

Ralph Andraschek-Holzer and Martin Schmid, Environmental history and topographical views: Perception and transformation of the Danube in Austria 1650–1950 (p. 80–115)

Focussing on a stretch of the Danube between Upper and Lower Austria, environmental change and its perception over 300 years feature in this article based on the examination of topographical views. These pictorial sources are considered not merely as illustrations but discussed as material to be used for the study of environmental history. This is a plea for a regressive methodological procedure, as topographical views give a momentary picture of such highly dynamic environments in a typical mode of perception and pictorial presentation. Account has to be taken of the interest of producer/artist and of buyer/recipient, and iconographical traditions are important for the way once real landscapes are represented. The important contribution of the study of topographical views to environmental history, understood as the common history of nature and society, can be shown.