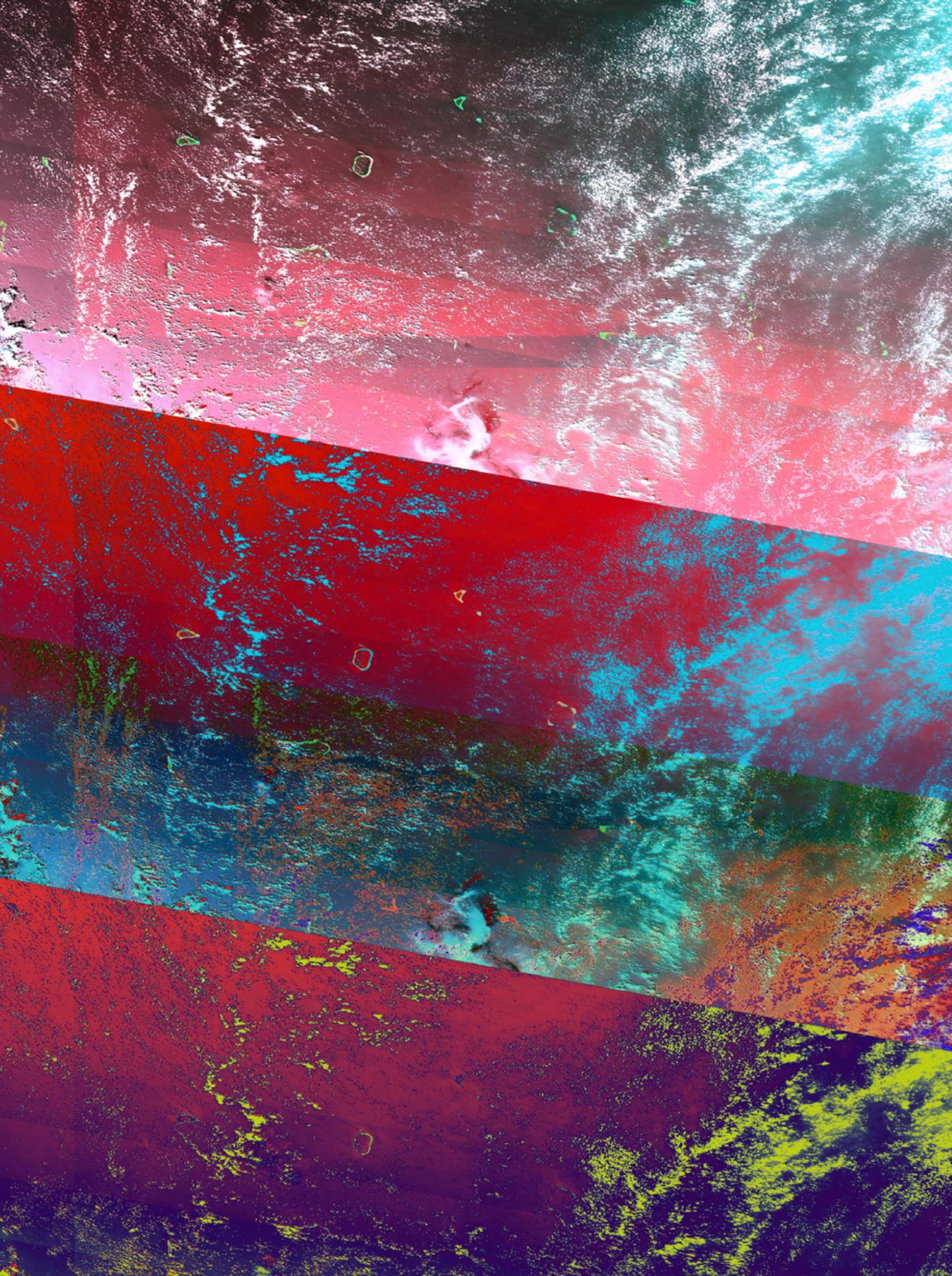
Environmental Humanities+Arts Lab, English, Creative Writing, and CEGU

