

THOMAS M. LEKAN

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of History and Faculty Associate, School of the Environment, University of South Carolina (May 2005-Present)

Assistant Professor of History and Faculty Associate, School of the Environment, University of South Carolina (1999-2005)

Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1998-1999)

Visiting Instructor, Carleton College (Fall 1997)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 1999

Major Field: Modern European Social History Minor: Geography

Adviser: Prof. Rudy Koshar

M.A. University of Washington-Seattle, March 1993

Major Fields: Modern European Intellectual History and American Environmental History

Advisers: Prof. John Toews and Prof. Richard White

B.A. Carleton College, Northfield, MN, June 1989

Major: History, *magna cum laude*

CURRENT RESEARCH

Green Tourism: Consumption and Conservation in 20th Century Germany.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Imagining the Nation in Nature: Landscape Preservation and German Identity, 1885-1945 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004).

Germany's Nature: Cultural Landscapes and Environmental History (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2005). Co-edited with Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland).

Introduction "The Landscape of German Environmental History" by editors.

Articles and Essays:

"Regionalism and the Politics of Landscape Preservation in the Third Reich," *Environmental History*, 4 (July 1999): 384-404.

“Organische Raumordnung: Landschaftspflege und die Durchführung des Reichsnaturschutzgesetzes im Rheinland und in Westfalen,” in *Naturschutz und Nationalsozialismus*, ed. Frank Uekötter and Joachim Radkau (Frankfurt: Campus, 2003), 145-165.

"German Landscape: Local Promotion of the *Heimat* Abroad," in *The Heimat Abroad: The Boundaries of Germanness*, ed. Krista O'Donnell, Renate Bridenthal, and Nancy Reagin (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005), 141-166.

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

“Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege in der Weimarer Republik” in *Handbuch Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege*, ed. Werner Konold, Reinhard Böcker, and Ulrich Hampicke, no. 19 (Landsberg: Ecomed, 2006), 1-18.

“The Nature of Home: Landscape Preservation and Local Identity,” in *Localism, Landscape, and the Ambiguities of Place: German-Speaking Central Europe 1860-1933*, ed. David Blackburn and James Retallack (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007), 165-194.

“Review Essay: From *Naturschutz* to *Umweltschutz*: Nature Conservation and Environmental Reform in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1950-1980.” *German Historical Institute Bulletin, London*, vol. 19, no. 2 (November 2007): 68-95.

“Saving the Rhine: Ecology, Culture, and *Heimat* in Post-World War II Germany,” in *Rivers in History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America*, ed. Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008), 110-136.

“A ‘Noble Prospect’: Tourism, *Heimat*, and Conservation on the Rhine, 1880-1914,” forthcoming *Journal of Modern History*.

Other Publications

“Globalizing American Environmental History,” *Environmental History*, 10, no. 1 (January 2005): 50-52. Contribution to journal’s thirtieth anniversary forum “What’s Next for Environmental History.”

Forum Editor: “German Environmental History in a Global Perspective” *German History*, 27, no. 2 (Forthcoming: April 2009).

Essays in Progress

“Turning Points in Environmental History: The Nation State,” in *Turning Points in Environmental History*, ed. Frank Uekötter, Christof Mauch, and Joachim Radkau (Under review).

“Scenery, Region, Power: Cultural Landscapes in Environmental History,” co-authored with Thomas Zeller. Essay solicited for *Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*, ed. Andrew Isenberg (New York: Oxford University Press).

“Decolonizing the Wild: Bernhard Grzimek, Nature Tourism, and the Development of Serengeti National Park.”

Undergraduate Research: Environmental and Public History Projects

Tales of the Tidelands: Oral History, Documentary Production, and Environmental Values in the South Carolina Lowcountry. 2003-2007.

