
The German Research Foundation, the German Center for Research and Innovation, and the University of Cologne cordially invite you to a lecture on

Communicating Science – From the Deep Sahara into World Media

**Tuesday, March 27,
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Stefan Kröpelin

17th recipient of the Communicator Award – Science Award of the Donors' Association
Geologist, University of Cologne, Germany

moderated by

Katherine Bagley

Managing Editor, Yale Environment 360

German House, 871 United Nations Plaza (First Avenue at 49th Street), New York, NY

Please [click here to RSVP](#) by March 23. Registration is required to attend. Seating is limited.

Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty in the areas of geology, archeology, social sciences, media and climate studies are welcome to attend. Please feel free to share this invitation with interested students and colleagues.

"So what?" is not a response a scientist wants to hear when talking about his or her research. Communicating science is necessary in order to document new knowledge and transfer it to others. But what takes knowledge production and transformation a step further to fascinate non-expert audiences, form public opinion, and shape stakeholder decisions? What are good strategies in science communication, what are the challenges? While uncovering secrets such as how the Sahara and the climate in North Africa changed throughout history or when and how humans migrated to Europe, Stefan Kröpelin has been popularizing the history, landscapes, environment and people of the Sahara for decades. Through successful science communication he also helped preserve the diverse heritage of Africa. Join the "Man of the desert" (*Nature*), "German Indiana Jones" (*Deutschlandfunk*), and 2017 Communicator Award winner for an exciting journey through the adventure of science communication. Environmental journalist Katherine Bagley, Managing Editor for Yale Environment 360 and previously reporter for *InsideClimate News*, will comment from the U.S. perspective and moderate the Q&A with the audience.



(c) Adam Polczyk, Univ. Cologne

Stefan Kröpelin heads the project *Climate Archives in the Sahara* within the Collaborative Research Centre “*Our Way to Europe: Culture-Environment Interaction and Human Mobility in the Late Quaternary*” at the University of Cologne, Germany. A geologist and climate researcher, Dr. Kröpelin specializes in studying the Eastern [Sahara](#) of Egypt, Libya, Sudan, and Chad, today the planet’s largest hyperarid desert and possibly the least known place on Earth. Described in *Nature* magazine as “one of the most devoted Sahara explorers of our time,” Kröpelin has survived every kind of desert hardship to discover the environmental and cultural history of northern Africa. Almost every year for four decades Kröpelin has made multi-month expeditions to study the paleoclimatological changes and human saga in the region over the last 11,000 years. Geoarchaeological evidence suggests that the desiccation of the Sahara during the past 7,000 years helped trigger the emergence of pharaonic civilization along the Nile and influences Africa’s evolution to the present day. Kröpelin has also initiated and promoted natural and cultural conservation projects in the Sahara. He was instrumental to have the [Lakes of Ounianga](#) and the [Ennedi Massif](#), the “Garden Eden of the Sahara”, listed as Chad’s first UNESCO [World Heritage sites](#). Whether in magazine and newspaper articles, radio features and interviews, exhibitions, talks or social media, for decades Stefan Kröpelin has been popularizing the history, landscapes and people of the Sahara. He appeared in numerous TV documentaries introducing millions of viewers to regions of which there are scarcely any maps. “We don’t research for our own benefit,” says Kröpelin. “It’s our job to pass on our knowledge to those who fund our work – the public.”



(c) Katherine Bagley

Katherine (Kat) Bagley is the managing editor for *Yale Environment 360*, an online magazine offering opinion, analysis, reporting, and debate on global environmental issues. She was previously a reporter for *InsideClimate News* covering the intersection of environmental science, politics and policy, with an emphasis on climate change. She is co-author of the book “*Bloomberg’s Hidden Legacy: Climate Change and the Future of New York City*,” published in November 2013 and winner of the Deadline Club’s Award for Reporting by Independent Digital Media. Her writing has also been included in the anthology *Best American Science and Nature Writing*. Bagley holds master’s degrees in journalism and earth and environmental sciences from Columbia University.

Communicator Award - Science Award of the Donors’ Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany

The German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Donors’ Association for the Promotion of Sciences and Humanities in Germany (Stifterverband) have been presenting the Communicator Award to researchers since 2000 in recognition of outstanding achievements in science communication. The award acknowledges a researcher’s commitment to making their work and specialist area accessible to a wider audience and engaging in a dialogue between the research community and the public. It also promotes the idea that science communication should be given a higher status as part of a researcher’s job.