

# Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies

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## Northwestern University GRADUATE CONFERENCE

### **“The End of the World as They Knew It: Crisis and Collapse in History”**

convened by Sian OLSON DOWIS, T.H. Breen Fellow at the CCHS

**May 14, 2021 via Zoom:**

**Registration:** [https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MypYalGvT\\_mV4HT0KYkn-A](https://northwestern.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MypYalGvT_mV4HT0KYkn-A)



Gregor Perusek, *Flood in Ohio Valley* (1937)

**8:45 am** – Welcome by CCHS Director Jonathon GLASSMAN and conference convener Sian OLSON DOWIS.

• **9-10:30 am – Panel 1: *The State in Crisis: Empires and Nations in Times of Turmoil***

Chair: Charlotte ROSEN (Northwestern)

Julia MEAD (University of Chicago) – “Return to the Domestic: How Coal Fueled Normalized Czechoslovakia after the Global Energy Shocks, 1973-1979”

Olatunde TAIWO (University of Ghana) – Nigerian Deportation Crisis in the Global Debacles of the Twenty-First Century”

Zeynep TEZER (University of Chicago) – “Do I Want to Fit In?: A Sixteenth-Century Ottoman Jurist’s Search for Alternatives During a Time of Crisis”

Rohan SHAH (Columbia) – “American Century in Crisis’: Neoconservatives and Economic Globalization”

Discussant: Alana TOULIN (Dalhousie U.)

10:30-11 am - Break

• **11 am-12:30 pm - Panel 2: *Narrativizing Crisis and Precarity***

Chair: Dexter Fergie (Northwestern)

Jonathon CATLIN (Princeton) – “On Conceptual Devastation: Walter Benjamin, Theodor Adorno, and the Idea of History as Permanent Catastrophe”

Gabrielle GUILLERM (Northwestern) – “The Cyclone of Civilization’: Deconstructing Missionaries’ Narratives of ‘Civilization’ in the Early Nineteenth-Century Midwest”

Caitlin MONROE (Northwestern) – “Songs of Survival: Women’s Historical Memory and Environmental Crisis in Western Uganda, 1900-Present”

Discussant: Lydia BARNETT (Northwestern)

12:30-1:30 pm - Lunch Break

**1:30-3 p.m. Professor Kate BROWN** (MIT), author of *Manual for Survival: An Environmental History of the Chernobyl Disaster* (2019)

- **Keynote lecture: "The Great Chernobyl Acceleration"**

3:00-3:30 pm - Break

- **3:30-5:00 pm. Panel 3: Disaster and Social Change**

Chair: Madelyn LUGLI (Northwestern)

Alexander HOFMANN (University of Chicago): "The New South Identity Crisis"

John SULLIVAN (Northwestern): "The 1783 Calabrian Earthquakes and the End of the Old Regime"

Sian OLSON DOWIS (Northwestern): "Detroit and the Politics of Collapse"

Discussant: Daniel IMMERWAHR (Northwestern)