

MICHITAKE ASO

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2012-present **University at Albany–State University of New York**, Assistant Professor, History Department.
- 2011-2012 **National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute**, Postdoctoral Fellow, **Tembusu College**, Teaching Fellow.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., 2011 **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. History of Science, minor in Southeast Asian History. Dissertation: "Forests without Birds: Science, Environment, and Health in French Colonial Vietnam." Co-Advisors: Gregg Mitman and Richard Keller.
- M.A., 2005 **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. Department of History of Science. Thesis: "Trees or Soldiers? The Vietnam War, Agent Orange, and Ecology."
- B.S., 1998 **University of California-Berkeley**. Environmental Engineering Science.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Forests without Birds: Rubber Plantations and the Making of Vietnam, 1897-1975, manuscript under consideration for the "Flows, Migrations, and Exchanges" series, The University of North Carolina Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- "Learning to Heal the People: Socialist Medicine and Education in Vietnam, 1945-1954," in *Translating the Body: Medical Education in Southeast Asia*, eds. Hans Pols, Michele Thompson, and John Warner, forthcoming.
- "L'itinéraire d'un chirurgien nord-vietnamien : Entre révolution nationale et science internationale," co-authored with Annick Guénel, in *Moussons*, 24 (2), 2014, pp. 143-153.
- "De plantations coloniales à la production socialiste : la « vietnamisation » de l'hévéa (1956-1975)" in *L'Or Blanc : Petits et grands planteurs face au « boom » de l'hévéaculture (Viêt Nam-Cambodge)*, eds. Frédéric Fortunel and Christophe Gironde (Bangkok: IRASEC, 2014).
- "How Nature Works: Experts, Ecology, and Rubber Plantations in Colonial Southeast Asia, 1919-1939" in *Comparing Apples, Oranges, and Cotton: Environmental Histories of the Plantations*, ed. Frank Uekötter (New York: Campus Verlag, 2014).
- "The Itinerary of a North Vietnamese Surgeon: Medical Science and Politics during the Cold War," co-authored with Annick Guénel, in *Science Technology & Society*, 18 (3), 2013, pp. 291-306.
- "Patriotic Hygiene: Tracing New Places of Knowledge Production about Malaria in Vietnam, 1919-75" in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 44 (3), 2013, pp. 423-443.
- "Profits or people? Rubber plantations and everyday technology in rural Indochina" in *Modern Asian Studies*, 46 (1), 2012, pp. 19-45.
- "Rubber and Race in Rural Colonial Cambodia (1920s-1954)" in *Sikṣācakr*, 12-13, 2010-2011, pp. 127-138.

"The Scientist, the Governor, and the Planter: The Political Economy of Agricultural Knowledge in Indochina During the Creation of a 'Science of Rubber', 1900-1940" in *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: an International Journal*, 3 (2), 2009, pp. 231-256.

Essays and Other Writing

"Hunger Games: Labor Laws, Nutrition Science, and Worker Protest in French Indochina, 1918-1937," in *Publication des actes du colloque "De l'Indochine coloniale au Vietnam actuel,"* eds. Dominique Barjot and Jean-François Klein, forthcoming.

"Rubber in the nineteenth century: An industrial and consumer good," in *Histoire du monde au XIX^e siècle*, eds. Sylvain Venayre and Pierre Singaravélou, forthcoming.

"Resilience after Catastrophe? Five Reflections on 'Apocalypse Then,'" posted on Edge Effects on February 24, 2015, <http://edgeeffects.net/resilience-after-catastrophe/>

"Les plantations : économies, sociétés et environnements, 1850-1950" in *Les sociétés coloniales à l'âge des empires : des années 1850 aux années 1950*, eds. Dominique Barjot and Jacques Frémeaux (Paris: Editions Sedes/Cned, 2012).

BOOK AND JOURNAL ARTICLE REVIEWS

Book Review for *Journal of Asian Studies*, Winter 2015, theme of environmental history in Vietnam, in progress.

Anonymous journal article review for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, April 2015.

Book Review for *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, Spring 2015 of Vatthana Pholsena and Oliver Tappe's *Interactions with a Violent Past: Reading Post-Conflict Landscapes in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam*. Singapore: NUS Press in association with IRASEC, 2013.

Book Review for *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: an International Journal*, Fall 2015 of Eren Zink's *Hot Science, High Water: Assembling Nature, Society and Environmental Policy in Contemporary Vietnam*. Copenhagen, Denmark: NIAS Press, 2013.

Anonymous journal article review for *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, March 2014.

