

## Forest and Woodland History in Central Europe: States and Perspectives

### 32. Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte

**Dr. Elisabeth Johann**, Austrian Forest Association, Working Group Forest History  
**Dr. Péter Szabó**, Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic,  
Department of Vegetation Ecology, Brno  
**Ass.Prof. Dr. Martin Schmid**, Center for Environmental History (Moderation)

Forests and woodlands are one of the major topics of an interdisciplinary environmental history. For millennia these socio-ecological systems have been societies' central resource to combine the extraction of energy, material and nutrients. Not only in a country like Austria where nowadays 47% of the country's territory is covered by forests and woodlands, environmental history cannot be written without forest history.

Elisabeth Johann will trace the development of the field in Central Europe during the last couple of decades. She identifies a major turning point in the 1970s, when an empirical science aiming to support first and foremost forest planning gradually changed into an interdisciplinary field of its own, focusing on interrelationships of men and forests and addressing questions of sustainable development also in a global perspective.

Péter Szabó's contribution will deal with woodland history in Hungary and the Czech Republic and will particularly focus on how the integration of ecological questions, methods and data into historical investigations can provide new insights into the history of particular woods.

Bringing the contributions of these two leading experts in the field together, our minisymposium provides the opportunity to discuss states and perspectives of an environmental history of forests and woodlands in Central Europe.

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