

Workshop

Natural Resources and Human Societies in East and West: Early Modern and Modern Environmental Histories from Japan and Germany

September 30th, Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum

Natural resources are essential for human subsistence and form the basis of societies. As a result, societies developed complex relationships with nature and with what nature provided to humans. This not only concerned forms of societal organization but also permeated knowledge and belief systems. Societies formed institutions and practices to govern, cultivate, extract, process or preserve natural resources. They also ascribed cultural meanings and economic value to natural resources and produced knowledge and norms for how to deal with them. Therefore, resources are a useful tool to examine the entanglement of past societies with their environments.

By bringing scholars together from Japan and Germany in both early modern and modern environmental history, this workshop facilitates the discussion and exchange of ideas about new approaches in environmental history on the research of natural resources. It brings into conversation both research focused on time periods representing different stages of capitalist development and on two regions with differing thought and belief systems that became increasingly entangled in the modern period.

*Virtual participation via Zoom is possible.
To register, please send an email until September 22, 2024 to [reform\[at\]ressourcencampus-bochum.de](mailto:reform[at]ressourcencampus-bochum.de).*

09:00 **Welcome**
Julia Mariko Jacoby
University of Duisburg-Essen
Katja Schmidtpott
Ruhr University Bochum

09:15 **Early Modern Environmental Histories of Resource Ecologies**

Kōichi Watanabe
National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo
The Connected Environmental History of the Ayu Sweetfish, the Aqueduct, and the Valley

Tina Asmussen
German Mining Museum/Ruhr University Bochum
Minescapes: Ecologies, Labor, and Investment in Early Modern Europe

10:15 **Coffee Break**

10:30 **Modern Environmental Histories of Resources, Technology, and Expertise**

Tatsushi Fujihara
University of Kyoto
Rice Breeding in the Japanese Empire

Frank Uekötter
Ruhr University Bochum
Monoculture: Decoding a Global Mystery

11:30 **Coffee Break**

12:00 **Round Table with Participants:
Environmental Histories in Japan and Germany**
Convenors: Julia Mariko Jacoby, Katja Schmidtpott

13:00 **Lunch**