

Indian Ocean World Centre (IOWC), McGill University, Peterson Hall, 3460 McTavish Street, Room 100, Montréal, Québec, H3A 1X9 Canada



Montreal, 31 March 2021

Call for Contributions:

Volume on “Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World since 1800”

Context

Climatic and environmental risks have always been part of the human condition, but we today face a fundamental transformation in their scale and complexity due to the unprecedented momentum of global warming, a process that some argue had its origins in the Industrial Revolution conventionally dated to around 1800. In this context, the Indian Ocean World (IOW), running from Indian Ocean Africa (including Egypt and South Africa) through the Middle East to South Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and East Asia, is of special interest. This is due firstly to the centrality in the IOW of the monsoon system and associated phenomena, notably the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) systems, and other events such as cyclones and volcanic eruptions. The impacts of such phenomena are greatly affected by global warming. According to the latest Global Climate Risk Index, 7 of the 10 countries most at risk from climate change are located in the IOW, making it the globe’s most climatically vulnerable macro-region. Examples of such vulnerability include Australia’s recent drought and severe wildfires, and the unprecedented locust plagues afflicting swathes of the Middle East and Eastern Africa. Secondly, the IOW is the world’s most populous macro-region, China and India alone accounting for one third of the global population. The impact of climate change in the IOW is thus of major global concern. For example, the densely populated floodplains of the macro-region (e.g. the Ganges Delta) are at immediate risk of catastrophic sea level rise and concomitant health hazards, population displacement, and mass migration, as are the IOW’s low-lying islands (e.g. the Maldives).

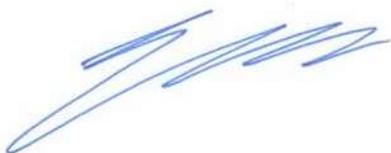
This multi-disciplinary volume focuses current environmental crises in the IOW and their historical roots. It examines the interactions between environmental and human factors, notably the causes and impacts of environmental events, and human reactions and adaptations to them from circa

1800 to the present, during the transition from the Little Ice Age to warmer, wetter climates, and the recent acceleration of global warming.

Specifics

We are looking specifically for contributions to a volume on **Environmental Crises in the Indian Ocean World since 1800** that are focussed on East Asia (China, Japan, Korea – and Vietnam), on a single region or comparative. We invite contributions from any relevant discipline, from established academics, emerging scholars, and interested parties from international institutions and NGOs. Chapters should be about 8,000 words, illustrations welcome (high definition), submitted by 1 September 2021. The volume will be subject to peer review, and has a projected publication date of 2022.

Those interested should contact Gwyn Campbell, with a title and one paragraph abstract, at the following address: gwyn.campbell@mcgill.ca.



Gwyn Campbell

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