



Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in
Environmental, Economic and Social
Sustainability

***Analysis and Management of
Natural Landscapes. 2021/22***

Geography Department

Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA)

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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Environmental history

To understand the current dimension of environmental problems and predict its future evolution, we need to incorporate a historical perspective to its study.

A new integrated vision is needed to understand relationships between **nature** and **culture** (Toledo *et al.*, 1998).

[Hybrid disciplines]

Environmental history: can be defined as the discipline to study the evolution in the relationships between society and environment through **time**.

It can also be seen as the evolution of **socioecological systems** through time.

Although environmental history is a discipline of recent origin, the study of the relationship between society and environment has always been an important issue for humans (González de Molina i Toledo, 2011).

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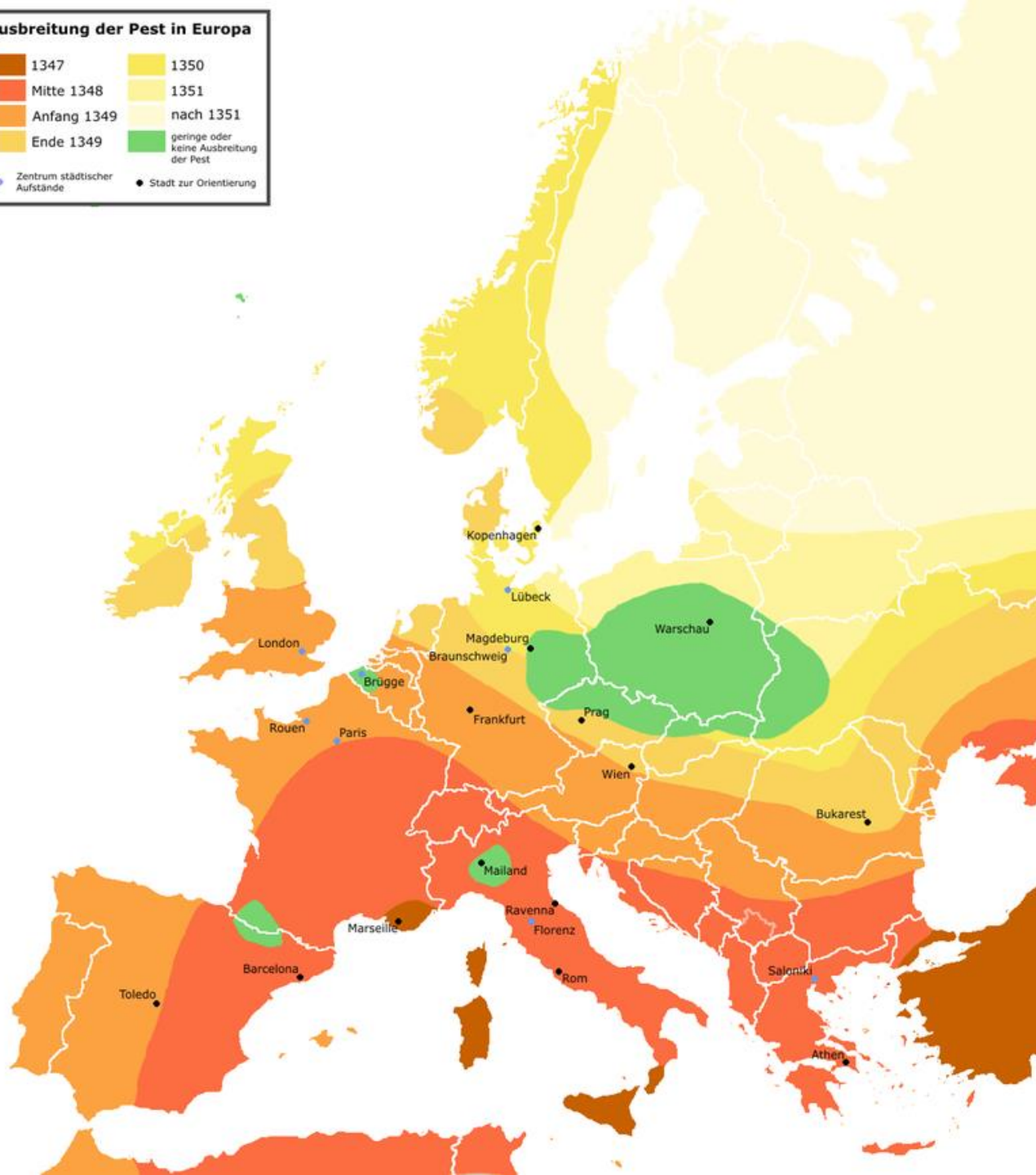
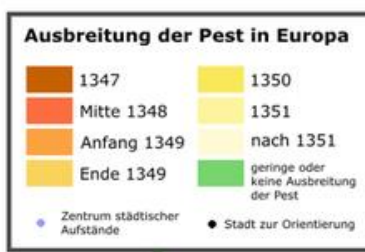
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(González)