Co-editor and faculty mentor for student-produced documentary films, website exhibit, and online oral history depository (with Prof. Laura Kissel, Department of Art, University of South Carolina):

- Faculty mentor: Web Exhibit and Oral History Repository:
URL: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/talesofthetideland>
- Public film screenings and discussions of student-produced documentary films:
USC McKissick Museum, April 6, 2005
Georgetown County Public Library, May 11, 2005
- TV Broadcast of student film *Uprooted* on South Carolina Educational Television's
"Southern Lens," May 26, 2005.
- Faculty mentor: USC Magellan Undergraduate Research Program to create online
exhibit and depository: 2006-2007.
- Faculty mentor: USC Discovery Day undergraduate research award winners,
2005 and 2007.
- Faculty mentor/researcher: USC National Endowment for the Humanities Summer
Seminar, African American Public History, July 13, 2007.

Congaree Cultural History Project/Lower Richland County Heritage Corridor, 2007-present
Land-use history, oral history, historic preservation, and tourism assessment in conjunction with Congaree National Park, Hopkins, SC (with Robert Weyeneth, USC Dept. of History)

- Organized Community Forum on Local Environmental History, Fall 2007

Reviews:

Stephen Lee, *Imperial Germany 1871-1918* (London: Routledge, 1999) in *German Studies Review*, 24, 1 (February 2001): 176.

David Frisby, *Cityscapes of Modernity* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001) in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, vol. 21, no. 1 (February 2003): 125-127.

Thomas Zeller, *Strasse, Bahn, Panorama: Verkehrswege und Landschaftveränderung in Deutschland von 1930 bis 1990* (Frankfurt: Campus, 2002) in *Environmental History*, vol. 8, no. 4 (October 2003): 697.

Mark Cioc, *The Rhine: An Eco-Biography 1815-2000* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002) in H-Net Humanities Online: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=111591060380699>

Review of Conference Panel "Citizen Activism and the Quest for the Sustainable City: Berlin, 1900 to the Present," German Studies Association, Washington, D.C.
www.h-net.org/~german/resources/conf_reports_index.htm

Charles Burdett and Derek Duncan, eds. *Cultural Encounters; European Travel Writing in the 1930s* (New York: Berghahn, 2002) in *Journal of Social History*, vol. 30, no. 3 (August 2005): 402-402.

Maiken Umbach and Bernd Hüppauf, eds. *Vernacular Modernism: Heimat, Globalization, and the Built Environment* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005) in H-Net Humanities Online: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.cgi?path=303881159819976> (June 2006).

Shelley Baranowski, *Strength through Joy: Consumerism and Mass Tourism in the Third Reich* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) in *European History Quarterly*, vol. 37, no. 2 (2007): 311-313.

Frank Uekötter, *The Green and the Brown: A History of Conservation in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Forthcoming, *European History Quarterly*.

Book manuscript and draft article reviews for German Historical Institute, University of Michigan Press, Routledge Press, *Environmental History*.

Research Proposal Reviewer: Dutch Humanities Council

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- German Academic Exchange Service Conference Grant: Southeast German Studies Workshop, March 2006
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2006-2007
- German Historical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship, Summer 2006
- University of South Carolina Foundation Research and Productive Scholarship Award, 2005-2006
- USC Office of Research/College of Liberal Arts: Tales of the Tidewater: Oral History, Documentary Video, and Environmental Values in the South Carolina Lowcountry, 2004
- University of South Carolina/Hewlett Foundation: Undergraduate Research-Based Learning Grant – Tales of the Tidewater: Oral History and Environmental Values on the South Carolina Coast, Spring 2003
- Fulbright Grant: German Studies Seminar in Urban Planning, June 2001
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, Summer 2000
- University of South Carolina Strategic Programs and Research Award, Summer 2000
- University of South Carolina College of Liberal Arts Scholarship Support, Summer 2000
- Merle Curti Lectureship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 1999
- Travel Grant, Society for the History of Technology Conference, October 1998
- Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, 1996-1997
- Fulbright Grant, Bonn, Germany, 1995-1996
- Jacob K. Javits Fellow, U.S. Department of Education, 1992-1996
- Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, Council for European Studies (CES), Germany, Summer 1994
- Summer Language Study Grant, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Goethe Institut, Iserlohn, Germany, Summer 1994
- Graduate Tuition Award and Ayer's Scholarship, University of Washington, 1991-1992