Book Review for *Contemporary French Civilization*, Spring 2014 of Charles Keith's *Catholic Vietnam: A Church from Empire to Nation*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2012.

Anonymous journal article review for *Journal of American Ethnologist*, August 2013.

Anonymous journal article review for *Current Anthropology*, November 2012.

Anonymous journal article review for *Crossroads: an Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics*, May 2012.

Book Review for *Isis, the Journal of the History of Science Society*, Fall 2012 of Sokhieng Au's *Mixed Medicines: Health and Culture in French Colonial Cambodia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Book Review for *Agricultural History*, Spring 2012 of John Tully's *Devil's Milk: A Social History of Rubber*. Monthly Review Press, 2011.

Book Review for *Les Annales*, Spring 2012 of David A. Biggs's *Quagmire: Nation-Building and Nature in the Mekong Delta*. Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 2010.

Book Review for *Technology and Culture*, Spring 2012 of Andrew Goss's *The Floracrats: State-Sponsored Science and the Failure of the Enlightenment in Indonesia*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2011.

Anonymous journal article review for *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: an International Journal*, October 2011.

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

D. Kim Foundation, Travel and Research Grant, 2015

Research Fellow, Institute for Historical Studies at UT-Austin, Austin, TX, 2014-2015

DHST-YSP Dissertation Prize, International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science and Technology, 2013
ACLS New Faculty Fellows, 2012-2013 (declined)
ARI-NUS Research Grant, 2011-2012
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2010-2011
Vilas Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, June 2010
Honorable Mention, Vietnam Studies Group, Graduate Essay Prize, 2010-2011
Blakemore-Freeman Language Fellowship, Vietnam, 2008-2009
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, Vietnam, 2007-2008
Field Research Support, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, France, 2007
Holtz Center for Science, Technology, and Society Travel Grant, France, 2007
John Neu Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship, Madison, 2004

RECENT CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Sessions Organized

- "Who Counts? Responses to Natural Challenges in Cambodia and Vietnam." History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 21-24 November 2013. With John Marston, Michele Thompson, and Hue Tam Ho Tai.
- "Genealogies of Determinism: Climates, Agriculture, and Temporalities of the Environment." Imaginative Environments Workshop: Temporalities of Technology and Climate across the Humanities and Social Sciences held in conjunction with the Biennial Conference of the Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network, Singapore, 15-17 July 2013. With Togo Tsukahara.
- "The Social Life of Plants: Healing Communities and Writing Histories." American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, 28-31 March 2012. With David Biggs and Jonathan Padwe.
- "The Natures of Asia: Environmental Histories of Empires and Nations in 20th-century Asia." American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 12-16 April 2011. With David Biggs, Patrick Caffrey, Kjell Ericson, and Michele Thompson.
- "Science, Politics, and Agriculture in Vietnam and China During the Long 20th Century." History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 4-7 November 2010. With Fa-Ti Fan, Annick Guenel, Sylvia Klingberg, Peter Lavelle, and Sigrid Schmalzer.

Papers Presented

- "The Cold War Roots of a Vietnamese 'Miracle Drug.'" International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia, Paris, France, 6-10 July 2015.
- "From Planters to Planners: Rubber, Development, and War in Southern Vietnam, 1956 to 1975." Global Commodity Flows, Austin, TX, 16-18 April 2015.
- "Nature's Viet Cong?: 'Pests' and the limits of biocentrism in Vietnam." American Society for Environmental History Meeting, Washington, D.C., 18-22 March 2015.
- "Y50: A transitional generation of medical doctors in Vietnam." 5th Conference on the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia, Manila, Philippines, 9-11 January 2014.
- "Irrigating Numbers: Evolving Claims of Water Flow Management and Measurements in the Red River Delta." History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 21-24 November 2013.
- "Y50: A transitional generation of medical doctors in Vietnam." 24th International Congress of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Manchester, UK, 22-28 July 2013.
- "Making the Tropics Fit for Progress: Environmental Change and Plantation Agriculture in Southeast Asia." Imaginative Environments Workshop: Temporalities of Technology and Climate across the Humanities and Social Sciences held in conjunction with the Biennial

