



## Project Updates / Winter 2022

We're kicking off a new year with an update on the last six months of the From Collection to Cultivation project, including some important changes in staffing and institutional affiliations. You can find out more about the project's activities, past and present, by visiting our website at [www.cultivation.hps.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cultivation.hps.cam.ac.uk).

### Project Members on the Move

In August, we said goodbye to our research assistant and project manager [Dr Jessica Lee](#), who moved with her family to Germany. In October, our postdoctoral research fellow and resident expert on agricultural science in Brazil [Dr Ryan Nehring](#) took up a permanent position as Associate Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Brazil. We wish the very best to both Jessica and Ryan as they turn their attention to exciting new projects of their own!

[Prof Helen Anne Curry](#) also moved institutions, taking a position as Kranzberg Professor in the History of Technology at Georgia Tech (in Atlanta, USA) while retaining her role as the PI of From Collection to Cultivation. The project and its postdoctoral and doctoral research affiliates remain based at the University of Cambridge, where Curry is now an Honorary Senior Research Fellow. We look forward to the cross-institutional collaborations that this move makes possible.



Panelists Dr Xan Chacko, Hitesh Pant, Zsuzsanna Ihar, and Leo Chu at the AHS meeting in Stavanger in August.

# From Collection to Cultivation at AHS 2022

In August, the entire team convened at the [Agricultural History Society's 2022 conference](#), in Stavanger, Norway, to present their research alongside several other scholars in a series of three 'From Collection to Cultivation' panels.

We heard [stories of seeds and sovereignty in Norway, Iraq, Nicaragua, and Taiwan](#) from Xan Chacko, Hitesh Pant, Zsuzsanna Ihar, and Leo Chu. We had [accounts of Mexican chiles, Brazilian forage grasses, and Indian peanuts](#) from Dani Sclavo, Ryan Nehring, and Tad Brown. And we followed [explorations of virus-carrying aphids in Britain, Hawaiian horn-fly control, and tools to measure the risks](#) that such agricultural pests create, thanks to João Joaquim, Jessica Wang and Erinn Campbell. We were also joined by commentators and chairs Stuart McCook, Harro Maat, and Courtney Fullilove.

We're grateful for the support of the Wellcome Trust, which made this collaborative research engagement possible, and thankful too for many scholars who joined our conversations in Stavanger.

## Blog and News Updates



### The Rise and Fall of Processed Tomato in Taiwan

Doctoral student Leo Chu discusses the history of vegetable research in Taiwan in the latest instalment of the project blog.



### Living Biocultural Archives project

Congratulations to doctoral student Daniela Sclavo who is developing a collaborative community archive in Oaxaca, Mexico with the support of the Imagining Futures Network.

## Publications and Press

### Project-Sponsored Research Publications

- Helen Anne Curry, '[The History of Seed Banking and the Hazards of Backup](#)', *Social Studies of Science* 52, no. 5 (October 2022): 664–688.
- Cassiano Brita Rocha, **Ryan Nehring**, and Sandro Dutra e Silva, '[Soy Without Borders: The Transnational Dynamics of Commodity Frontiers in South America \(1971–2019\)](#)', *Global Environment* 15, no. 3 (October 2022): 423–455.
- Helen Anne Curry, '[Hybrid Seeds in History and Historiography](#)', *Isis* 113, no. 3 (September 2022): 610–617. [[Open Access Version](#)]
- Sarah Garland and Helen Anne Curry, '[Turning Promise into Practice: Crop Biotechnology for Increasing Genetic Diversity and Climate Resilience](#)', *PLoS Biology* 20, no. 7 (July 2022): e3001716.

### Other Publications by Project Affiliates

- Leo Chu, '[Review of Mennonite Farmers: A Global History of Place and Sustainability](#)',

H-Environment (November 2022).

- Zsuzsanna Ihar, 'Multispecies Mediations: Boundaries of Life in the Extractive Zone', in [The Promise of Multispecies Justice](#), edited by Eben Kirksey, Sophie Chao, and Karin Bolander (Durham: Duke University Press), 205–226.
- Zsuzsanna Ihar, '[Book Review: What Comes after Entanglement? Activism, Anthropocentrism, and an Ethics of Exclusion](#)', *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience* 8, no. 1 (2022).
- Elia Apostolopoulou and **Hitesh Pant**, '["Silk Road here we come": Infrastructural myths, post-disaster politics, and the shifting urban geographies of Nepal](#)', *Political Geography* 98 (2022): 102704.