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Golden Key Faculty Award for the Creative Integration of Research and Undergraduate Teaching, 2005
- Finalist: USC Ada B. Thomas Outstanding Faculty and Staff Advisor of the Year, 2005, 2007
- Passed Doctoral Preliminary Examinations with Distinction, Spring 1995
- Graduate Seminar Essay Prize, University of Wisconsin History Department, May 1995

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

German Studies Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, October 2008

Paper: "Germans in the Wilderness: American National Parks and the *Heimat* Imaginary, 1880-1914."
Panel Organizer: Wilderness, Frontier, and Civilization: Narrating German-American Encounters in the Long Nineteenth Century

German Studies Association, San Diego, CA, October 2007

Moderator: Special Book Panel on David Blackbourn's *The Conquest of Nature: Water, Landscape, and the Making of Modern Germany* (2006).

Paper: "Recreational Enclosure: National Parks and the Origins of German Nature Tourism in East Africa."

Germany's Colonialism in International Perspective: International Interdisciplinary Conference on German Colonialism and Post-Colonialism, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, September 2007.

"Decolonizing the Wild: Bernhard Grzimek, Nature Tourism, and the Creation of Serengeti National Park."

German Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA, September 2006

"Leisure, Local Identity, and Nature Conservation in Germany, 1880-1914."

American Society for Environmental History, St. Paul, MN, March 2006

"Consuming the Organic Machine: Tourism, Technology, and the Nationalization of the Rhine."

German Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, October 2005

"A Taste for Nature: Tourist Economies and the Nationalization of the Rhine, 1800-1914."

German Studies Association, Washington, D.C., October 2004

Commentator: Panel "Tourists in the Landscape: Tourism and Regional Identities in German-Speaking Central Europe" and "Citizen Activism and the Quest for the Sustainable City: Berlin, 1900 to the Present."

American Society for Environmental History, Victoria, British Columbia, April 2004

Presenter: "'Tales of the Tidewater': An Environmental Oral History Seminar in the South Carolina Lowcountry."

Commentator: Panel "Tourism, the State, and the Use of Nature."

German Studies Association, New Orleans, LA, September 2003

"Rationalizing Nature: Landscape Planning and Environmental Reform in Weimar Germany."

Panel Organizer: Reshaping Space and Society in Twentieth-Century Germany

European Society for Environmental History, Prague, Czech Republic, September 2003

"Seeking the Middle Ground: Landscape Preservation and Local Knowledge of Nature in the Rhine Valley, 1880-1914." Panel sponsored by German Historical Institute.

American Society for Environmental History, Providence, Rhode Island, March 2003

"Monuments of Nature: Cultural Landscape Preservation and Historical Memory in the Rhine Valley, 1885-1914."

Fachkongress Naturschutz und Nationalsozialismus, Berlin, July 2002

"Organische Raumordnung: Die Durchführung des Reichsnaturschutzgesetzes in den ehemaligen preussischen Provinzen Rheinland und Westfalen."

German Studies Association, Washington, D.C., October 2001

"Borderland Ecology: Rhine River Cleanup and the Imagined Community of Europe."

Panel Organizer: Nature in the Atomic Age: Environmental Perception and Ecological Politics, 1945-1989

European Society for Environmental History, St. Andrews, Scotland, September 2001

"Restoring the Rhine: Nature, Culture, and the European Community, 1945-1970."

American Society for Environmental History, Durham, NC, March 28-April 1, 2001

"The Homelands of Modernity: Rationalizing Landscape in Weimar Germany."

Panel Organizer: Landscape versus Wilderness: Images of Homeland in German Environmental History

German Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 1999

"Visions of Lebensraum: The Neanderthal Museum and Nature Park under National Socialism."

Panel Organizer: Exhibiting Germany: Museums, Culture and National Identity, 1868-Present

Society for the History of Technology, Baltimore, MD, October 1998

"Constructing 'Nature' on the German *Autobahn*, 1934-1942."

