

Call for Proposals
The Boston Environmental History Seminar
Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass.

Deadline: March 15, 2018

The Boston Environmental History Seminar at the Massachusetts Historical Society invites proposals for sessions in its 2018-2019 series. The Seminar involves discussion of pre-circulated works in progress, especially article or chapter-length papers, focusing on any aspect of American environmental history. In the past, contributions have addressed: land and water use, fisheries, climate and weather, transportation policy, public health, epistemology, vegetation change, and natural disasters. Papers comparing the American experience with developments elsewhere in the world are also welcome.

The Seminar fosters cross-disciplinary discussion; we welcome submissions from scholarly fields, including (but not limited to): anthropology, archaeology, botany, climatology, economics, engineering, geography, geology, history, medicine, political science, sociology, urban planning, and zoology.

Programs take place at the Massachusetts Historical Society, usually on the second Tuesday evening of each month between October and April. The “Boston” in our name signals not the topics we address, but the numerous academic institutions in Boston, Cambridge, and greater New England whose students and faculty regularly gather around our seminar table. The sessions are widely announced on H-Net and in our publications and are well attended, often attracting more than two dozen participants.

Each session focuses on the discussion of a paper distributed to seminar registrants at least three weeks before the program. Authors must have their papers ready for circulation at this time. The essayist and an assigned commentator will each have an opportunity for remarks before the discussion is opened to the floor. Seminars meet for approximately 90 minutes and are followed by a light buffet supper that offers further time for networking.

We invite proposals (500 words) and CVs from interested researchers. In your proposal, please indicate when your paper can be available for distribution, as well as your preference (fall or spring) based on when the seminar’s feedback would be helpful to you. Advise us of any special scheduling conditions, such as a planned trip to Boston or an extended period when you cannot make a presentation. The steering committee will consider all proposals for the available session slots, and proposers will be notified by mid-May.

Please submit your proposals by March 15, 2018 to Katheryn Viens (kviens@masshist.org), Director of Research at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

For additional information about the Boston Environmental History Seminar, please visit the series webpage at <http://www.masshist.org/2012/calendar/seminars/environmental-history>.