**JOHN BROICH, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor**

**Modern Britain and its Empire**

**Department of History**

**Case Western Reserve University**

**Cleveland, OH 44106**

**Employment:**

2007-14 Assistant, June 2014-present Associate, Professor, History of Modern Britain and its Empire, Case Western Reserve University

2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, World Environmental History, Amherst College, Amherst, MA

2006 Adjunct Professor, World Environmental History, Metropolitan State University, St. Paul, MN

**Education:**

2000-2005 Stanford University, Stanford, California, Doctoral program in British History, Ph.D. 2005

1998-2000 University of Maine, Orono, Maine, M.A. in History, Concentration: Environmental History

Junior Year abroad: Harris Manchester College, Oxford University

1997 Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN

**Books:**

*London: Water and the Making of the Modern City* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013). This book describes the proliferation of water supply systems across Britain in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It demonstrates how water systems were not just a natural response to health crises; rather, they were deliberate tools to achieve broad political and social ends with a special focus on the imagined working class. Focusing on London, it describes how water was imbued with momentous import there and details political contests over water that shaped London society to the present day. In sum, this book contributes to one of the humanities’ shared efforts: to describe power, characterize how it is projected onto societies, and analyze technologies or environments as instilled with it.

*Squadron* (forthcoming, Duckworth Press, 2017). When a Royal Navy squadron becomes personally committed to putting down the slave trade from East Africa in the late 1860s, they set the Indian Ocean afire with condemned slave ships. But the merchant elite who rely on slaves for spices and ivory, along with free trade zealots in the British Government, manage to hamstring the squadron. Thwarted, the squadron’s officers return to Britain thinking their efforts were in vain. But to their surprise they learn that abolitionists have been building a publicity campaign around their victories and their pillorying. Soon, the combined efforts of abolitionists and navy officers succeed in forcing the British government to commit itself to crushing the slave trade from East Africa. The slave market at the center of the trade is closed and one of the squadron’s captains is assigned to oversee the dismantling of the entire trade.

**Academic journal articles:**

“Was it really the ‘white man’s burden?’: The non-British engineers who engineered the British Empire,” *Britain and the World* 9 (2016): 197-212.

“British water policy in Mandate Palestine: Environmental orientalism and social transformation,” *Environment and History* 19 (August 2013): 255-81.

“Colonizing the Thames,” *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* 11 no. 3 (Winter 2010).

“Engineering the Empire: British water supply systems and colonial societies, 1850-1900,” *Journal of British Studies* 46 (April 2007): 346-65.

“The wasting of Wolin: Environmental factors in the downfall of a medieval town,”

*Environment and History* 7 (May 2001): 187-199.

**Selected book reviews:**

Tom Crook, *Governing Systems: Modernity and the Making of Public Health in England, 1830-1910,* for *American Historical Review* (Feb. 2017).

Harriet Ritvo, *The Dawn of Green: Manchester, Thirlmere, and Modern Environmentalism,* for *Reviews in History* (Review no. 933).

Sandra Chaney, *Nature of the Miracle Years: Conservation in West Germany, 1945-1975*, for *Environmental History* 15 (January 2010): 148-9.

Thomas Lekan and Thomas Zeller, editors, *Germany’s Nature: Cultural Landscapes and*

*Environmental History,* for *Environmental History* 12 (January 2007): 173-4.

Jonathan Schneer, *The Thames*, for *Environment and History* 12 (August 2006): 351-2.

**Selected Papers:**

2016 Britain and the World Conference, London

“Islam and Allied Soldiery”

2013 Mellon Consortium Conference on British Studies, University of Chicago

Invited paper: “Historicizing Engineers’ ‘Modern’ Vision”

2013 North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, OR

“How the British East India Company Learned Modern Irrigation Engineering from Pre-Modern Indians”

2012 British Scholar Conference, Edinburgh

“Native Hydraulic Engineers in the Service of the British Empire”

2009 North American Conference on British Studies, Louisville, KY

“Water as a Tool for Governing Rival Communities in Mandate Palestine”

2006 American Historical Association, Philadelphia, PA

“An Empire of Water: Recreating a British Technological Landscape in

South and East Asia, 1870-1900” (panel organizer)

2005 North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, CO

“Water in the Making of the Modern British City and the Exceptional

Case of London”

2005 American Society for Environmental History Meeting, Houston, TX

“Making the Modern River: Planning the Transformation of the Thames at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”

**Writing for a pubic readership:**

“Normalizing Fascists,” [The Conversation](https://theconversation.com/normalizing-fascists-69613) ([TheGuardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/12/media-coverage-facists-leaders-mussolini-hitler); [Newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com/american-press-covered-hitler-mussolini-532528); [PublicRadioInternational.org](http://www.pri.org/stories/2016-12-13/how-us-journalists-normalized-rise-hitler-and-mussolini-0) ; [Salon.com](http://www.salon.com/2016/12/13/normalizing-fascists-what-history-can-tell-us-about-leaders-making-the-movement_partner/); [SmithsonianMag.com](http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-journalists-covered-rise-mussolini-hitler-180961407/)), December 2016.

 “The Real Reason Charles Dickens Wrote A Christmas Carol,*”* [Time.com](http://time.com/4597964/history-charles-dickens-christmas-carol/), December 2016.

 “What Charles Dickens’s Britain Has to Do with the 2016 Election,” [History News Network](http://historynewsnetwork.org/article/164054), November 2016.

 “How extralegal actions with a veneer of normalcy can lead to a nightmare,” [Minnpost](https://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2016/11/how-extralegal-actions-veneer-normalcy-can-lead-nightmare), November 2016.

“We asked 16 historians if Donald Trump is a fascist — this is what they said,” [Rawstory.com](http://www.rawstory.com/2016/10/we-asked-16-historians-if-donald-trump-is-a-fascist-this-is-what-they-said/), October 2016.

 “The Shocking Story of Hitler’s Jewish Spy,” [Time.com](http://time.com/4212285/hitler-jewish-spy/), February 2016.

 “Farage in Cleveland,” [City Club of Cleveland](https://www.cityclub.org/blogs/farage-in-cleveland) Blog, July 2016.

“The History of Municipal Water,” [The Academic Minute](http://wamc.org/post/dr-john-broich-case-western-reserve-university-history-municipal-water), November 2013.

**Selected honors:**

2017 Baker Nord Humanities Center Fellowship

2015 Baker Nord Humanities Center Travel to Foreign Collections Grant

2014 Huntington Library Fellowship; declined

2013 President’s Award for top contributions to Northeast Public Radio’s “Academic Minute”

2012 Baker Nord Humanities Center Grant for research travel to Scotland

2011 Nominee for Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, CWRU

2009 Baker-Nord Humanities Center Grant for research travel (to Jerusalem)

2000 Hoefer Prize for Excellence in Teaching Undergraduate Writing