

**THOMAS M. LEKAN**  
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University of South Carolina  
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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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

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**

*Sublime Consumption: German Nature Tourism and the Mass Production of Landscape in the Twentieth Century.*

## **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.*

Co-edited with Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland). Introduction "The Landscape of German Environmental History" by editors (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2005).

### **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.

“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.”

"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 (forthcoming Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2005).

“Saving the Rhine: Ecology, Culture, and *Heimat* in Post-World War II Germany,” in *Rivers in History: Designing and Conceiving Waterways in Europe and North America*, ed. Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller (Under review at Rowman and Littlefield for Studies in International Environmental History Series).

“Geistesgeschichtliche Ursprünge des Naturschutzes: Die Weimarer Republik” in *Handbuch für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege*, ed. Konrad Ott (Forthcoming: Landsberg: Ecomed, 2005).

“The Nature of Home: Landscape Preservation and Local Identity in the Kaiserreich,” in *Localism, Landscape, and the Dilemmas of Place: Germany 1871-1918*, eds. David Blackbourn and James Retallack (In preparation for submission to University of Toronto Press).

### **Media Projects**

*Tales of the Tidelands: Oral History, Documentary Production, and Environmental Values in the South Carolina Lowcountry*. Website Exhibit and Online Oral History Depository. Co-editor with Laura Kissel.

Faculty Mentor for Undergraduate-Produced Documentary *Uprooted* (Broadcast on South Carolina Educational Television’s “Southern Lens,” May 26, 2005).

### **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](http://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). Forthcoming in *Journal of Social History*, 2005.

Shelley Baranowski, *Strength through Joy: Consumerism and Mass Tourism in the Third Reich* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). Forthcoming in *European History Quarterly*.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- University of South Carolina Foundation Research and Productive Scholarship Award, 2005-2006
- 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
- 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
- Passed Doctoral Preliminary Examinations with Distinction, Spring 1995
- Jacob K. Javits Fellow, U.S. Department of Education, 1992 - 1996
- Graduate Seminar Essay Prize, University of Wisconsin History Department, May 1995
- 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

## **PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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**

Turning Points in Environmental History, University of Bielefeld Center for Interdisciplinary History (Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung), Germany. 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 492: Honors Proseminar in 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
- Faculty Reader: Honors Theses "The Emergence of Holocaust Consciousness in the United States," "Beyond the Bomb: The Social Impact of the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, TN," and Website for Tales of the Tidewater: see <http://schc.sc.edu/tales/>.
- M.A. Advisor for projects on Ernst Jünger and Memory Culture of German Expellees

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES AT USC**

#### **Department**

Guest Seminar Leader for Graduate Gateway Course (History 720) and Graduate Student Brownbag Series: Preparing a Survey Course (2002-2002), Introduction to Environmental History (2003), Preparing for the Job Market (2004)  
Search Committee for Historian of Eastern Europe/Russia, USC History Department, 2004-2005  
Warwick University Exchange Committee, 2003; Chair, 2004-2006  
History Department Undergraduate Committee, 2004-2005  
History Department Strategic Planning Committee, 2002-2003  
Departmental Executive Committee, University of South Carolina History Department, 2000-2002  
Search Committee for European Gender Historian, USC History Department, 2000-2001  
Wienefeld Graduate Essay Prize Selection Committee, USC History Department

#### **University**

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

**Professional Society**

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

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Society for Environmental History      European Society for Environmental History  
German Studies Association                              Fulbright Alumni Association

**LANGUAGES:**

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