

## Land Use and Environmental Ideologies in British Mandate Palestine – Four Case Studies

### 9. ONLINE Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte 15<sup>th</sup> Rachel Carson Center Lecture

Presentation:

**Mona Bieling, MA**

RCC Landhaus Fellow 2022-2023  
PhD Candidate, International History  
Department, Geneva Graduate Institute

Moderation:

**Ass.Prof. Priv.Do. Dr. Simone Gingrich**

Centre for Environmental History  
Institute of Social Ecology, BOKU Vienna

**Time:** 02.03.2023, 18:15 - 19:15

**Place:** online (Zoom)

To receive a Zoom link please register at  
umweltgeschichte[at]boku.ac.at



Part of a calendar sheet for April-June 1943, published by the Soil Conservation Board in Palestine. Oxford, Bodleian Libraries, MSS. Medit. s. 23 (4h).

#### **Abstract:**

In this ZUG-Minisymposium, Mona Bieling will present an overview over her dissertation entitled “Landscape and Power in Mandate Palestine, 1917-1948”. In this study, she examines four different types of landscape changes to show how environmental practices influence power relations by enabling new forms of access and control over land, sovereignty, and rights.

Her dissertation shows that man-made landscape changes are crucial for understanding human relationships in colonial and imperial spaces, including in nascent conflict zones such as Palestine-Israel. Landscape changes in mandatory Palestine influenced both Zionist-British and Zionist-Arab relationships by manifesting and transferring power and revealing underlying cultural convictions and political goals. Both Zionist ideology and the British imperial worldview became imprinted onto the Palestinian environment through, for example, afforestation and soil erosion policies.

Ms. Bieling will discuss these dynamics based on four different case studies: land reclamation techniques, forestry, the industrial development of the Dead Sea, and Hebrew University Jerusalem’s botanical garden.