

**CURRICULUM VITAE
THOMAS M. LEKAN**

Address: Department of History
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University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

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Place of Birth: Cleveland, Ohio, USA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current Appointment

Professor of History
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of History
Faculty Affiliate, School of the Earth, Ocean, and Environment (SEOE)
Faculty Associate, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies
University of South Carolina

Past Appointments at University of South Carolina

2005-2019: Associate Professor of History
Faculty Associate, Walker Institute & SEOE (2005-2015)

2015-2020: Associate Professor/Professor, SEOE, Environment and
Sustainability Program

1999-2005: Assistant Professor of History
Faculty Affiliate, School of the Environment
Faculty Associate, Walker Institute

Other Professional Experience

1989-1991: Research Associate, ICF Incorporated (Environmental Consultancy)
Fairfax, Virginia

EDUCATION

August 1999: Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major Field: Modern European Social History
Minor Field: Geography
Passed doctoral preliminary examinations with distinction

March 1993: M.A. University of Washington-Seattle
Major Fields: American Environmental & Modern European
Intellectual History

June 1989: B.A. Carleton College, Northfield, MN
Major: History, *magna cum laude*

FACULTY GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National and International

Jan-June 2020: Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC)
Residential Fellowship (until March 2020, due to COVID-19)
Virtual Fellow (March-June 2020)
Munich, Germany

Aug. 2017-May 2019: U.S. National Park Service, Southeast Region
Co-Principal Investigator
Congaree National Park Historic Resource Study
Under review: 268pp.
Atlanta, GA

May 2018-Jan. 2020: Co-Principal Investigator/Visiting Scholar (Summer 2018)
Working Group “Shifting Baselines, Altered Horizons: Politics,
Practice, and Knowledge in Environmental Science and Policy”
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Berlin, Germany

Jan.-July 2013: Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC)
Residential Fellowship
Munich, Germany

Jan. 2010-Dec. 2011: National Humanities Center
Residential Fellowship
Research Triangle Park, NC

Aug. 2009-Dec. 2010 Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies
Residential Fellowship
Princeton University

March 2008: German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Conference Grant
Southeast German Studies Workshop
University of South Carolina

Aug. 2006-May 2007: American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship

June-August 2006: German Historical Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship

June 2001: Fulbright Grant: German Studies Seminar in Urban Planning

June-Aug. 2000: National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend

University

- February 2021: “Climates” Theme Semester Faculty Enrichment Grant
- June-August 2019: Walker Institute Faculty Travel Grant
- Aug. 2015-July 2016: College of Arts and Sciences
Associate Professor Development Award
- Feb.-Mar. 2015: Office of the Provost
Institute for Visiting Scholars Grant
“Dipesh Chakrabarty and the Environmental Humanities”
- Dec. 2011-July 2013: Office of the Provost
Humanities Grant for Research in Tanzania
- Sept. 2005-May 2006: University of South Carolina Foundation
Research and Productive Scholarship Award
- Jan.-June 2003: University of South Carolina/Hewlett Foundation
Undergraduate Research-Based Learning Grant
“Tales of the Tidewater: Oral History and Environmental Values on
the South Carolina Coast”

AWARDS AND HONORS

- May 2015: Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award
Two Thumbs Up Award, Office of Student Disability Services
- April 2015: Sustainable Carolina Curriculum Award (shared with Lara Ducate,
German)
- May 2009: USC Educational Foundation Award for Research in Humanities and
Social Sciences
- May 2005: Golden Key Faculty Award for the Creative Integration of Research
and Undergraduate Teaching

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2020: *Our Gigantic Zoo: A German Quest to Save the Serengeti* (Oxford University Press).
- 2021: Recipient of German Studies Association/DAAD Book Prize for History and Social Sciences
 - 2021 Finalist: European Society for Environmental History Turku Book Award
 - H-Net Roundtable Review: Volume 11, No. 2 (March): [H-Net Roundtable 2021](#)

- 2005: *Germany's Nature: Cultural Landscapes and Environmental History* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press). Co-edited with Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland).
- 2004: *Imagining the Nation in Nature: Landscape Preservation and German Identity, 1885-1945* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press).

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters:

- 2021: Revise and Resubmitted: "A Delicate Equilibrium of the Most Complex Sort': Competition and Community in Edward F. Ricketts's Tidepool Ecologies, 1923-1948," for *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*.
- 2020: Sebastián Uréta, Thomas Lekan, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, "Baselining Nature: An Introduction," *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* 3, no. 1 (March): 3-19.
- 2016: "A Natural History of Modernity: Bernhard Grzimek and the Globalization of Environmental *Kulturkritik*," *New German Critique* 2 (August): 55-82.
- 2014: "Fractal Eaarth: Visualizing the Global Environment in the Anthropocene," *Environmental Humanities* 5 (1): 171-201.
- "Region, Scenery, and Power: Cultural Landscapes in Environmental History," co-authored with Thomas Zeller in *Oxford Handbook of Environmental History*, ed. Andrew Isenberg (New York: Oxford University Press), 332-365.
- 2011: "'Serengeti Shall Not Die': Bernhard Grzimek, Wildlife Film, and the Making of a Tourist Landscape in East Africa," *German History* 29 (2): 224-264.
- 2010: "The Nation State," in *Turning Points in Environmental History*, ed. Frank Uekötter, Christof Mauch, and Joachim Radkau (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press), 55-71.
- 2009: "A 'Noble Prospect': Tourism, *Heimat*, and Conservation on the Rhine, 1880-1914," *Journal of Modern History* 81, no. 4 (December): 824-858.
- 2007: "Saving the Rhine: Ecology, Culture, and *Heimat* in Post-World War II Germany," in *Rivers in History: Perspectives on Waterways in Europe and North America*, ed. Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press), 110-136.
- "The Nature of Home: Landscape Preservation and Local Identity," in *Localism, Landscape, and the Ambiguities of Place: German-Speaking Central Europe 1860-1933*, ed. David Blackbourn and James Retallack (Toronto: University of Toronto Press), 165-194.

