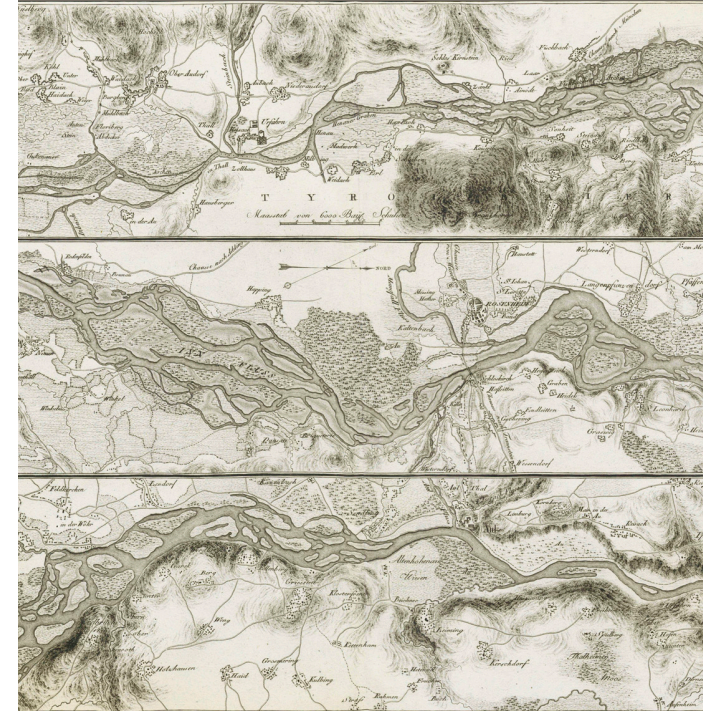
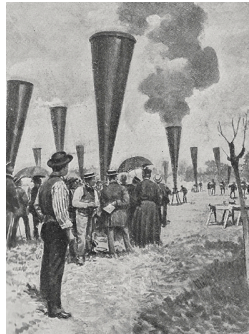


TAMING HAZARDS

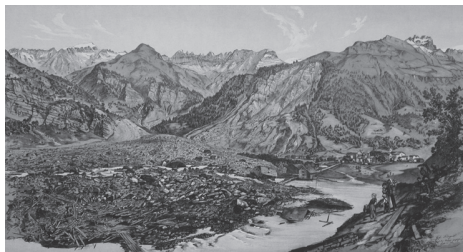
Natural Disasters and Prevention
in the 19th and 20th Century



At all times societal development has been preconditioned by man's protection from and mastery or overcoming of natural hazards. At the turn of the 19th century new ways of coping with contingency arose. Future was now not merely accepted passively, but increasingly shaped actively. The development of modern forms of prevention became professional, and at the same time the expectations towards state regulatory measures and guarantees grew.



With the formation of the welfare state individuals' claims became more demanding, and their cries for protection from natural hazards louder and louder. Gradually, people became convinced that unpleasant natural incidents could be 'prevented', 'calculated', and 'insured'.



Modern states not only protected their citizens from dangers: they took these hazards into account, often perceived them even as a possibility, cause, or obligation for governance. Diverse forms of 'managing fear' arose, in new technical safeguards, protection commissions, insurance products as well as cultural strategies.

Prevention is the anticipation of the future, a line of thought and action to optimize the present by organizing the future. But which authorities developed preventive ideas? How were they accomplished in practice? Our goal is to examine the instable balance between nature's forces and humans' intervention into these powers. The papers bundle approaches of environmental history, history of science and technology. They question in how far man and environment relations have moved towards contexts of preventive ideas since the beginning of the 19th century. Thus, our workshop will link the analyses to exemplary regional, national and global contexts from Europe to the United States.



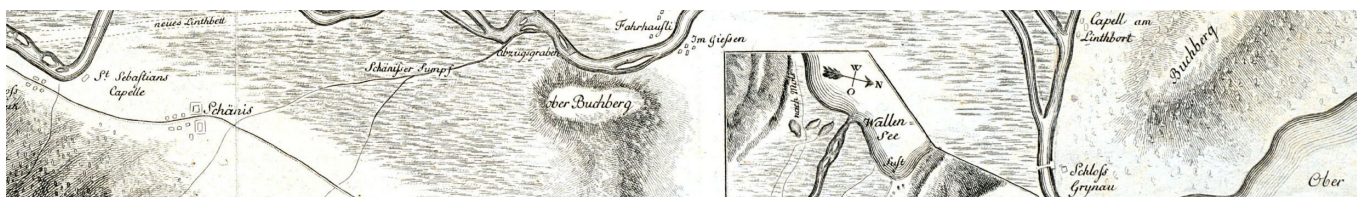
Nicolai Hannig
Department of History
Washington University in St. Louis

Friday, 9 September 2016

Busch Hall Room 18

Washington University in St. Louis

Department of History



TAMING HAZARDS

Natural Disasters and Prevention
in the 19th and 20th Century

A workshop hosted by the Department of History at Washington University in St. Louis. With the generous support of the Volkswagen Foundation.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 8, 2016

7:00 Conference Dinner

Friday, September 9, 2016

9:30 Nicolai Hannig (LMU Munich/
Washington University in St. Louis)
Taming Hazards: Natural Disasters
and Prevention in Germany and
Switzerland in the 19th Century

10:15 Gillen D'Arcy Wood (University of
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
"Migrate? Adapt? Other?" A
Comparative Historical Study of
Community Response to Abrupt
Global Climate Deterioration and
its Consequences, 1816-18

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 Diana DiStefano (University of
Alaska-Fairbanks)
How Local Knowledge Influenced
Liability Law in Avalanche Country
and Beyond, 1880-1920

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Jeffrey H. Jackson (Rhodes College)
Historical Forgetting, Historical
Memory, and Disaster Prevention

1:45 Scott Gabriel Knowles (Drexel
University)
Slow Disaster: The Importance of
Scale in Disaster Research and
Policy

2:30 Coffee Break

2:45 James R. Fleming (Colby College)
Climate Engineering: Barking
Mad, WEIRD, and Male-Dominated
Disasters

3:30 Final Discussion and Farewell

WORKSHOP VENUE

Washington University in St. Louis
Busch Hall Room 18
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130

ORGANIZATION

Nicolai Hannig
Department of History
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1062
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis MO 63105
USA

REGISTRATION

Email: nicolaihannig@wustl.edu
Phone: (314) 935-3042

