

Information on candidate for SCB Board of Governors

Name: Kate Christen

City and Country of residence: Winchester, VA, United States

Professional Affiliation: Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute

SCB member since: 1994

Previous SCB activities (include Section membership and activity):

SSWG: Founding Board of Directors (2004-5); Board of Directors/BoG Liaison (2010-present)

SCB Board of Governors: Humanities Rep (2008-2011); Secretary (2011-present)

SCB Strategic Planning/Implementation Committee Chair (2009-present)

SCB Education Committee Member (2010-present)

Elected Office Sought: Member at Large

1) Why do you want to serve as an SCB Governor? What is your vision of SCB's mission?

During this key transition time for the Society, I will help SCB's new Executive Director and BoG ensure SCB's coordinated, timely, and financially sound implementation of our priority activities, services, and initiatives. I'll do this by applying my detailed understanding of SCB's complex institutional structure and history, and my dedication to enacting strategic priorities that best serve all our membership. I will continue, collaboratively, to champion the true integration of humanities and social science approaches and disciplines within SCB, and the expansion of our practice-oriented education and leadership initiatives. SCB is dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity by serving the professional needs and interests of its membership. Collectively, our Society and its Sections, Working Groups, and Chapters comprise a dedicated and diverse global conservation network, itself a virtual worldwide conservation institution. I want to ensure SCB meets our strategic commitments: to build our organizational capacity; to grow, serve, and further diversify our membership; to better support our Sections, Working Groups, and Chapters; and of course, to support conservation science and increase its application to management and policy.

When I participate in SCB training initiatives, or Smith Fellows activities, or mentor alongside fellow SCB members at meetings like the Student Conference on Conservation Science, I am always heartened by the enthusiastic commitment to the further integration of science, humanities, and social science philosophies, approaches, and data evinced by the students and new professionals I meet. As a BoG At-Large member, I will continue my work aimed at ensuring SCB delivers as "the" membership society for these new generations of conservation researchers and practitioners.

2) What role should SCB play in shaping global conservation science, policy, and practice?

How can you help fulfil that role?

SCB facilitates the productivity of our constituent members through our publications, conferences, and education, science, and policy initiatives. In my BoG role and service on the Strategic Planning and Education Committees I will continue my focus on facilitating effective linkages and collaborations among our administrative and governing processes, including among the Executive Office and our Sections, Working Groups, Chapters, and Smith Fellows program. Maximizing our functionality optimizes the products and services SCB provides its members and hence each of our members' ability to best serve their own wider conservation constituencies.

3) What do you think is most important to the organizational development of SCB? Describe experiences that have prepared you to promote SCB's development as an organization.

Key is Executive Office-led implementation of our strategic plan, translating our mission-focused goals into prioritized workplans that realistically reflect our present financial and personnel resources, accompanied by targeted fundraising to accomplish specific priority goals. Also fundamental are is an ongoing dedication to engendering mutually supportive roles and functions among the Executive Office and BoG, Sections, Working Groups, Chapters, and Smith Fellows. My at-large service will benefit from my prior BoG leadership, my SSWG Board service, my work on SCB's Strategic Planning/Implementation and Education Committees, my ongoing service to several environmental history and public history professional societies, and my professional work at Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and other conservation organizations. Amongst these I have fulfilled professional, committee, and advisory roles dedicated primarily to conservation-oriented program and project development, professional and graduate development and training, community-building, advocacy, interdisciplinary liaison, publications development and editing, and conference, symposium, and event organizing.

4) Describe your interest and experience with budgeting, fundraising, and development of nonprofit organizations.

Project and program budget management as well as grant-writing and administration are integral to my work at Smithsonian and to my service to SCB. At both Smithsonian and SCB I have also collaborated closely with institutional fundraisers on development initiatives. Throughout my career my work has focused on development and strengthening of non-profit conservation organizations, programs, and projects, particularly in education, training, and research.

KATE CHRISTEN, PhD

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
1500 Remount Road, Front Royal, VA 22630 USA
Phone: +1-540-635-0040; Fax: +1-540-635-0044 christenc@si.edu

EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins University Department of History: PhD 1995

Latin American and Environmental History: Dissertation on Development and Conservation on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, 1937-1977.

