

Paris, its rivers and its waters, XVIIIth-XXIst centuries

40. Minisymposium des Zentrums für Umweltgeschichte Gemeinsam mit dem Französischen Kulturinstitut in Wien

Abstract:

The links between Paris and the Seine are as old as the city itself, whose history can hardly be imagined without that of its river. The Seine and its tributaries assured Paris's supply of commodities of (nearly) every kind and provided the energy essential to the preparation of flour and therefore of Parisians' bread, and to the crafts. Their metabolic role is therefore very old, and they channelled many flows of material and energy toward the capital. On one hand, this role was mechanical: transport and energy production were driven by float, slope and flow. Paris's role as a capital city also led early on to the urbanization of the hydrographic system, in the sense that the rivers, even far from Paris, were organized according to Parisian requirements and controlled by Parisian public officials. The lecture will paint the history of these socio-natural interactions.

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Quelques publications

«The Seine and Parisian Metabolism: Growth of Capital Dependencies in the 19th and 20th Centuries», in: Castonguay, S., Evenden, M. D. *Urban Waters: Rivers, Cities and the Production of Space in Europe and North America*. Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh University Press. Sous presse.

«Urban metabolism and river systems: an historical perspective. Paris and the Seine, 1790-1970», *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, special issue «Man and river systems: Long-term interactions between societies and nature in regional scale watersheds», 2007, p. 1757-1769. Disponible sur la toile, format PDF, http://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci.net/special_issue78.html.

L'invention des déchets urbains, France, 1790-1970. Seyssel : Champ Vallon (coll. «Milieux»), 2005. 300 p.

La ville délétère : Médecins et ingénieurs dans l'espace urbain (XVIIIe-XIXe siècles). Seyssel: Champ Vallon (coll. «Milieux»), 1999. 375 p.

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