February 20, 2025

The Petro-State Masquerade: Oil, Sovereignty, & Power in Trinidad and Tobago

Ryan Cecil Jobson, Michael Watts, and William Balan-Gaubert

Seminar Co-op Bookstore and CEGU



FACULTY RESEARCH

GLOBAL WORKSHOPS

In Spring 2023, UChicago Global generously allocated funds to support CEGU's work. With this support, teams of CEGU faculty have organized conferences or workshops at UChicago's global centers related to key themes in their work.

May 3, 2024 | UChicago Center in Delhi

Energy History and Environmental Sustainability

Organized by Elizabeth Chatterjee

October 25–26, 2024 | UChicago Center in Hong Kong

Ecological Matters: Experimental and Legal Interventions into Climate Change in East Asia

Organized by Michael Fisch and Mark Templeton

December 6–7, 2024 | UChicago Center in Paris

What is Waste? Histories, Ecologies, Geographies, and Politics

Organized by Pauline Goul and Sarah Newman

May 22–25, 2025 | UChicago Center in Hong Kong

From the Countryside to the City: Environmental Transformations and the Impact of Urbanization, Land Use Changes, and Migration on Cambodian Life

Organized by Alan Kolata and Sabina Shaikh

October 2024 + June 2025 | UChicago + UChicago Center in Paris

Geopoetics of Twinned Urban Rivers: Chicago to Calumet, Seine to Marne—and Beyond

Organized by Jennifer Scappettone and Sabina Shaikh



Group Photo, Energy History and Environmental Sustainability, UChicago Center in Delhi

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Niall Atkinson and Carmen Caswell. “Neighborhood demographics at the Foundation of the Innocenti: A Test Case in Mapping the Florentine Catasto of 1427,” *I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance* (2023): 165–197.

Anna Reosti, Rahim Kurwa & Robin Bartram. “Rental housing and the continuum of carcerality.” *Theoretical Criminology* 28, 4 (2024): 534–553.

Robin Bartram. “Routine Dilapidation: How Homeownership Creates Environmental Injustice.” *City & Community* 22, 4 (2023): 266–285.

Kimberly L. Meidenbauer, Kathryn E. Schertz, Peiyuan Li, Ashish Sharma, Tiara R. Freeman, Elizabeth A. Janey, Andrew J. Stier, Anya L. Samtani, Kathryn Gehrke, and Marc G. Berman. “Variable and dynamic associations between hot weather, thermal comfort, and individuals’ emotional states during summertime.” *PsyArXiv* (2024).

Kimberly C. Doell, Marc G. Berman, Gregory N. Bratman, Brian Knutson, Simone Kühn, Claus Lamm, Sabine Pahl, Nik Sawe, Jay J. Van Bavel, Mathew P. White & Tobias Brosch. “Leveraging neuroscience for climate change research.” *Nature Climate Change* (2023).

Scott G. Ortman, José Lobo, Lisa Lodwick, Rob Wiseman, Olivia Bulik, Victoria Harbison, and Luís M. A. Bettencourt. “Identification and measurement of intensive economic growth in a Roman imperial province.” *Science Advances* 10, 27 (2024).

Luís Bettencourt. “Recent achievements and conceptual challenges for urban digital twins.” *Nature Computational Science* 4, 3 (2024): 150–153.

Swarnabh Ghosh, Neil Brenner, and Nikos Katsikis. “The global industrial feedlot matrix: a metabolic monstrosity,” in Jeffrey S. Nesbit and Charles Waldheim eds., *Technical Lands: A Critical Primer*. Berlin: Jovis, 2023. 132-155.

