



AT HOME WITH Queens College

PRESENTS

Melting Metropolis: Exploring Histories of Summer in New York City

By Kara Murphy Schlichting, associate professor of history at Queens College and Daniel Cumming, postdoctoral research fellow in Queens College's History Department

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025 • 4 PM (ET)

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"Melting Metropolis: Everyday Histories of Health and Heat in London, New York, and Paris since 1945," is an international research project funded by the Wellcome Trust.

Join historians Schlichting and Cumming to hear about the project's community engagement work, public programming (from art and science walking tours to curriculum work with the New York Public Library Center for Educators and Schools), and their community archiving work collecting oral histories and photographs of summer in the city since 1945.

Melting Metropolis explores the history of high temperatures at the intersections of human health and well-being in the postwar era in the titular global cities plus Bristol, England and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. In New York especially, the built environment, climate change, and public health are deeply entwined. Drawing on and contributing to studies on climate justice, Cumming and Schlichting investigate how generations of New Yorkers have experienced hot summers, heat waves, and a warming cityscape while searching for creative ways to mitigate heat's impact on their lives. From overheated subways and blackouts to days in the Rockaways and open fire hydrants, summer in the city brings both unique challenges and joys. Melting Metropolis' team members will introduce the opportunities and challenges of environmental history research on extreme heat and climate change in New York City.



DANIEL CUMMING is a postdoctoral research fellow in Queens College's History Department. He is an urban historian who studies environmentalism, capitalism, and inequality in the 20th century. In addition to his work with Melting Metropolis, he is writing a history of health inequality in industrial and postindustrial Baltimore.



KARA MURPHY SCHLICHTING is an associate professor of history at Queens College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her work in late-19th and 20th-century American History sits at the intersection of urban and environmental history. She is the author of *New York Recentered: Building the Metropolis from the Shore* (University of Chicago Press, 2019).

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