- Conference of the Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network, Singapore, 15-17 July 2013.
- "Engineering Civility? Dikes, Meteorology, and Disaster Relief in French Colonial Vietnam." Society for French Historical Studies Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA, 4-7 April 2013.
- "Dr. Tung Goes to China: Revisiting Ton That Tung's Travels in the Socialist World, 1951-1975." 4th Conference on the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia, Solo, Indonesia, 2-6 July 2012.
- "Climatic Determinism in French Medical Theories: The Case of Cholera in Vietnam in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." The French Colonial Historical Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 30 May-2 June 2012.
- "Azolla in the Creation of Rice Farming Communities in Northern Vietnam." American Society for Environmental History Meeting, Madison, WI, 28-31 March 2012.
- "Weathering the Crisis: Climate Science, Weather, and Social Vulnerability in Northern Vietnam." Climate, Knowledge and Politics, XVIIIth-XXth Centuries, Paris, France, 16-17 September 2011.
- "Rubber Plantations, Ecology, and Colonial Rule: Industrial Agriculture and the Spread of Ecological Thinking." Comparing Apples, Oranges, and Cotton: Environmental Histories of the Plantations, Munich, Germany, 28-30 July 2011.
- "Azolla and the Making of Two Vietnamese Agronomists in the French Colonial Empire." The French Colonial Historical Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, 2-4 June 2011.
- "To Conserve or Destroy? Plantations as Battlefields in the First Indochina War, 1945-1954." American Society for Environmental History Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, 12-16 April 2011.
- "Business as Usual? Agricultural Research, the Rubber Industry, and Franco-Vietnamese Relations at the Beginning of Decolonization, 1945-1954." History of Science Society Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 4-7 November 2010.
- "History of Malaria and Malaria as History: The 'Industrialization' of Malaria in 20th-Century Southern Vietnam." 3rd International Conference on The History of Medicine in Southeast Asia, Singapore, 22-25 June 2010.
- "*Hévéa* Knowledge, Latex, and Changes in Everyday Technology in a Vietnamese Province During the Interwar Years, 1918-1937." Everyday Technology in Monsoon Asia, University of Warwick, UK, 18-19 March 2010.
- "Science, Agriculture, and Politics in Colonial Vietnam." 12th Annual Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 12-14 March 2010.

Invited Talks

- "'School of a New Life': Nature, Violence, and Labor on Plantation Landscapes, 1945-1954." Institute for Historical Studies, UT-Austin, 17 November 2014.
- "Forests without Birds: Rubber Production and Environmental Crises in Vietnam, 1890-1975." University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 16 April 2014.
- Author Discussion with Science Studies as Area Studies Reading Group, Duke University, Durham, NC, 15 April 2014.
- "Forests without Birds: Rubber Production and Environmental Crises in Vietnam, 1890-1975." Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, 27 March 2014.
- "Where the Rubber Hit the Road: Rubber Plantations and Modernity in Vietnam." Emeritus Center. University of Albany-SUNY, Albany, NY, 23 September 2013.
- "Rubber Plantations and the Business of Ecology." Sustainability Roundtable. University of Albany-SUNY, Albany, NY, 5 December 2012.
- "Fire, Blood, and Knowledge: Race at Work on the Plantations of French Colonial Vietnam." Yale Council on Southeast Asia Studies, New Haven, CT, 23 February 2011.
- "The 'Vietnamization' of Agriculture: Appropriating French Colonial Science in Postcolonial Vietnam." History of Science/Medical History and Bioethics Colloquium Series, Madison, WI, 8 February 2011.

"Sciences et impérialisme en Asie du Sud-est." Seminar, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), Paris, France, 3 December 2010.

"Between Individual and Collective Prophylaxis: Moral Economies of Malaria Prevention Efforts in Vietnam, 1925-1940." Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Madison, WI, 30 April 2010.

Discussant

"Science, Technology, and the Making of Modern East and Southeast Asia." New York Conference on Asian Studies, Binghamton, NY, 27-28 September 2013.

"Agricultural Sciences in Modern East Asia." History of Science Society Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 15-18 November 2012.

"Nature collecting and imperialism." The French Colonial Historical Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 30 May-2 June 2012.

TEACHING

Department of History, University at Albany-SUNY

Seminars and Lecture Courses

AHIS 633, New Histories of Commodities, Fall 2015, graduate reading course in global environmental history.

AHIS 289, Modern Southeast Asia, 1800-Present, Fall 2013, Fall 2015, lower-level undergraduate course in Asian history.

AHIS 634/670, Writing the History of Commodities, Spring 2014, graduate research methods course in global environmental history.

AHIS 389, Spices, Drugs, Rubber, and Oil: Commodities and World History, Spring 2014, upper-level undergraduate course in global environmental history.

AEAS 177/AHIS 177, Introduction to East Asia, Fall 2013, introductory undergraduate course in Asian history.

AHIS 389, Empires and Nature in Asia, 1600-2000, Spring 2013, upper-level undergraduate course in global environmental history.

AHIS 633, World History and the Environment, 1500-present, Spring 2013, graduate reading course in global environmental history.

