

## Symposium

### Environment in Asia Reunion with A Tribute to Robert Marks and Peter Perdue

An event of the “Environment in Asia” series  
Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University  
March 19–20, 2023

Organizer: Ling Zhang (Boston College; convener of the Environment in Asia series)

Note: Due to the limited capacity of the venue, the symposium will be a closed-door event. The public may audit the event by registering for a Webinar (to register).

[https://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/events/environment-in-asia-reunion-with-a-tribute-to-robert-marks-and-peter-perdue/?fbclid=IwAR3t-tDfISW\\_1-vrJH2D\\_3oKhSJidiOKXc9p4H-tgJ\\_inojEm3OmWbiA3aQ](https://fairbank.fas.harvard.edu/events/environment-in-asia-reunion-with-a-tribute-to-robert-marks-and-peter-perdue/?fbclid=IwAR3t-tDfISW_1-vrJH2D_3oKhSJidiOKXc9p4H-tgJ_inojEm3OmWbiA3aQ)

The “Environment in Asia” research series at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies is dedicated to promoting diverse environmental discourses and research methodologies within the field of Asian studies, especially the field of Chinese studies. Since its founding in 2012, the series has hosted dozens of lectures, panel discussions, conferences, film screenings, and art exhibitions. It has brought together scholars from various disciplinary and area studies backgrounds and has served as a platform to present their scholarship, exchange ideas, and form collaborations.

This symposium has two goals. First, it honors two founding speakers and long-time supporters of the Environment in Asia series, Professor Robert Marks and Professor Peter Perdue. It celebrates their life-long achievements as forerunners in the field of Chinese environmental history. Over the past four decades, Professor Marks and Professor Perdue have been tirelessly committed to studying and writing environmental history as well as to mentoring students and junior colleagues. Their scholarship and services have profoundly shaped how we understand and practice Chinese environmental history. The symposium is a tribute to these intellectual leaders of ours and their lasting impact on our community.

Second, as a reunion of the Environment in Asia series, the symposium brings back some old friends of the series, and it welcomes many new colleagues. More than celebrating the rich and eventful decade of the series, the symposium invites these scholars from diverse fields and different generations to gather and reflect on our common endeavor: How do we research, write, and teach environmental issues as humanities and social scientific scholars, and how do we promote environmental consciousness and model multi- and inter-disciplinary environmental scholarship in order to complicate and diversify the fields of Asian and Chinese studies, which are dominated by humancentric concerns and practices? The symposium invites its participants to review what we as a community of environmental scholars have achieved; to assess what works and what doesn't; to suggest different paths and new possibilities; to identify our shared challenges; and to propose exciting experiments. Through individual presentations and group conversations, the symposium seeks to facilitate mutual understanding and mutual learning within our environmental-studies community. It aims to strengthen the community's bond and to further its growth as an important, indispensable subfield of Asian and Chinese studies.

<b>8:45–9:00</b>	<b>Welcome (Ling Zhang, Mark Wu, Dorinda Elliott)</b>	
<b>9:00–10:30</b>	<b>A Tribute to Robert Marks and Peter Perdue (Moderator: Ling Zhang)</b>	
	Micah Muscolino (University of California, San Diego)	
	Kenneth Pomeranz (University of Chicago)	
	John McNeill (Georgetown University)	
	Zhaoqing Han (Fudan University)	
	Yongqiang Guan (Nankai University)	
	Mingfang Xia (Renmin University)	
	Junfeng Zhang (Shanxi University)	
	Ruth Mostern (University of Pittsburgh)	
	Donald Worster (University of Kansas, Emeritus)	
	James Scott (Yale University)	
	David Bello (Washington and Lee University)	
	You Wang (University of Chicago)	
	Ian Miller (St John's University)	
	R. Bin Wong (University of California, Los Angeles)	
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>10:45-12:45</b>	<b>Researching the Environment (Moderator: Arunabh Ghosh, Harvard)</b>	
Group A	Xiaofei Gao (University of Colorado, Denver)	"The Nature of Labor: Integrating Environmental and Social Changes of Modern Maritime China"
	Kyuhyun Han (University of California, Santa Cruz; soon University of Rhode Island)	"From Hunting for Local People to Hunting for the Nation: PRC Hunting Industry and Amur Tiger Conservation in Northeast China, 1949-1965"
	Rui Hua (Boston University)	"When Great States Mined on Drifting Continents: A Magnesium-based Story of Local Farmers and Global Mining Laws on the Liaodong Peninsula, 1.85GA-1931 AD"
	Caroline Merrifield (Yale University)	"Practical Politics in China's Food Movement"
	Amy Zhang (New York University)	"Waste's Collectives: political and ecology in urban China"
	<b>Short Break</b>	
Group B	Tristan Brown (MIT)	"Laws of the Land: Fengshui and the State in Qing Dynasty China"
	Yuan Gao (Georgetown University)	"China's Arid West: An Environmental History of Late Qing and Early Republican Xinjiang"
	John Lee (Durham University, UK)	"Mongol Legacies and Island Ecologies in Early Modern Korea"
	Anne-Sophie Pratte (Georgetown University, Qatar)	"Mapping Grasslands in 19th Century Qing Mongolia"

	Bingru Yue (Queen's University, Canada)	"From Wetland to Ecological Model: Reclamations of Chongming Island, Shanghai, from 1950 to 2020"
<b>12:45–1:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>1:30–3:00</b>	<b>Writing the Environment (Moderator: Victor Seow, Harvard)</b>	
	Clark Alejandrino (Trinity College)	
	Xiangli Ding (Rhode Island School of Design)	
	Mary Alice Haddad (Wesleyan University)	
	Michael Hathaway (Simon Fraser University, Canada)	
	Fei Huang (University of Tübingen, Germany)	
	De-nin Lee (Emerson College)	
	Jerry C. Zee (Princeton University)	
<b>3:00–3:15</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>	
<b>3:15–4:45</b>	<b>Teaching the Environment (Moderator: Brian Lander, Brown)</b>	
	Nicole Barnes (Duke University)	
	Wesley Chaney (Bates College)	
	Chris Coggins (Bard College at Simon Rock)	
	Bradley Camp Davis (Eastern Connecticut State University)	
	Qin Fang (McDaniel College)	
	Jack Hayes (Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Canada)	
	Emily M Hill (Queen's University, Canada)	
	Peter Lavelle (University of Connecticut)	
	Ying Qian (Columbia University)	
<b>4:50–5:10</b>	<b>Closing (Robert Marks, Peter Perdue, Ling Zhang)</b>	
<b>Also at the event</b>		
	Peter Bol (Harvard University)	Michael Szonyi (Harvard University)
	Alexander F Day (Occidental College)	Yuk Ping Wan (Brown University)
	Wen-Yi Huang (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)	Eileen Chow (Duke University)
	Ian J. Miller (Harvard University)	Yan Gao (University of Memphis)
	Guldana Salimjan (Simon Fraser)	Huiying Chen (Purdue University)
	Tomoko Shiroyama (University of Tokyo, Radcliffe Institute-Harvard Yenching)	
<b>5:10–6:00</b>	<b>Happy Hour</b>	