Neil Brenner and Swarnabh Ghosh. “Between the colossal and the catastrophic: planetary urbanization and the political ecologies of emergent infectious disease,” *Environment and Planning A* 54, 5 (2022): 867–910

Niall Atkinson

Robin Bartram

Marc Berman

Luis Bettencourt

Neil Brenner

Kate Burrows

Katherine Buse

Dipesh Chakrabarty

Elizabeth Chatterjee

Paul Cheney

Sakurako S. Okuzono, Kate Burrows, Koichiro Shiba, Aki Yazawa, Hiroyuki Hikichi, Jun Aida, Katsunori Kondo, Ichiro Kawachi. “Pre-disaster income inequality and post-disaster mental health: A natural experiment from the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.” *Health Place* 90 (November 2024): 103363.

Kate Burrows, Christy A. Denckla, Jill Hahn, Jessica E. Schiff, Sakurako S. Okuzono, Hervet Randriamady, Carol Mita, Laura D. Kubzansky, Karestan C. Koenen, and Sarah R. Lowe. “A systematic review of the effects of chronic, slow-onset climate change on mental health.” *Nature Mental Health* (2024): 1-16.

Milburn, Colin, Katherine Buse, Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal, Melissa Wills, Baida Aldosari, Patrick Camarador, Josh Aaron Miller, and Justin Siegel. “Join the Fold: Video Games, Science Fiction, and the Refolding of Citizen Science.” *Design Issues* 39, 1 (2023): 70–87.

Dipesh Chakrabarty. “Labor, Work, and Our Crisis Today.” in Daniel Eisenberg and Ellen Rothenberg eds., *Reworking Labor*. Chicago: The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 2023. 152-163.

Dipesh Chakrabarty. *One Planet, Many Worlds: The Climate Parallax*. Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2023.

Elizabeth Chatterjee. “Late Acceleration: The Indian Emergency and the Early 1970s Energy Crisis.” *The American Historical Review* 129, 2 (2024): 429–466.

Elizabeth Chatterjee. “Towards an Energetics of Class: Comparing Energy Protests in India and the United States.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 66, 3 (2024): 1–29.

Paul Cheney. “Le Débat sur capitalisme et esclavage: terre, travail et capital,” in Almeida Mendes, Anne Conchon, Alessandro Stanziani, and Myriam Cottias. *Travail servile et dynamiques économiques XVIe-XXIe siècle*. Paris: IGPDE-Comité pour l’histoire économique et financière de la France, 2024: 98-115.

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Vítor Oliveira, Michael Conzen, and Susan Whitehand. “The Historico-Geographical Approach to Urban Morphology.” in *ISUF, Urban Morphology and Human Settlements*. New York: Springer, 2024.

Brodwyn Fischer. “Historicizando a governança Informal.” *Acervo* 36, 1 (2023): 1-24.

Brodwyn Fischer and Keila Grinberg, editors. *The Boundaries of Freedom: Slavery, Abolition, and the Making of Modern Brazil*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

Marco Garrido. “The Spatial Organization of Inequality.” *American Journal of Sociology* 139, 6 (2024): 1-39.

Marco Garrido. “The Housing Divide in the Global South.” in Brian J. McCabe and Eva Rosen (eds), *The Sociology of Housing: How Homes Shape our Social Lives*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2023.

Pauline Goul. “La question environnementale au XVIème siècle,” *Cahiers de recherches médiévales et humanistes* 2, 46 (2023).

Pauline Goul, “Figures d’inclination sur une planète abîmée: Penser l’anxiété climatique avec la Renaissance,” *Cahiers de recherches médiévales et humanistes* 2, 46, (2023).

Arianna Tassinari, Gary Herrigel, and Virginia Doellgast. “On Sidney Rothstein’s *Recoding Power: Tactics for Mobilizing Tech Workers*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2022.” *Socio-Economic Review* 21, 2 (April 2023): 1257–68.

