

NOT EVEN PAST

Search the site ...



IHS Climate in Context: "Oil, Water, and Climate: Environmental Histories of Texas" – Panel

Like 0

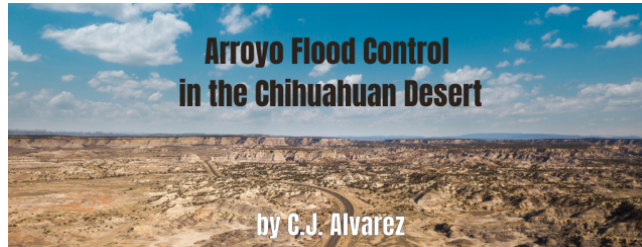
Tweet



April 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Featured Panelists:

"Arroyo Flood Control in the Chihuahuan Desert"

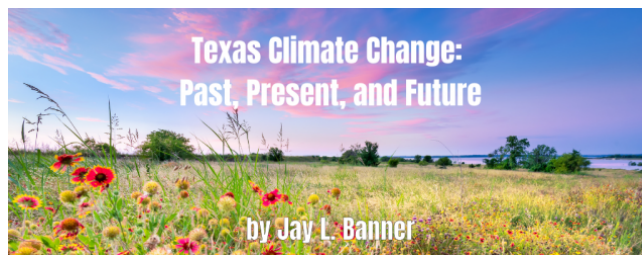


[C. J. Alvarez](#)

Assistant Professor, Department of Mexican American and Latino/a Studies
Faculty Affiliate, Department of History and Center for Mexican American Studies
University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: Deserts are, by definition, dry places. They are implicated in global climate change just as much as coastal regions, but instead of sea level rise and tropical storms, deserts are afflicted by widespread droughts well beyond the threshold of their natural aridness. In this talk, however, I will introduce you to an extremely local way of understanding water in the Chihuahuan desert, the largest desert in North America. Focusing on arroyo flood control projects, I aim to illuminate an important feature of desert people's lives that is almost always overlooked or taken for granted. This localized focus argues for a broader approach to the environmental history of deserts that focuses on desert dwellers instead of outsiders' reactions or impressions of drylands.

"Texas Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future"



Jay L. Banner

F. M. Bullard Professor of Geological Sciences, the Jackson School of Geosciences, and Director, Environmental Science Institute.
University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: Texas' climatological and geopolitical location has the potential to put extreme stress on its water and other resources. Paleoclimate records indicate that the region experienced periods of significant drought over the last thousand years. These droughts were longer than the 1950s 'drought of record' that is commonly used in planning and occurred independently of human-induced climate change. Model simulations for the 21st century project that Texas will experience droughts that are unprecedented in terms of length and intensity. A projected doubling of the state's population by mid-century will drive increased demand for water, which will create synergistic challenges to the state's resilience.

"Deep Roots Make Strong Trees: Climate Adaptation Rooted in Community History"

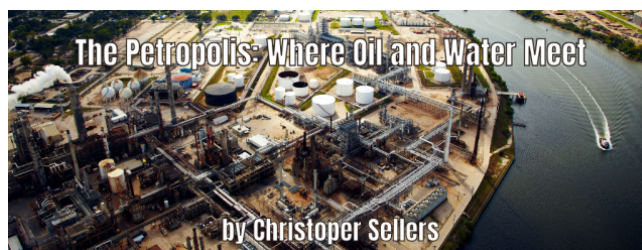


Alison M. Meadow

Associate Research Professor, Arizona Institutes for Resilience
University of Arizona

Abstract: Communities throughout the Southwest are facing an uncertain future as climate change places our health, infrastructure, and natural environments at risk. This talk will focus on using community-based research approaches in order to ground climate change adaptation planning in the history and culture of communities so that long-term plans build on community strengths and priorities, even as we recognize the need for change to meet the challenge of our new climate reality.

"The Petropolis: Where Oil and Water Meet"



Christopher Sellers

Professor of History, Stony Brook University, and
Research Fellow, Institute for Historical Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Abstract: If oil and water have a sturdy reputation for not mixing, Texas has long been a place where they unavoidably meet, especially in cities that arose on the back of the state's oil industry, Petropolises. Taking the Houston metro area as an example, my talk will sketch out three eras from the late nineteenth century to the present in its historical relationship between water and oil. In the first two, while it also weathered occasional storms and floods, this like other cities associated with the petroleum and



petrochemical industries increasingly took toxic pollution as its main waterborne challenge. More recently, the prevailing threat has come from hurricanes and floods, intensifying thanks to the global effects of its favored industry and placing the entire region in a new kind of jeopardy.

Zoom Webinar registration link forthcoming. Please email cmeador@austin.utexas.edu to receive a notification when registration goes live.

This talk is part of the Institute's theme in 2020-2021 on "Climate in Context: Historical Precedents and the Unprecedented."

Sponsored by: Institute for Historical Studies in the Department of History, and Planet Texas 2050

See also:

[Climate in Context: Historical Precedents and the Unprecedented – Conference Program](#)

Posted April 9, 2021

[More Climate in Context, IHS & Public History](#)

RECENT POSTS

[IHS Podcast: Hungry for Revolution](#)

[The McFarland Cuban Plantation Records](#)

[IHS Podcast – Episode 3: "Apache Diaspora in four hundred years of colonialism vs 'Toltec Antiquities' Diaspora in Early Republican Mexico"](#)

[Workshop: "The Mexican Empire and Indigenous Texas, 1821-1823" by Sheena Cox, University of Texas at Austin](#)

[This is Democracy: Shadow Docket and Abortion](#)

NOT EVEN PAST is produced by

The Department of History

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

We are supported by the College of Liberal Arts

And our **READERS**

[DONATE](#)

[CONTACT](#)

All content © 2010-present NOT EVEN PAST and the authors, unless otherwise noted

Sign up to receive the monthly Not Even Past newsletter

Your email address

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[FEATURES](#)

[BOOKS](#)

[TEACHING](#)

[DIGITAL & FILM](#)

[BLOG](#)

[IHS](#)

[TEXAS](#)

[SPOTLIGHT](#)