- 2005: Introduction "The Landscape of German Environmental History" (with Thomas Zeller) in *Germany's Nature: Cultural Landscapes and Environmental History* (Rutgers University Press), 1-16.
- "German Landscape: Local Promotion of the *Heimat* Abroad," in *The Heimat Abroad: The Boundaries of Germanness*, ed. Krista O'Donnell, Renate Briendenthal, and Nancy Reagin (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press), 141-166.
- "'It Shall be the Whole Landscape!' The Reich Nature Protection Law and Regional Landscape Planning in the 'Third Reich,'" in *How Green Were the Nazis?: Nature, Environment, and Nation in the Third Reich*, ed. Mark Cioc, Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, and Thomas Zeller (Athens: Ohio University Press), 73-100.
- 1999: "Regionalism and the Politics of Landscape Preservation in the Third Reich," *Environmental History*, 4 (July): 384-404.

Recent Non-Refereed Scholarly Essays, Reviews, and Special Forums

- 2021: "Animal Attraction: East Africa's Tourist War," *History Today* 71, no. 4 (April): 29-42.
- 2014: "Working Beyond Disciplines: Toward a Problem-Centered Approach to the Environmental Humanities," in *Minding the Gap: Working across Disciplines in Environmental Studies*, ed. Robert Emmett and Frank Zelko. *Rachel Carson Center Perspectives*, no. 2: 37-41.
- 2013: "A Place for Animals," in *Rachel Carson Perspectives: Making Tracks: Human and Environmental Histories*, no. 5 (August): 43-47.
- "Nationale Naturschutzakteure international unterwegs" in *Naturschutz Heute: Eine Frage der Gerechtigkeit*, Bundesamt für Naturschutz, no. 255: 34-41. Edited by Verena Münsberg und Regina Damsa-Ard.
- 2009: "Waterways: Hydraulic Engineering, Environmental History, and the Making of the Modern State," *Sa Chong* (Journal of the Korean Historical Society), no. 69, September.
- 2007: "Review Essay: From *Naturschutz* to *Umweltschutz*: Nature Conservation and Environmental Reform in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1950-1980." *German Historical Institute Bulletin, London* 19, no. 2 (November): 68-95.
- 2006: "Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege in der Weimarer Republik" in *Handbuch Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege*, ed. Werner Konold, Reinhard Böcker, and Ulrich Hampicke, no. 19 (Landsberg: Ecomed), 1-18.
- 2003: "Organische Raumordnung: Landschaftspflege und die Durchführung des Reichsnaturschutzgesetzes im Rheinland und in Westfalen" in *Naturschutz und*

Nationalsozialismus, ed. Frank Uekötter and Joachim Radkau (Frankfurt: Campus), 145-165.

Edited Special Forums

- 2020: Co-Editor with Sebastián Uréta and Wilko von Hardenberg of Theme Section: “Baselining Nature: Explorations of Futures-Past in Environmental Science and Policy,” in *Environmental and Planning E: Nature and Society* no. 1, 3 (March): 3-286.
- 2016: Co-Editor with Robert Emmett: “Whose Anthropocene? Revisiting Dipesh Chakrabarty’s ‘Four Theses’,” *RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society*, no. 2. Open source print. 122 pages.
- 2009: Forum Editor: “The Nature of German Environmental History” *German History* 27, no. 1 (January): 113-130.
- 2004: “Globalizing American Environmental History,” *Environmental History* 10, no. 1 (January): 50-52.

Digital Scholarship and Film

- 2016: Invited Blogspot: "Mourning the Dodo: On Significant Otherness in the Anthropocene," *Inhabiting the Anthropocene* (University of Oklahoma).
- 2011: Interviewee and faculty consultant, British Broadcasting Corporation series *Unnatural Histories*, Part I: Serengeti. First aired June 9 on BBC

Recent Book and Manuscript Reviews

- 2020: Review of Doris L. Augustine’s *Taking on Technocracy: Nuclear Power in Germany, 1945 to the Present*, in *American Historical Review* 125, no. 4 (October): 1536–1538.
- Review of Astrid Eckert’s *West Germany and the Iron Curtain: Environment, Economy, and Culture in the Borderlands*, in *German Studies Review* 43, no. 3 (October): 642–644.
- 2017: Review of Bernhard Gissibl’s, *The Nature of German Imperialism: Conservation and the Politics of Wildlife in Colonial East Africa*, (New York: Berghahn, 2016) in *Modern Language Review*, 12, no. 4 (October): 1036-1036.

Manuscript Reviews: Berghahn Press, University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS: American Historical Association; African Studies Association; German Studies Association; American Society for Environmental History; European Society for Environmental History; Urban History Association

LANGUAGES: English (native speaker); German (fluent); French (reading knowledge) Spanish (reading knowledge); Swahili (beginner)