German Studies Association Conference, Washington, DC, Sept. 1997

"Imagining Community through Preserving Nature: Environmentalism and *Heimat* in Wilhelmine Germany."

American Society for Environmental History Conference, Baltimore, MD, March 1997
"Regionalism and the Politics of Landscape Preservation in the Third Reich: The Case of the Rhineland."

Conference on Central and Eastern Europe, New College of the University of South Florida, Sarasota, FL,
April 1997
"National Borderland/Regional *Heimat*: The Contested Identity of the Rhineland, 1890-1933."

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND INVITED TALKS

"Chasing Eden": Nature, Health and the Politics of the Environment, University of Exeter—Cornwall
Campus, UK, September 2008.
"Decolonizing the Wild: Bernhard Grzimek, Nature Tourism, and the Creation of Serengeti National Park."

Oxford Handbook of Environmental History Conference, Temple University, Pittsburgh, PA, September
2007.
Essay "Cultural Landscape," with Thomas Zeller.

Clemson University Science and Technology Studies Program, April 2007
"Rethinking Leisure and the Environment: The Case of the Rhine."

Davidson College History Forum, Davidson, NC, April 2007
"Consuming the Rhine: Tourism, Technology, and the Politics of Leisure, 1880-1914."

German Historical Institute, Summer Fellowship Presentation, July 2006.
"Consuming the Rhine: Nature, Technology, and Leisure, 1880-1914."

Turning Points in Environmental History, University of Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary History
(Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung), Germany, June 2005. Invited as speaker.
"Turning Points in the Environmental History of the Nation State."

Localism, Landscape, and Hybrid Identities in Imperial Germany, Munk Centre for International Studies,
University of Toronto, 12-14 May 2005. Invited as speaker.
"The Nature of Home: Landscape Preservation and Local Identities in the *Kaiserreich*."

Transnational Circulation of Landscape Narrative and Nation Building, University of Texas, Austin, Texas,
April 2005. Invited as participant.
"Consuming Nature – Building Nations: Tourism and the Nationalization of the Rhine, 1800-1914."

University of South Carolina School of the Environment Faculty Colloquia, April 2005
"Tales of the Tidelands: Using Research-Based Learning in the Environmental Humanities."

The Center for Humans and Nature and University of South Carolina School of the Environment
Seminar on Natural History in the South Carolina Lowcountry, Mepken Abbey,
Moncks Corners, SC, May 2004
Co-presenter for session on oral history and documentary video in study of lowcountry environmental
history

German Historical Institute Workshop, Rivers in History, Washington, D.C., December 2003
"Saving the Rhine: Ecology, Culture, and the Reinvention of German Identity, 1945-1970."

Carleton College, Conference on Revolutionary Aftermaths, October 2003
Participant in Round Table, "Teaching Comparative Revolution."

Workshop on German Environmental History in European Perspective, Harvard University Minda de
Gunzburg Center for European Studies, May 2003
Invited as chair, moderator and roundtable participant

Fulbright German Studies Seminar on Urban Planning in Germany, Berlin, June 2001.

Moderator of Session "Past and Future – Americanization of German Pop Culture?" at University of South Carolina German Studies Symposium, German Pop Culture: How "American" Is It?, April 6, 2001.

Moderator for Science Studies Roundtable Discussion "When, how, and why did Humans become Human?" for USC Townsend Lecturer Robert Proctor (Pennsylvania State University), February 2001.

The *Heimat* Abroad: The Boundaries of Germanness, New York University Center for European Studies, November 1999

"Landscape as Home: Local Promotion of the *Heimat* Abroad, 1913-1938."

Midwest German History Workshop, University of Michigan, November 1998

Position paper, "On the Limits of *Gleichschaltung*: Negotiating Power in Nazi Germany."

Midwest German History Workshop, University of Michigan, November 1997

Position paper "Rethinking the *Kulturlandschaft*: The Role of 'Culture' in German Environmental Historiography."

