Early Career Research Profiles

This profile series on young members of INHIGEO is to create a space where early career scholars can present their studies and research interests within the history of the geological sciences to the whole membership and anyone who receives the newsletter, in order to highlight their field of expertise. It is hoped this will lead to contacts and collaborations for the future through our extensive network. Our profile this month is on an early career researcher from Germany.

Name: **Jeremy R. Schneider**

Studies:

2023: Ph.D. in History of Science, Princeton University, USA.

2019: M.A. in History of Science, Princeton University, USA.

2016: M.A. in Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

2013: B.A. in History, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

Currently: Junior Research Fellow (History and Philosophy of Science), Trinity College, Cambridge, U.K.

From 2025: Assistant Professor of History, Cornell University, (tenure track).

Prizes:

2024 Caspar Friedrich Wolff Medal in History of Biology.

2023: Ronald Rainger Prize in History of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

2022: Mary and Randall Hack ’69 Award for Water and the Environment.

2017: Trevor Levere Best Paper Prize.

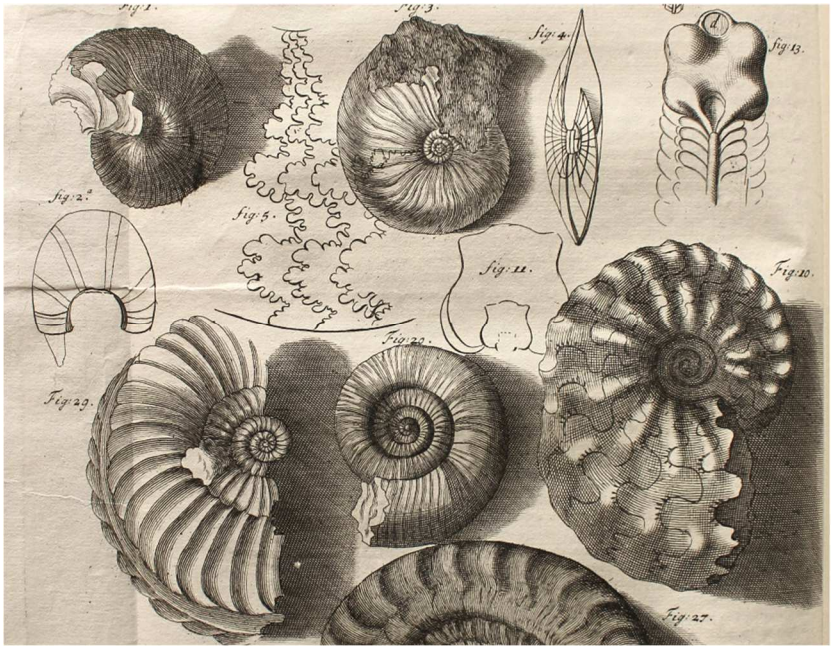
Title of PhD: “Reawakening the Ammonites: A History of the Lost World”

Abstract: According to most historians of the earth sciences, the idea of extinction was born when the French anatomist Georges Cuvier reconstructed a variety of lost megafauna from fragmented fossil bones in his *Ossemens fossiles* (1812). Contrary to this origin myth, my Ph.D. thesis unearthed a longer, more exacting genealogy of this crucial concept, thereby challenging the widely held assumption that awareness of extinction is unique to the modern science of life. Drawing on literary, visual, and material evidence that spans the domains of science, theology, poetry, and art, the thesis recovered how “lost species”—French *espèces perdues*, German *verlorene Arten*—were already conceived in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. This project

retells narratives of extinction through ammonites—the fossilized shells of extinct marine creatures—and how these came to widely symbolize the extinction of species in the pre-modern period. It provides the first book-length study of how the lost world came into being several centuries before Victorian geologists turned dinosaurs into a global fascination.

Research interests:

I am broadly interested in the history of the earth sciences from antiquity into the nineteenth century. My specialism lies in the early investigation of fossils in the early modern period (ca. 1500 – 1800) and the many controversies that surrounded their interpretation and cultural significance. The following themes weave their way through my work in this time period: sacred histories of the earth and deep time; natural history and natural philosophy; conservation, biodiversity, and extinction; environmental history of science; scientific images and visual practice; artisanal epistemology and vernacular science; humanism and ancient ideas of the earth.



Extinct ammonites – Robert Hooke's drawings of the fossils with sketches of their suture lines and apertures, 17th century (© The British Library)

Publications (selected):

"Hunted to Extinction: Finding Lost Species in the World of Bernard Palissy (1510–89)." Forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly* 77, 2 (2024). Awarded the 2023 Ronald Rainger Prize.

"The First Mite: Insect Genealogy in Hooke's *Micrographia*." *Annals of Science* 75, 3 (2018): 165–200. Awarded the 2017 Trevor Levere Prize.

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