The Johns Hopkins University Department of History: MA (Distinction) 1990

Coursework and reading fields: Colonial and Modern Latin American Environmental History; African Environmental History; Ecology; Earth and Planetary Sciences; Geography; Environmental Sociology

Oxford University (Forestry Institute): Affiliated Researcher April-June 1988

Harvard College and Radcliffe College, Department of History: AB 1984 (Dean's List)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, Graduate and Professional Training Manager

Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, Front Royal, VA, USA (8/2009-present).

Develop and implement graduate/professional training courses in conservation science and human dimensions, advise trainees. Liaise on training initiatives and project/program initiatives with collaborators at Smithsonian, George Mason University and worldwide.

George Mason University Affiliate Professor, VA, USA (2010-present): SMSC Training Program.

Advise graduate students and doctoral candidates. (5/2002-8/2004): Co-administered pilot project for experiential learning collaborative activities between Mason and Smithsonian: **Conserving Endangered Species: An Integrative Approach** (Spring 2003, Spring 2004); ten-day field course.

Smithsonian Archives Research Associate, Washington, DC (1999-present). Research on environmental history & history of science (e.g. Landsat history, Mongolian wild horse conservation). Advise pre-doctoral and post-doctoral Smithsonian Fellows.

Biodiversity Support Program, Senior Program Officer, Analysis and Adaptive Management,

WWF-US, Washington, DC (3/1999-9/2000). Research, analysis, writing, editing of studies on decentralization, coalitions, grant-giving, and institutional capacity building in biodiversity conservation contexts. Supervised research assistants, consultants and administered five \$100,000 project budgets.

Smithsonian Institution Archives Postdoctoral Fellow, Washington, D.C. (3/1997-2/1999).

Historical research on tropical American field science and Smithsonian agendas for research and conservation. Field research in Panama City, Barro Colorado Island, and Bocas del Toro, Panama.

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Park Historian (10/1985-8/1987). Social, political, and environmental history of conservation and development policies in NYC parkland; publications, exhibits.

Assistant to Central Park Chief Horticulturist (6/1985-9/1985); Field Researcher (6/1982-9/1982).

Office of Immigrant Affairs, NYC Department of City Planning Writer/Planner, (11/1984-6/1985).

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH/EDITORIAL/ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING:

- **Private client, Historical Research Project on Bald Eagle Status in Arizona** (3/2010-5/2010).
- ***Elephants and Ethics: The Morality of Coexistence*, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park**, Front Royal, VA (2/2002-9/2008). **Co-organizer and Co-editor**, Symposium, workshop, and volume on ethics of managing wild/captive Asian and African elephants. **2009 Secretary's Research Prize**.
- **Warren Heritage Society/NZP-CRC Remount History Exhibit**, Front Royal, VA (3/2008, 9/2008-10/2008). Co-curated, wrote text for NZP-CRC segment of "Remount 1908-2008" exhibit at Warren Heritage Society (3/2008) and for NZP-CRC 2008 Autumn Conservation Festival (9/2008-10/2008).
- **National Zoo Oral History Project, Smithsonian Archives**, Washington, DC (9/2004-12/2006).
- **Woodrow Wilson Center Latin America Program**, Washington, DC (5/1998-2/1999). Special projects rapporteur, translation, editing and analysis.
- **Center for International Environmental Law**, Washington, DC (9/1997-6/1998). Work on Costa Rican Joint Implementation (CO2 offset) projects.
- **Labor's Heritage Journal, George Meany Memorial Archives**, Silver Spring, MD **Associate Editor** (8/1995-3/1997); **Assistant Editor** (6/1994-7/1995); **Editorial Assistant** (6/1988-5/1994); **Organizing committee** for Meany Archives symposia, 1993-1995.
- **Biohabitats Incorporated**, Towson, MD (7/1989-10/1989). Researched, wrote environmental history report on ecology/human cultural activity at Kenilworth Marsh for restoration project.
- **The Johns Hopkins University** (7/1988). **Ecology Field Research Assistant**. Paleoecology field research project in Luquillo National Forest, Puerto Rico.
- **American University in Cairo** (4/1983). **Assistant** to Conference on Flow of News Among Nations.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT/TEACHING:

