Subject Description

An exploration of the relationship between the study of natural history, both domestic and exotic, by Europeans and Americans, and exploration and exploitation of the natural world, focusing on the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Books

The following books (all paperbacks) are available for purchase at the MIT Bookstore and on the internet, as well as in the MIT Library Reserve. Readings not contained in these books will be available on the class website or on reserve.

- William Beinart and Lotte Hughes, *Environment and Empire* (Oxford)
- James Cook, *Journals* (Penguin)
- Clifton Crais and Pamela Scully, *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus* (Princeton)
- Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle* (Modern Library)
- Mike Davis, *Late Victorian Holocausts* (Verso)
- Felix Driver and Luciana Martins, *Tropical Visions in an Age of Empire* (Chicago)
- Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism* (Cambridge)
- Elinor Melville, *Plague of Sheep* (Cambridge)
- E. C. Pielou, *After the Ice Age* (Chicago)
- Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes* (Routledge)
- John F. Richards, *The Unending Frontier* (California)
- Martin Rudwick, *Scenes from Deep Time* (Chicago)
- Alfred Russel Wallace, *The Malay Archipelago* (Periplus)

Assignments

A research paper of at least 25 pages will be due at the end of the semester. A topic proposal will be due in class on February 24 and a progress report will be due in class on April 7. All stages will be presented orally as well as in writing. In addition, each week there will be student introduction of the discussion of the readings.
Schedule of Classes and Readings

February 3  Introduction

February 10  DARWIN
Charles Darwin, *Voyage of the Beagle*
R. D. Keynes, ed., Charles Darwin’s Beagle Diary, esp. 351-64

February 17  DEEP TIME
Rudwick, *Scenes from Deep Time*

February 24  THE GLOBE UNIFIED
Grove, *Green Imperialism*, especially 1-152, 309-486
Drayton, *Nature’s Government*
Beinart and Hughes, ch. 3, “The Fur Trade in Canada”

March 3  SETTLERS AND ENVIRONMENTS
Melville, *Plague of Sheep*
Anderson, *Creatures of Empire*
Beinart and Hughes, ch. 2, “Caribbean Plantations” and ch. 6, “Sheep, Pastures and Demography in Australia”

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE

March 10  NO CLASS [ASEH Annual Meeting]

March 17  CAPTAIN COOK
James Cook, *Journals*

March 24  NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

March 31  PEOPLE
Crais and Scully, *Sara Baartman*
Ritvo, *Platypus and Mermaid*, chs. 3 and 4
PAPER PROGRESS REPORTS DUE

April 7
Field trip to Peabody Museum, Harvard
Individual conferences

April 14
REPRESENTATIONS
Pratt, Imperial Eyes, 15-143
Felix Driver and Luciana Martins, Tropical Visions in an Age of Empire
Beinart and Hughes, ch. 13, “Empire and the Visual Representation of Nature”

April 21
DISEASE
Mike Davis, Late Victorian Holocauts, Parts I and II
Beinart and Hughes, ch.10 “Plague and Urban Environments” and ch. 11 “Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis”

April 28
ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE
Wallace, The Malay Archipelago

May 6
ENVIRONMENT, EMPIRE AND SCIENCE
Peder Anker, Imperial Ecology, 77-156
M. Gadgil and R. Guha, This Fissured Land, ch. 4

May 13
FINAL PRESENTATIONS