Ordering the Anthropocene:

Law & the Environment in the Indian Ocean World

OCTOBER 4-5, 2019
DREXEL UNIVERSITY
3101 MARKET STREET
ROOM #224

HOSTED BY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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Photo Credit: "Dhaka - Taxi boats and ferry on Buriganga River" by Kroisenbrunner, 2015 (Wikimedia Commons)

ABOUT EVENT

Prompted by the contemporary relevance of climate change and disaster relief in the Indian Ocean world, this workshop showcases new scholarship that explores the intersections of climate, landscape transformation, and legal ordering in oceanic and littoral zones. The papers explore a range of issues: from how states sought to bind, improve, and mitigate the power of environmental phenomena; how natural landscapes facilitated border surveillance, boundary-creation as well as the expansion of imperial models of governing nature to the postcolonial world?

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Port Cities in the Anthropocene: Contested Histories and Imagined Futures

Sunil Amrith
(Harvard University, South Asia Studies and History)

Sponsors

- The American Society for Legal History
- Drexel University Department of History
- Drexel Law School's Center for Law, Policy, and Social Action
- Drexel Women's and Gender Studies

Conveners

- Debjani Bhattacharyya (Drexel University)
- Laurie Wood (Florida State University)

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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30am–11:00am: Session I
Aarthi Sridhar (University of Amsterdam) – *Framing Flux: Fisheries Science and the making of Fisheries Management in South India*

Devin Smart (West Virginia University) – *"Unequal to Modern Conditions": Fishing, Development and Extractivism on the Swahili Coast*

Ahmed Y. Almaazmi (Princeton University) – *Making Time Liquid: Inscribing Legal Rights in the Omani Environment*

11:15am–11:30am: Coffee Break

11:30am–1:15pm: Session 2
Keynote, Prof. Sunil Amrith (Harvard) – *Port Cities in the Anthropocene: Contested Histories and Imagined Futures*

1:15pm–2:30pm: Lunch

2:30pm–4:00pm: Session 3
Robert Rouphail (Susquehanna University) – *Rebuilding Mazambik: Cyclone Carol, Race, and Spaces of Decolonization in Mauritius, 1950s-1970s*

Rukmini Chakraborty (Cornell University) – *"Taming the Maritime Frontier": Legality, Illegality, and Spectres of Wildness in Early Nineteenth Century Eastern Indian Ocean*

4:00pm–4:15pm: Coffee Break

4:15pm–5:45pm: Session 4
Tiraana Bains (Yale University) – *Pepper Presidency and Sugar Island: Labor, Ecology and the Making of British Bencoolen*

Kimberley Thomas (Temple University) – *River Borders and Securitizing Infrastructures in South Asia*

5:45pm–6:15pm: Closing Comments

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

9:00am-12:00pm: Field Visit to the Riverwards District led by Ali Kenner (STS Drexel)
Board van at 33rd and Chestnut Streets (outside Drexel Barnes and Noble Bookstore) by 9:00am. Very limited seating available, please write with interest to Debjani Bhattacharyya at dh893@drexel.edu.