**Sam A. White**

Curriculum Vitae

206 Shipherd Circle

Oberlin, OH 44074

440-832-0268

Oberlin College

Department of History  
sam.white@oberlin.edu

**Education**

Ph.D. History, Columbia University (2008)

Dissertation: “Ecology, Climate, and Crisis in the Ottoman Near East”

Advisor: Richard Bulliet

M.A. Middle East Studies and Modern History, University of St. Andrews (2002)

Thesis: “Inventing Iraq: The British in Mesopotamia and the Making of the Iraqi Mandate 1914-1923”

First Class Honours

**Academic Positions**

Assistant Professor, Oberlin College (2008-present)

Teaching Assistant, Columbia University (2004-2006)

Instructor, Parkland Community College (2003)

**Publications**

Monograph

*The Climate of Rebellion in the Early Modern Ottoman Empire.* New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Articles and Chapters

“Rethinking Disease in Ottoman History.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42 (2010): 549-67.

“From Globalized Pig Breeds to Capitalist Pigs: A Study in Animal Cultures and Evolutionary History.” *Environmental History* 16 (2011): 94-120.

“Middle East Environmental History: Ideas from an Emerging Field.” *World History Connected* 8:2 (2011).

“Review Article: Early Modern Ottomans in Global History.” *The Journal of Global History* 6 (2011): 345-49.

“The Little Ice Age Crisis in the Ottoman Empire: A Conjuncture in Middle East Environmental History,” in *Water on Sand: The Environmental History of the Middle East*, ed. Alan Mikhail*.* New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Climate Change in Global History,” in *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Global Environmental History*, ed. J. McNeill and E. Stewart. London: Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming.

Book Reviews

Review of *Plows, Plagues, and Petroleum: How Humans Took Control of Climate* by William F. Ruddiman, *Technology and Culture* 52 (2011): 182-83.

Review of *Fixing the Sky: The Checkered History of Weather and Climate Control* by James Rodger Fleming, H-Net (2011).

Review of *Nature and Empire in Ottoman Egypt* by Alan Mikhail, *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (forthcoming).

Other Publications

“Climate Change and Crisis in Ottoman Turkey and the Balkans, 1590-1710,” in *Proceedings: International Conference on Climate Change in the Middle East – Past Present and Future, 20-23* *November 2006*. Istanbul: Istanbul Technical University, 2006.

Invited Works in Preparation

“Sheep and Cattle Plagues in the Ottoman Empire and Early Modern Europe: An Environmental History,” *Plague and Contagion in the Islamic Mediterranean*, ed. Nükhet Varlık (in contract).

“Environments and Historical Change,” *Princeton Companion to Atlantic History*, ed. Joseph C. Miller (in preparation).

**Languages** **of Research**

English, Turkish (modern and Ottoman), Italian, French, Spanish, Latin, German, and Dutch

**Select Conference Papers** **and Invited Talks**

“The Commodification of Animals: History and Prospects,” Centre interdisciplinaire d’études et de recherches sur l’Alemagne, Moulin d’Andé, France, September 7, 2011.

“The Little Ice Age and the First Settlements in North America,” Historical Climatology: Past and Future, German Historical Institute in Paris, September 6, 2011.

“First Colonial Winters: Comparing Experiences of the Little Ice Age, 1607-10,” American Society for Environmental History, Phoenix, April 14, 2011.

“Little Ice Age Climate and Crisis: The Great Ottoman Livestock Plague and the Environmental History of Epizootics,” invited talk, Early Modern Global History, Seminar, Georgetown University, January 28, 2011.

“The Little Ice Age and the Ottoman Empire,” World History Association/Istanbul Şehir University Symposium, Byzantine and Ottoman Civilizations in World History, Istanbul, October 22, 2010.

“Natural Disaster in European and Ottoman Perceptions,” American Society for Environmental History, Portland, March 12, 2010.

Roundtable presentation: “The Climate Crisis and Energy Transition: Lessons from History?” American Society for Environmental History, Portland, March 13, 2010.

“Prospects for Ottoman Environmental History,” Great Lakes Ottoman Workshop, Ohio State University, April 18-19, 2009.

“The Ottoman Empire in the Little Ice Age and the General Crisis,” invited talk, Ohio State University, March 3, 2009.

“Timber Supply and Forest Management in the Ottoman Middle East,” American Society for Environmental History Conference, Tallahassee, February 25-March 1, 2009 (also panel organizer).

“The Little Ice Age and the Making of the Celali Rebellion,” Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, November 17-20, 2007.

“Küçük Buzulçağının Biyolojik Sonuçları” (“Biological Consequences of the Little Ice Age”—presented in Turkish), Workshop on Climate Change in Ecosystems and Society, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, June 29-30, 2007.

“Chinese Pigs in Early Modern Europe,” European Society for Environmental History, Amsterdam, June 3-7, 2007.

“Epidemics and Crisis in the Ottoman Empire,” Workshop on Disease in Global Environmental History, York University, Toronto, March 9-10, 2007.

“Climate, Ecology, and Crisis in the Ottoman Near East,” American Society for Environmental History, Baton Rouge, February 28-March 3, 2007.

**Courses Taught**

Global Environmental History (HIST 180)

Animals in Human History (HIST 239)

American Environmental History (HIST 252)

Globalization and Capitalism (HIST 273)

Money and Other Fictions: Early Modern Capitalism and Finance (HIST 273)

Food and Drink in World History (HIST 324)

Climate Change and Disasters in World History (HIST 382)

US History since 1865 (community college)

Western Civilization since 1815 (community college)

**Professional Activities**

Editorial board, *Journal of Social History* (2011-present)

Co-founder and website editor, Climate History Network (climatehistorynetwork.com)

Peer reviews for Pearson/Longman Press and Yale University Press

Co-organizer for Mellon 23 Collaborative Workshop “Connected Histories of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia,” Pomona College, February 2012.

*Oberlin College*

Environmental Studies Program Committee (2009-present)

Senior Thesis Supervisor: Emily Arons, Opposition to Surface Mining in West Virginia (2009-10)

Senior Thesis Reader: Claudia Randrup, French Colonial Forestry in Madagascar (2009-10)

*Columbia University*

President of the Columbia University Graduate History Association, the department’s association of graduate students for social and academic issues (2005-2006)

Co-organizer of the Columbia University Center for International History graduate student conference “Crossing Borders, Spanning Regions: the Movement of People, Goods, and Ideas” (2006)

*Professional Membership*

American Historical Association, American Society for Environmental History, World History Association, Middle East Studies Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science

**Awards** **and Fellowships**

Huntington Library, Elise G. Mead Foundation Fellowship (2012)

The John Carter Brown Library Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellowship (2011)

Andrew Delaney Faculty Fellowship, for research leave, Oberlin College (2011-12)

Delmas Foundation grant for research in Venice (2007-2008)

American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) research fellowship (2006-2007)

Shawn Scholar for New Directions in Historical Research, Columbia University (2007)

FLAS Summer Fellowship in Turkish for study at the Harvard-Koç University Intensive Ottoman Summer School (2006)

ARIT Summer Language Fellowship for study at Bosphorus University, Istanbul (2005)

Hofstadter Fellowship, Columbia University (2003-2007)

Alan Robertson Memorial Prize for the best M.A. thesis in the School of History, University of St. Andrews (2002)