Upper Great Lakes Consortium for European Studies Conference, Minneapolis, MN, February 1997

"A River Runs Through It: The Rhineland Landscape and Regional Identity, 1813-1914."

International Students of History Association Conference "Man and Nature," Vienna, Austria, April 1996

Moderator for week-long workshop "Ecology and History."

Fulbright 50th Anniversary Conference, Berlin, Germany, March 1996

"Landscape Preservation and German Identity, 1890-1933."

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- History 102: Modern European Civilization (regular and honors sections)
- History 338: Modern Germany, 1871-1989
- History 378: The Urban Experience in Modern Europe
- History 448: American Environmental History
- History 474: European Social History, 1789-1914
- History 498: Senior Seminar – Exploring Local Environmental History
- History 498: Senior Seminar – Twentieth-Century Berlin
- History 498: Senior Seminar – Inside Nazi Germany
- History 700: Graduate Seminar in Comparative Environmental History
- History 815: Graduate Dissertation Prospectus Workshop
- Undergraduate Honors Advisor: Topics include "The Emergence of Holocaust Consciousness in the United States," "Beyond the Bomb: The Social Impact of the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, TN," "The Green Revolution," and Website for Tales of the Tidelands.
- M.A. Advisor, Ph.D Reader for projects in the History Department and the School of the Environment.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Professional Service

German Studies Association *German Historical Review* Article Prize Committee, 2008

Steering Committee Chair and Conference Organizer, Southeast German Studies Workshop, 2007-2008

Faculty Consultant, Educational Placement Service Advanced Placement Program, June 2002-

2005

Chair, Alice Hamilton Prize Committee for Best Article in Environmental History published outside the journal *Environmental History*, American Society for Environmental History
Faculty Consultant, Museum of Life and the Environment, York County, South Carolina, 2005-2006

Department

Warwick University Exchange Committee, 2003; Chair, 2004-2008
Organized fundraising campaign for Warwick Scholars Endowment beginning 2006:
Currently \$35,000 in pledges and gifts (\$100,000 goal)
Eastern European History Search Committee, 2007-2008
History Department Graduate Committee, 2005-2006
Guest Seminar Leader for Graduate Gateway Course (History 720) on Environmental History;
Graduate Student Brownbag Series: Preparing a Survey Course, Preparing for the Job Market (2004)
Search Committee for Historian of Eastern Europe/Russia, USC History Department, 2004-2005
History Department Undergraduate Committee, 2004-2005
History Department Strategic Planning Committee, 2002-2003
History Department Executive Committee, 2000-2002
Search Committee for European Gender Historian, USC History Department, 2000-2001
Wienefeld Graduate Essay Prize Selection Committee, USC History Department

University

Chair, PLACE (Paradigms for Landscape and Cultural Explorations): Interdisciplinary USC Reading Group
Interdisciplinary Jewish Studies Search Committee, 2007-2008
Selection Committee: Golden Key Faculty and Student Awards, 2005-2006
McKissick Museum, Faculty Consultant for Proposed Natural History Exhibition, 2004-2005
Morris K. Udall Scholarship Committee, 2004-2005
Faculty Senator, 2003-2005
USCycle, Committee Promoting Bicycle and Pedestrian Issues in USC Community, 2002-2005
Office of Research, Ad Hoc Committee on Proposed Office for Undergraduate Research, 2003-2004
Preston Residential College Faculty Associate, 2001-2002
Nominating Committee for NEH Summer Stipends, University of South Carolina, 2001
Organizing Committee for Townsend Lecturer Prof. Robert Proctor, 2000-2001

Community

Lower Richland County Heritage Corridor
Friends of Midlands Public Transportation Committee Member
Friends of Congaree Swamp National Park
Carleton College Alumni Admissions Representative

Previous Professional Experience

Environmental Consultant, ICF Incorporated, Fairfax, VA, 1989-1991

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society for Environmental History
German Studies Association

European Society for Environmental History
Fulbright Alumni Association

LANGUAGES:

German, Spanish (reading only), French (reading only)