

Beyond the ecobiographies of rivers, or why compare riverine environments?

47. Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte

Vortragender:

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Abstract:

The biography of rivers has become a genre in itself in environmental history. Rivers have been a regular topic for historical geographers and historians who have acknowledged their centrality in the diverse stages of human civilization, but the growth of environmental history has provided a new framework to approach this topic and to acknowledge the importance of ecological transformations that rivers experience in their relationships with social transformations. For all their contributions to analyzing environmental inequalities, ecological consequences of sociotechnical systems, as well as spatial dynamics of urbanization processes, histories of river can move beyond their idiosyncratic settings. This is what we would like to explore in this lecture by building toward a comparative historical analysis of two tributaries of the St. Lawrence river in Quebec, the St. Francis and the St. Maurice rivers.

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