

Global Environmental History-distance

Discussion questions for online seminar, Wednesday November 7th 18:00-20:00

The seminar will last for 2 hours. Please enter the online chat room at least fifteen minutes before the seminar starts.

Please discuss the following questions during the seminar. **From the following eight subjects, you should discuss at least four. Question eight is mandatory** for all groups to discuss.

(Our aspiration is that this question will help you gain a deeper understanding of the course material and literature.) The groups have the choice whether to engage in deeper discussions about fewer questions or cover more questions more broadly. You may discuss the following subjects in the order of your own choice. Remember to keep to the subjects so that you can make the most of the seminar!

1. Discuss the following two questions based on Kathryn Schulz' video "On being wrong":
 - a. How do you think about the content of this video in relation to you taking this course? Are you wrong? Are we all wrong?
 - b. How do you think about the content of this video in relation to environmental history? Is the history we know wrong? How can we avoid creating "wrongness" when writing history?
2. What do you feel is the relevance of the term Orientalism in environmental history? Can this term enhance our understanding somehow?
3. Discuss how colonialism is relevant in environmental history.
 - a. How did the transatlantic slave trade affect the environment?
 - b. What other aspects of colonialism are interesting in the subject of environmental history and why?
4. Discuss racism, sexism and sexuality in relation to the chapter 'African sexuality/sexuality in Africa: tales and silences'.
5. Can humanity "tame the wild"? Do you think it is desirable?
 - a. How does the idea of "taming the wild" relate to the colonization of nature and people in different countries? Is there a gendered aspect to this "taming"?
6. How does traditional knowledge relate to endangered cultures and endangered species?
7. Discuss different ways in which different kinds of cultures relate to nature (week 44).

Mandatory question:

8. Discuss different ways in which the online course material from part 2 relates to the course literature. What likenesses and differences of perspective and subject are there? Try to come up with some interesting syntheses between the different sources. Use chosen perspectives from the course material to see other parts of the material in a new light.



Good luck!

Sara and Karin
Course coordinators