- **Smithsonian Biodiversity Science in the Classroom**, Lemelson Education Project, NZP-CRC Education Department, Front Royal, VA, USA (1/2008-6/2008).
- **Project Leader, Field-Based Curriculum Enrichment for English as a Second Language (ESL) Students**, Winchester City Schools, Winchester, VA, USA (12/2007-6/2008).
- **Project Leader, *¡Cuidando los Animales!* Zoo Science Education Program for Latino Students in the Shenandoah Valley**, NZP-CRC Education Department, Front Royal, VA (4/2007-12/2007).
- **Coordinator and Instructor, Professional Training Courses in *Uso de SIG y Sensores Remotos en Biología de la Conservación***, NZP-CRC GIS Lab, Front Royal, VA (5/2007, 6/2006, 8/2005).
- **Project Co-Coordinator, Geomatics for Wildlife Enforcement Seminar**, NZP-CRC GIS Lab, Front Royal, VA, and Environment Canada (EC), Ottawa (12/2006-3/2007).
- **Project Administrator and Coordinator, Professional Training Course in *Uso de SIG y Sensores Remotos en Biología de la Conservación en Puerto Rico***; NZP Conservation GIS Lab and University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR (1/2005-8/2006).
- **Project Administrator and Coordinator, Professional Training Course in *Uso de SIG y Sensores Remotos en Biología de la Conservación***, NZP Conservation GIS Lab, Front Royal, VA (1-9/2004).
- **Instructor and Coordinator, GIS for Policy and Decision-Makers**, NZP-CRC GIS Lab, Front Royal, VA (2/2006-6/2006).
- **Lecturer, The Johns Hopkins University Department of History/Latin American Studies Program**, Baltimore, MD (1/2002-5/2002). Seminar on **Latin American Environmental History**; (1/1994-5/1994). Upper level undergraduate seminar on **Tropical American Rain Forests**.
- **The Johns Hopkins University Master's Program in Environmental Earth Sciences and Policy, Washington, D.C.** (1/1998-5/1998). **Lecturer**, Master's level course in **Environmentalism: History and Literature**. (1/1996-5/1996) Master's level course in **History of Environmentalism**.
- **Organization for Tropical Studies, Academic Facilitator**, Costa Rica (8/1991). Humanities/social science-focused modules in **Agroecología**. **Teaching Assistant** (5/1990-8/1990). Devised, taught modules in **Tropical Managed Ecosystems**.

LANGUAGES: English, Spanish: Fluent French, German: Proficient Portuguese: Intermediate

SELECTED NON-PROFIT GRANTS AWARDED (*with collaborators)

- Cedar Hill Foundation: \$25,000 grant for Open Source GIS course development, 2013*
- Smithsonian Latino Pool: \$19,000 project grant for ESL middle-school curriculum, 2007
- Disney's Animal Kingdom: \$50,000 grant for production of Elephants/Ethics volume, 2004
- Smithsonian Latino Pool: \$44,000 project grant, 2005-2006 for Spanish-language Conservation GIS training in Puerto Rico, also \$10,000 from University of Puerto Rico and Texas A&M, 2005-2006*
- Smithsonian Latino Pool: \$74,000 project grant to fund development, implementation of introductory/advanced Spanish-language Conservation GIS training in Front Royal, VA, 2004*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Society for Conservation Biology (SCB)

Secretary, Board of Governors (March 2011-present)
Interview Panelist, Selection Committee for David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship, (1/2013)
Student Presentation Prizes Judge, ICCB 2011, Auckland, New Zealand
Acting Secretary, Board of Governors (March 2011- June 2011)
Humanities Representative, Board of Governors (July 2008-June 2011)
Chair, SCB Strategic Planning & Implementation Committee (September 2009-present)
Member, SCB Education Committee (July 2010-present)
Member, Social Science Working Group (SSWG) Board of Directors (July 2010-present)
SSWG Board of Directors Liaison with Board of Governors (July 2010-present)
Social Science Working Group Founding Board Member, (2004-2005)

International Consortium of Environmental History Associations

Program Committee, 2015 World Congress of Environmental History, Portugal (2013-present)

American Society for Environmental History

Member, Local Organizing Committee, 2015 Washington, DC, USA Conference (2012-present)
Member, Advisory Board for Professional Development and Public Engagement (2012-present)
Chair, Institutional Outreach Committee, (2007-2011)
Member, Institutional Outreach Committee (2004-2007, 2011-2012)
Chair, Nominating Committee (2001-2003)
Program Committee, Tacoma, Washington Conference (1999-2000)

National Council on Public History

Program Committee, 2014 Monterey, CA, USA Conference (2012-present)
International Editor, Editorial Board, *The Public Historian* (2006-2013)
Member, Editorial Board, *The Public Historian* (2001-2006)