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Environmental History 3

Manuel González de Molina
Víctor M. Toledo

The Social Metabolism

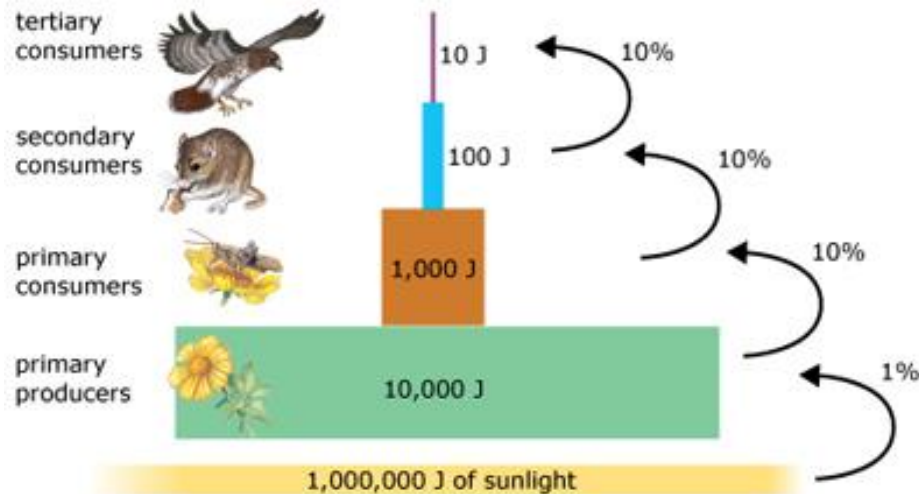
A Socio-Ecological Theory of Historical Change

 Springer

Environmental history. Societal metabolism

During the historical evolution of socioecological systems, the relationship between society and environment produces energy and matter flows.

This flows can be studied through the concept of **societal metabolism**, an integrated view developed from the ecological concept of metabolism.



1. **Appropriation:** humans appropriate natural resources (energy and matter) and environmental services.
2. **Transformation:** changes produced in the products extracted from nature (handicraft, manufacturing...). Increasing complexity through history.
3. **Circulation:** commercial or economic exchange inside society. Increasing volume and distance through history.
4. **Consumption:** Involves the whole members of society. Increasing volume of consumption through history, specially in developed countries.
5. **Excretion:** the act of throwing away matter and energy to nature (waste).



Modern societies: high consumption of resources and generation of waste



Traditional farmhouses: integrated metabolism.
Close the circle!!

Objectives and Contextualisation







Experiences from the analysis and the management in protected areas

Methodology

- Lectures
- Troubleshooting classes / cases / exercises
- Classroom practices
- Field trip
- Essays/assignments

Evaluation

The final grade will be the result of:

- Exam (50%) (case study)
- Report field trip (10%)
- Landscape analysis practice (15%)
- Critical essays about scientific papers (2) (20%)
- Attendance and participation (5%)

Critical essays about scientific papers:

1. Check some journals related with landscape or protected areas

Landscape and Urban Planning

Landscape Ecology

Landscape Research

Landscape History

Natural Areas Journal

Journal for Nature Conservation

Parks

.....

2. Selected a couple of papers of your interest (1 in landscape and another on protected areas and develop a critical analysis (check next slide)

1st deliverable: landscape paper **12th of november**

2nd deliverable: protected areas paper **3rd of december**

Critical Analysis about scientific paper

Goals:

- Identify the key ideas;
- Determine the author's main thesis;
- Identify the appeals that were used;
- Evaluate the author's thesis, argumentation

Estructure:

1: Background information

Work (title, author, publication details)

2: Summary

- Main theme of the article
- Author's argument
- Evidences to support his argument
- Conclusion or conclusions reached by the authors

3: Evaluation

- Are the author's recommendations appropriate?
- What contributions do the author's findings have, in my opinion?
- Do I agree or disagree with the author's conclusions? Why?