

Coping with Scarcity: Energy Shortages, Food Crises, Drought, and Critical Materials in the Modern World (c. 1800 to the present)

A Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences and Resnick Sustainability Institute conference at Caltech
November 14 and 15, 2014
25 Baxter

Friday, November 14th

10:00 am Welcome

10:15am-12:30pm *Scarcity in the Long Term*

Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (The University of Chicago), “Abundance and the Problem of Scale: The Case of Victorian Coal Exhaustion”

Joerg Friedrichs (University of Oxford), “Escapology, or Dealing with the Malthusian Trap”

Dave Rutledge (Caltech), “The Great Resources Myth”

12:30-1:30pm Lunch

1:30-3:30pm *Shortages at Multiple Scales*

Adam Tooze (Yale University), “Nazi Germany: A Shortage Regime?”

Heather Chappells (Saint Mary's University), “Everyday Encounters with Scarcity: What Do Disruptions Reveal About the Meaning and Dynamics of Consumer Practice?”

Lyla Mehta (Institute of Development Studies), “Taking the Scare Out of Scarcity: The Case of Water in Developing Contexts”

3:30-3:45pm Coffee break

3:45-6:30pm *Feast and Famine*

Rick Wilk (Indiana University), “Rethinking Food Shortage, Hunger, and Malnutrition”

Stephen J. Scanlan (Ohio University), “What Kind of Scarcity and for Whom? Justice, Sustainability, and the Global Dynamics of Food Insecurity”

James Lee (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), Cameron Campbell (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology), and Tommy Bengtsson (Lund University), “Responses to Scarcity During the Long Nineteenth Century: Similarities and Differences: Lessons from the Eurasia Project, 1994-2014”

Saturday, November 15th

9:15am Coffee and breakfast

9:45-12:00pm *Managing Shortages*

Hiroki Shin (University of Manchester) and Frank Trentmann (Birkbeck College, University of London), “Energy Shortages and the Reproduction of Social Life: Resilience, Redistribution, and ‘Normality’ in the Twentieth Century”

Neil Fromer (Caltech), “Local Water Resources for Urban Environments: Can LA Become Water Self-Sufficient?”

Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers University), “The American Economy in World War II as a Model for Dealing with Climatic Disaster: Parallels and Pitfalls”

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

1:00-3:15pm *Complexity and Innovation*

Thomas Homer-Dixon (University of Waterloo), “Energy, Complexity, Democracy, and Societal Collapse”

W. Walker Hanlon (University of California, Los Angeles), “Input Scarcity and Innovation: Lessons from the British Economy During the U.S. Civil War”

Harry Atwater (Caltech), “Renewable Energy: A Story of Scarcity or Abundance?”

3:15pm Final Discussion