AHIS 389, Modern Southeast Asia, 1800-Present, Fall 2012, lower-level undergraduate course in Asian history.

Individual Students

AHIS 897, Directed Readings, Satya Som, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015.

AHIS 497Z, Honor's Thesis, Jason Letteri, Fall 2015.

Committee Member, Qualifying Examination, Bob Beach. Global Circulations, Fall 2014.

Committee Member, Qualifying Examination, Satya Som. Southeast Asia, in progress.

Committee Member, Qualifying Examination, Bill Mahoney. Southeast Asia, in progress.

Committee Member, Master's Thesis, John A. Miller, Fall 2012. American Occupation of Japan after World War II.

Other

AHIS 600, Guest Speaker, Theory and Method, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2015.

AHIS 500, Guest Speaker, Job Market for Historians, Spring 2013, Spring 2014.

"Historical Research Methods," Guest Speaker, Siena College, Loudonville, NY, 20 February 2014.

AHIS 603/633, Guest Speaker, Readings in United States & International History, 23 October 2013.

Other Campuses

Environment and Society in Southeast Asia, Junior Seminar, Tembusu College, NUS, Spring 2012. Responsible for designing the course, giving lectures, leading discussions, assisting on field trips, and assigning grades.

Public Health and Medicine in International Context, Medical History 553, UW-Madison, Grader, Spring 2010. Responsible for grading three take-home exams.

Modern Indochina History, Council on International Educational Exchange, Vietnam, Lecturer, Fall 2008. Responsible for designing the course, giving lectures, leading discussions, assisting on field trips, and assigning grades.

The Making of Modern Science, Integrated Liberal Studies 202, UW-Madison, Course Assistant, Spring 2007. Responsible for leading discussion sections and assigning grades.

Undergraduate Research Scholars Program Mentor, UW-Madison, Spring 2006. Responsible for leading an independent study with a student on Asian-American health and assigning a grade for his work.

Science in the 20th Century, History of Science 203, UW-Madison, Course Assistant, Fall 2005. Responsible for leading discussion sections and assigning grades.

Memories of World War II in US and Japan, UC-Santa Cruz, Course Assistant, Fall 2001. Responsible for leading discussion sections and assigning grades.

SERVICE AND OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Department of History, University at Albany-SUNY

Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2015-2016.

Member, Alumni Outreach Cluster, 2015-present.

Member, Undergraduate Education Committee, 2013-present.

Member, Search Committee for Early American Environmental History, 2013-2014.

Member, Graduate Education Committee, 2012-2013.

Member, Search Committee for Religion in the Eastern Mediterranean, 2012-2013.

Member, Joseph E. Persico Fellowship Committee, 2013-2014.

Member, Graduate Student Research Paper Award Committee, 2012-2013.

University at Albany-SUNY

Member, Executive Committee, United University Professions, 2015-present.

Co-Organizer, Study Abroad Exchange with University of Toulouse II-le Mirail, 2013-present.

Member, Fulbright Campus Committee, 2012-2013.

Professional

Member, Program Committee, History of Medicine in Southeast Asia Conference, 2014-2015.

Co-Convener, Envirotech special interest group, Society for the History of Technology, 2015-present.

Member, Program Committee, French Colonial Historical Society Conference, 2012-2014.

Other Projects

Co-Organizer, "Imaginative Environments: Temporalities of Technology and Climate across the Humanities and Social Sciences," National University of Singapore, 15-17 July 2013.

Member, Asian Biopoleis Project, National University of Singapore, 2011-2012.

Co-Organizer, Indochina Studies Group, National University of Singapore, 2011-2012.

Member, Inter-University Project of Scientific Cooperation (P.C.S.I.), *Les hévéacultures familiales Vietnamo-Cambodgiennes et leur integration dans la région du Mekong*, (Vietnamese-Cambodian Domestic Hevea Farms and Their Integration in the Mekong Region), 2010-2011.

Student Mentor, "Telling Our Stories," University at Wisconsin-Madison, 2010-2011.

Member, WHEATS Conference Organizing Committee, University at Wisconsin-Madison, 2010.
Field Coordinator, Volunteers in Asia (VIA), Hanoi, Vietnam, January - September 2001.
Summer Program Coordinator, Volunteers in Asia (VIA), Hue, Vietnam, June - August 2000.
English Teacher, June 1999 - September 2001. Responsible for designing the course, giving lectures,
leading discussions, and assigning grades.

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Vietnamese
French

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Environmental History – History of Science Society – Association for Asian
Studies – French Colonial Historical Society – American Historical Association