Jacobé Huet. “Architectural Elusion and Colonialism in Albert Camus’ ‘La maison mauresque,’” in *Shifting the Paradigm: New Studies in Islamic Art and Architecture in Honor of Gülru Necipoğlu*. Brill, forthcoming 2025.

Michael P. Conzen

Brodwyn Fischer

Marco Garrido

Pauline Goul

Gary Herrigel

Jacobé Huet

Amir Jina

Fiona Burlig, Amir Jina, Erin M. Kelley, Gregory V Lane, and Harshil Sahai. “Long-Range Forecasts As Climate Adaptation: Experimental Evidence From Developing-Country Agriculture.” National Bureau of Economic Research, 2024.

Michael Jerrett, Amir Jina, and Miriam E. Marlier. “Up in smoke: California’s greenhouse gas reductions could be wiped out by 2020 wildfires.” *Environmental Pollution* 310 (2022): 119888.

Ryan Cecil Jobson

Ryan Cecil Jobson. *The Petro-State Masquerade: Oil, Sovereignty and Power in Trinidad and Tobago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024.

Ryan Cecil Jobson. “Facing the Flames: The Herskovitses, Trinidad, and the Anthropological Imagination.” *American Ethnologist* 50, 3 (2023).

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson. “A History of Ecological Economic Thought: By Marco P. Vianna Franco and Antoine Missemer, Routledge, Abingdon, 2023.” *The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, (2024): 1–2.

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson & Carl Wennerlind. *Scarcity: A History from the Origins of Capitalism to the Climate Crisis*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2023.

Catherine Kearns

Catherine Kearns. “Performing Community: Ritual, Copper Production, and Local Politics on Archaic Cyprus.” In K. Morgan (ed.), *Pomp, Circumstance, and the Performance of Politics: Acting Politically Correct in the Ancient World* (2024): 73-98.

Catherine Kearns. *The Rural Landscapes of Archaic Cyprus: An Archaeology of Environmental and Social Change*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022

Brisa Aschebrook-Kilfoy

Saira Tasmin, Briseis Aschebrook-Kilfoy, Donald Hedeker, Rajan Gopalakrishnan, Elizabeth Connellan, Muhammad G. Kibriya, Michael T. Young, Joel D. Kaufman, and Habibul Ahsan. “Long-term exposure to ambient air pollution and measures of central hemodynamics and arterial stiffness among multiethnic Chicago residents.” *Environmental Health* 1 (2024):47.

SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS (CONT.)

Alan Kolata. *El poder de los Incas: la organización social, económica, religiosa y política de un imperio*. San Miguel, Peru: Fondo Editorial de la PUCP, 2023.

Alan Kolata

John S. Felkner, Hyun Lee, Sabina Shaikh, Alan Kolata, Michael Binford. “The Interrelated Impacts of Credit Access, Market Access and Forest Proximity on Livelihood Strategies in Cambodia.” *World Development*, Vol. 155 (July 2022).

Thomas Lamarre. “Platformivity: Infrastructures, Platforms, Techniques of Self.” Michigan State University: Global Media Studies, March 2023.

Thomas Lamarre

Thomas Lamarre. “Settler Colonialism and the Ecological Worlds of Global Japanese Animation.” Denver: SCMS, 2023.

Jessica Landau and Maria Lux, editors. *Unserious Ecocriticism: Humor, Play, and Environmental Destruction in Art and Visual Culture*. Amherst: Amherst College Press (forthcoming).

Jessica Landau

Jessica Landau. “The Politics of Bigfoot Porn, or the Relationship between Sasquatch and the Far Right,” in Natalie Phillips, and Grant Hamming (eds.) *The Visual Culture of Trumpism*. London: Routledge, 2024.

Laura Letinsky. “Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other, “A Picture Held Us Captive,”” *Image Text*. Ithaca: Ithaca Press, 2023.

Laura Letinsky

Laura Letinsky. “Diaries of Home.” Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 2024.

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Joseph Masco

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