

# ESHS – Scientific Board, 2020-2022

## Giulia Rispoli

As a member of the scientific board of the ESHS, I will focus on strengthening the ties between the Society and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, in particular, with the research group *Knowledge in and of the Anthropocene* (dep. 1) of which I am a core member. In this framework, I plan to organize a conference panel at one of the succeeding scientific appointments of the Society, and publish a special issue (*Centaurus*) or a collective volume as an outcome of the discussions developed therein.

As a research scholar interested in the relevance of current Anthropocene studies to the history of science and technology, I am constantly looking for new opportunities to engage in collaboration with European colleagues interested in the cross-fertilization of these fields. For example, together with Director of dep 1 of the MPIWG, Jürgen Renn, the current president of the ESHS, Ana Simões, and Maria Paula Diogo, a member of its scientific board, I am working towards the organization in 2021 of a joint workshop thanks to a research grant made available by the Max Planck Society. This workshop will focus on topics of common interest with our Portuguese colleagues, such as the history of the human-environment nexus, global change, tensions between the global north and global south, and environmental diplomacy.

I am developing a solid curriculum in the Anthropocene studies, as my current position involves coordinating collaboration between the MPIWG, the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), and the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) – a body of the Sub-commission of Quaternary Stratigraphy charged with assessing the Anthropocene as a formal geological time unit. In this project, I coordinate research on the diverse systemic historical trends and processes manifested in the global distribution of sedimentary and geochemical markers. The AWG is currently selecting these in their search for a “Golden Spike.” Together with Christoph Rosol (MPIWG), I am co-organizing an event titled *Anthropogenic Markers* taking place at the HKW in November 2020. The event, putting together earth scientists, humanists, and contemporary artists to discuss materials and evidence making of a twentieth-century transition into the Anthropocene also involves collaboration with European colleagues Soraya Boudia (Université Paris Descartes), Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) and Maria Rentetzi (TU Berlin).

My research focuses on the history of human geometalism in the twentieth century, in particular, “the geosphere-biosphere” and the “Earth-system,” and how they have reflected changes in scientific concepts and methodologies that in turn can explain different policy strategies in different phases of the post-war debate, and the Cold War. In this respect, I collaborate with Simone Turchetti (Manchester University), Doubravka Olšáková (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic), and Roberto Lalli (MPIWG), and I am an active member of the Commission on Science Technology and Diplomacy led by Turchetti.

Given the picture that I briefly sketched, I believe that my profile, the research portfolio I am developing, and the network of science historians (based in Italy, the UK, Portugal,

France, Germany, Spain, Czech Republic, Russia, Finland, Sweden etc.) I am building can constitute an advantage point to serve the Society.

I look forward to discussing further and concretize in the next steps my contribution and objectives as a member of the scientific board for the years 2020-2021.

## CV

Giulia Rispoli (23/06/1986) studied history and philosophy of science at the University of Rome La Sapienza, where she received her PhD in 2015, and at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy of the Lomonosov Moscow State University. Her dissertation, published in book form in 2016, focused on the history of systems thinking in Russia—in particular on Aleksandr's Bogdanov's *Tektology* as an alternative to the General System Theory and Cybernetics—and its convergence with ecological discourse in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Giulia is currently a Research Scholar in the research group “Knowledge in and of the Anthropocene,” at the Dep 1 of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. She investigates the conceptual history and genealogies of the Anthropocene notion and the emergence of Earth system Science in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She is also a collaborator of the *Haus der Kulturen der Welt*, Berlin in the framework of a two-year cooperation between the MPIWG and the HKW with the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG).

She has published on the history and philosophy of Russian systems thinking, Soviet biology and ecology, biosphere studies, genealogies of Earth system thinking, environmental diplomacy, and the history of social studies of science especially in the Russian and Soviet context. She has co-edited with Christoph Rosol a special issue on *Technology and the Sublime* (Azimuth 12/2018) and a forthcoming volume co-edited with Simone Turchetti on the history of science diplomacy will be published in September 2020 for the journal *Historical Studies in Natural Sciences*. The list of publications is available at:

<https://pure.mpg.de/cone/persons/resource/persons196184>

Giulia Rispoli has been a visiting scholar at the Moscow State University and the York Center for Complex Systems Analysis of the University of York, and a postdoctoral fellow at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) and the Centre Alexander Koyré in Paris. She has taught at Indiana University, Bloomington, the Cohn Institute of Tel Aviv University and at the Osteuropa-Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin. In 2021, she will be visiting scholar at the Harriman Institute of Columbia University, New York.