Smithsonian Institution

Senior Advisor to Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Convivium Series (2011-2013)
Chair, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Science Council (2005-present)
National Zoo Representative to Smithsonian Institution Travel Advisory Group (2009-2012)

Facilitation and Mediation

Facilitator & Community Mediator, Multicultural Community Service, Washington, DC (3/1998-6/2000)
Mediator, Community Mediation Program, Safe and Smart Center, Baltimore, MD (11/1995-12/1998)
NYS Program Certified Community Conflict Management Trainer, 1998; Community Mediator, 1995

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Gilbert, L., **C. Christen**, Altrichter, M., et. al. 2014 (in press). The Southern Pacific Lowland Evergreen Moist Forest of the Osa Region, in *Costa Rican Ecosystems* (ed. M. Kappelle) Chicago: U Chicago Press.
- Fleishman, E., D.E. Blockstein, et al. (incl. **C.A. Christen**). 2011. Top 40 priorities for science to inform conservation and management policy in the United States. *Bioscience* 61(4).
- Christen, C.** 2009-2011 Quarterly column, Humanities News and Events, for the *Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter*. See: www.conbio.org/Publications/Newsletter/.
- Christen, C.** 2010. The Rocky Mountain School. In K.A. Brosnan, ed., *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*. New York: Facts On File.
- Christen, C.** 2010. Review of *The Anguish of Displacement: The Politics of Literacy in the Letters of Mountain Families in Shenandoah National Park*, by K. M. Powell. *The Public Historian*, 32:2 (Spring), pp. 94-95.
- Perotto-Baldivieso, H.L., E. Meléndez-Ackerman, M.A. García, P. Leimgruber, S.M. Cooper, A. Martinez, P. Calle, O.M. Ramos Gonzales, M. Quiñones, **C. Christen**, and G. Pons 2009. Spatial distribution, connectivity, and the influence of scale: habitat availability for the endangered Mona Island Rock Iguana. *Biodiversity and Conservation* 18: 905-917. DOI 10.1007/s10531-008-9520-3.
- Wemmer, C. & **C. Christen** (eds.). 2008. *Elephants and Ethics: Toward a Morality of Coexistence*. Baltimore: JHU Press; including Wemmer, C. & **C. Christen**, Introduction: Never Forgetting the Importance of Ethical Treatment of Elephants.
- Christen, C.** 2008. Before Corcovado: Early Conservation Initiatives on the Osa Peninsula. In *Natural and Cultural History of the Golfo Dulce Region* (eds. A. Weissenhofer, W. Huber, V. Mayer, S. Pamperl, A. Weber, & G. Aubrecht). *Stapfia* 88: 675-682.
- Leimgruber, P., **C. Christen**, and A. Laborderie. 2005. The Impact of Landsat Monitoring on Conservation Biology. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 106: 81-101.
- Christen, C.** and L. Mighetto (Guest Editors). 2004. Environmental History as Public History. Special Issue, *The Public Historian*, 26:1; including **Christen, C.** and L. Mighetto. Introduction: Environmental History as Public History, 9-19.
- Christen, C.** 2003. Review of *Foundations of Tropical Forest Biology: Classic Papers with Commentaries* (eds. R. L. Chazdon & T.C. Whitmore). *J. History of Biology*, 36: 612-613.
- Christen, C.** 2002. At Home in the Field: Smithsonian Tropical Science Field Stations in the US Panama Canal Zone and the Republic of Panama. *Americas*, 58: 4, 537-575.
- Christen, C.**, S. Herculano, K. Hochstetler, R. Prell, M. Price, and J. T. Roberts. 1998. Latin American Environmentalism: Comparative Views. *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 33: 2, 58-87.
- De Groot, S. W., **C. Christen**, and F. Knight. 1997. Maroon Communities in the Circum-Caribbean. *General History of the Caribbean*, v. III. London: UNESCO/MacMillan, 169-193.
- Christen, C.** 1995. Tropical Field Ecology and Conservation Initiatives on the Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica. *Twentieth Century Science Beyond the Metropolis*. Paris: UNESCO.
- Christen, C.** 1995. Development and Conservation on Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, 1937-1977: A Regional Case Study of Historical Land Use Policy and Practice in a Small Neotropical Country. PhD Dissertation, UMI, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Christen, C.** 1995. "We Miners Say We Have No Nationality": Milton Rogovin's Global Family of Miners. *Labor's Heritage Journal*, 7: 1, 22-51.