

## **Cold War environmental science: The International Biological Programme (1964-1974)**

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The post-1945 period witnessed the development of several large-scale environmental programmes and initiatives encompassing a significant number of countries and spanning the East-West divide. The International Geophysical Year (1957-58) is perhaps the most well-known example. Taken together, these programmes played a key role in the emergence of a powerful international environmental agenda during the 1970s underpinned by the activities of the United Nations and associated bodies. This project aims to critically examine the shaping influence of the Cold War context on the origins, development and execution of one such programme, namely, the International Biological Programme, which ran between 1964 and 1974. More specifically, it is interested in determining the nature of the emergent scientific agendas, the different ways in which local knowledge(s) and understanding was mobilised in order to shape such agendas, and the character of the programme's main findings.

The IBP emerged in the aftermath of the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year and is credited to the initiative of Sir Rudolph Peters, Guiseppe Montalenti, and Lloyd Berkner as well as Conway H. Waddington. The IBP was a complex and wide-ranging programme incorporating thousands of scientists from around the globe. The fundamental focus of the programme was concerned with issues of biological productivity and human adaptability to ongoing changes in the natural environment.

With recourse to archival, library and possibly interview data, the project will seek to examine the ways in which political, ideological, and scientific agendas collided during the different stages of the project in order to gain a deeper understanding of the initiative's emergent direction and associated agendas. More broadly, the project will seek to place the IBP within the context of the growing environmental agenda characteristic of the 1960s and early 1970s.

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<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/research/gees/geog-environmental-sciences.aspx> where they should click on 'Apply now' and choose the option 'PhD in Department of Geography and Environmental Science (Human Geography)' and give the PhD title in the 'Funding details' section of the online application.