#### **Outreach and Press**

- Helen Anne Curry, '[Banks, Bunkers, and Backup: Securing Crop Diversity from the Cold War to the Internet Age](#)', lecture to the Cambridge Philosophical Society, October 2022.
- Helen Anne Curry, [featured author on Real Foods Media Book Club](#), June 2022

## **Conference and Workshop Presentations**

#### **Tad Brown**

- 'Oil & Water: Peanut Breeding in Southern India, 1920–1950', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- 'Tracing Peanut Origins in Brazil', Research Group for Transnational History and Cultural Encounters, University of Bergen, Norway, October.
- 'Collecting Arachis from the Telegraph Line', Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Working Group on Collections and Collecting, online, November.

#### **Erinn Campbell**

- 'Pest forecasting as performance: Standardizing pest risk analysis in agricultural trade', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- '"Operational guidelines" or a "conceptual framework"? Standardizing consequence forecasting for invasive plant pests, 1989–2007', Global and Planetary Histories: Materialisms Old and New, Deep Time, and Multi-Species Relationships, European University Institute, Florence, Italy, October.

#### **Leo Chu**

- 'Debugging the Systems: Budworm Control and the Origin of Ecological Resilience in Northern America', European Association of Social Anthropologists Biennial Conference, Belfast, Northern Ireland, July.
- 'Reforming the Green Revolution through Ecology in Southeast Asia, 1964-2000', British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, Belfast, UK, July.
- 'Between Gardens and Genebank: The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) and the Rise of Urban Agriculture, 1971-2008', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- 'Diversifying Green Revolution: The Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC) from the Cold War to the Dawn of Sustainability, 1963–1988', European Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, Brussels, Belgium, September.

#### **Zsuzsanna Ihar**

- 'The Virile Crescent: Pure Seeds, Demonstration Farms, and the British Mandate's Vision to Re-Engineer Iraq', British Society for the History of Science Annual Conference, Belfast, UK, July.
- 'Seeds in the Aftermath', Agricultural History Society, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- 'Turning Soldiers into Farmers: The Curative Promise of Agriculture', American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, hybrid/Seattle, USA, November.

- 'Pandora's Seed Box: Salvaging and Safekeeping Genetic Resource Collection', 4S/ESOCITE, Cholula, Mexico, November.

#### **João Joaquim**

- 'From pests to technologies: the changing roles of insects in agricultural virology in mid-twentieth-century Britain', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- 'Agricultural virology in early twentieth-century Britain: the search for virus-free potato seed', Coffee Break Seminar, Cambridge Global Food Security, Cambridge, UK, October.

#### **Hitesh Pant**

- 'The revolutionary history of Via Campesina', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, August.
- 'Productivism, peasant activism, and the roots of Via Campesina', Epics of Agricultural Science and Technology workshop, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK, September.

#### **Ryan Nehring**

- 'Science, Agriculture and Development in Latin America' with Sandro Dutra e Silva, American History, Culture and Society, Faculty of Languages and Literatures, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, Germany, June.
- 'Domestic Science, American Philanthropy and Gendered Rural Extension in Minas Gerais, Brazil (1948-1961)', European Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Hybrid/Bristol, UK, July.
- 'Farming Cattle in the Tropics: Transnational Science and Industrializing Pastures in Brazil', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, July.
- 'Agricultural Research as a Public Company: The Politics of Democratizing Brazil's Embrapa', Epics of Agricultural Science and Technology workshop, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton, UK, September

#### **Daniela Sclavo**

- 'SINAREFI and the Chile Crop: in Between Identities', Agricultural History Society Annual Meeting, Stavanger, Norway, July.
- 'Framing the Traditional: Revolutionary Ethnobotanical Research in Mexico in the 1970s and 1980s', Workshop on 'Science and its Others: Histories of Ethno-science', Cambridge, UK, September.

#### **From Collection to Cultivation**

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