

Minutes of Meeting

12 December 2014

to discuss the progress of the McGill Climate Project work package 5

Present

Rob Allan
Vinita Damodaran
James Hamilton

This brief meeting looked to discuss some general ideas about the work package as well as the what should be being done in the immediate.

It was suggested that the output of the work package should include both an inventory of sources and one or more case studies. These would work within wider questions over the meaning of the little ice age or the C17th crisis in the Indian Ocean context, and perhaps even address the roots of dramatic global shifts such as 'The Great Divergence'. The group should intend to publish a collaborative paper as a result of the work.

Parker's new work *Global Crisis* was seen as a useful starting point for sources and strengths and weaknesses of documentary and proxy sources. The surveys collected by the CWEH / AHRC *Botanical and Environmental history* . . . network were noted as another useful resource.

The first stage would be for James Hamilton to produce an itinerary of sources and a short chronology of the C17th identifying issues and events which might be amenable to study through climate.

In the longer term it was suggested that the next phase of McGill funding, if successful, might be on the scale required to initiate the next stage of the project outlined by the CWEH / AHRC *Botanical and Environmental history* . . . network earlier in the year. That is, the construction of a large-scale digital architecture in which to bring together all sources on the environmental history of the Indian Ocean region.