

COMPETING MEMORIES: THE POLITICS OF REMEM- BERING ENSLAVEMENT, EMANCIPATION AND INDENTURESHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 29 – 31, 2023

CO-FUNDED BY:

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THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

The Caribbean is a space of dynamic and ever-changing memories. Here, as elsewhere, socio-political disparities and power imbalances commonly impact the capacity and means to promote specific memories and historical narratives, through which the past is created, adapted and negotiated. These dynamics influence which processes and memories are included or excluded in specific histories and which versions of the past are reconstructed, selected and interpreted.

The international conference "Competing Memories" hence focuses on the politics of memory and the constructions and representations of plural and divergent memories in Caribbean contexts, especially but not exclusively in relation to enslavement, emancipation and indentureship. As understandings of 'history' and 'memory' may vary, contributors will look at the different and strategic ways these concepts are used within and in relation to the Caribbean.

The conference is going to take place on March 29–31, 2023 at the University Forum, Heussallee 18-24 in Bonn. It is funded by the [Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies \(BCDSS\)](#) and the [German Research Foundation \(DFG\)](#). It is hosted by the BCDSS and the [Society for Caribbean Research \(Socare e.V.\)](#) and is organized by Sinah Kloß (Bonn), Andrea Gremels (Frankfurt) and Ulrike Schmieder (Hannover).

**Bonn Center for Dependency and
Slavery Studies (BCDSS)**
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VENUE

University of Bonn

Bonner Universitätsforum
Heussallee 18-24
D-53113 Bonn

CONTACT

Conference Organizers

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Please **register** for the conference
via email to events@dependency.uni-bonn.de
by March 15, 2023



Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

2:30 – 3:00 PM (CEST) WELCOME (Sinah Kloß, Andrea Gremels, Ulrike Schmieder)

3:00 – 4:30 PM – KEYNOTE

Hanétha Vété-Congolo-Leibnitz (Bowdoin College, USA)

Sonjé sé Mabouya: A View on Memory and Remembrance in and from the Caribbean

Chair: Ulrike Schmieder (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany); Room 1

4:30 – 5:00 PM - Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:30 PM – PANEL SESSION 1

Room 1

Conflicting Memories and Reparations

Chair: Andrea Gremels (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)

La esclavitud en Cuba: Memoria y reparación vs olvido histórico

Zuleica Romay Guerra

(Casa de las Américas, Cuba)

Some Memories Are Not Negotiable: The Coloniality of Anti-Black Racism

Artwell Cain

(University of Aruba, Aruba)

Literature, Reparation, and Competing Memories in the Caribbean: Chamoiseau's Critique of Colonial Modernity at the Example of his Photography Books

Mario Laarmann

(University of Saarland, Germany)

Room 2

Remembrance and Visions of Africa in Cuba

Chair: Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger (Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany)

Deconstructing Memories of the Nineteenth-Century Cuban Poet, Plácido

Ana Mateos

(Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany)

(Re)collecting Africa in Republican Cuba

Vanessa Ohlraun

(Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)

Los murales abakuá: Coeficientes visuales de narrativas míticas

Marcela Andrade

(Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

6:30 PM – Awarding of the Socare Dissertation Prize 2021/2022

7:00 PM – Reception

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023

9:30 – 11:00 AM – PANEL SESSION 2

Room 1

History and Archives

Chair: Jutta Wimmler (University of Bonn, Germany)

The Politics and Poetics of Remembering

Asma Hussein

(Georg August University Göttingen, Germany)

*Judiciary Testimonies of Enslaved Persons in Trials against Enslavers
- an Underestimated (Re)source of Remembering Slavery?*

Teresa Göttl

(University of Heidelberg, Germany)

*The Role of Archives in Historical Research and the Construction of
Memory*

Ulrike Mühlshlegel

(Ibero-American Institute, Berlin, Germany)

Room 2

Esclavitud y narración en el Caribe

Cancelled

Chair: Dante Liano (Universidad Católica de Milán, Italy)

Teoría de la narración

Dante Liano

(Universidad Católica de Milán, Italy)

*Esclavos mayas para la Isla. Resistencia y cosmovisión de los
mayas yucatecos en Cuba*

Michela Craveri

(Universidad Católica de Milán, Italy)

*La narración de la esclavitud en el Expediente de reclamación
de libertad para una negra natural de Bahamas del Ministerio de
Ultramar (siglo XIX). Avance de investigación*

Sara Carini

(Universidad Católica de Milán, Italy)

11:00 – 11:30 AM – Coffee Break

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM – PANEL SESSION 3

Room 1

Historic Memory and Gender

Chair: Ulrike Schmieder (Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)

"oh mary don't you weep don't you moan": Re-imagining Mary Prince in Contemporary Literature and Art

Jennifer Leetsch
(University of Bonn, Germany)

Miroir de mémoire? Analyse des récits de Maryse Condé comme réflexion d'une mémoire collective de l'esclavage, de l'engagisme et de l'émancipation dans les Caraïbes

Chrisan Blake
(University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Remembering Slavery through Maryse Condé's Moi, Tituba, sorcière...: Female Protagonism and the Poetics and Politics of Witchcraft

Andrea Gremels
(Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)

Room 2

Nation-Building and Multilingualism of Memory

Chair: Silke Jansen (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany)

Construcción de la memoria en el Caribe francófono: Tradiciones, cultura y lenguas en Patrick Chamoiseau y Camille Moutoussamy

Francisco Aiello
(Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata – CONICET, Argentina)

Ethnic Relations in a Plural Society: A Legacy of Slavery and Indentured Labour in Suriname

Maurits Hassankhan
(Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Suriname)

Practices of Memory-Making in the Novelistic Oeuvre of Frank Martinus Arion

Ineke Phaf-Rheinberger
(Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Germany)

1:00 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Socare e.V. General Assembly

4:00 – 4:30 PM – Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 PM – KEYNOTE

Olívia Gomes da Cunha (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

The Earth is Sweet

Chair: Sinah Kloß (University of Bonn, Germany); Room 1

7:00 PM – Conference Dinner (for Organizers, Chairs and Speakers only)

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023

9:30 – 11:00 AM – PANEL SESSION 4

Room 1

Museums, Statues, and Heritage Sites

Chair: Mario Laarmann (University of Saarland, Germany)

De l'impératrice Joséphine à l'esclavisée Émilie: les pratiques mémorielles au Domaine de La Pagerie, à la Martinique, 1944-2022

Jessica Pierre-Louis
(Independent Researcher, Martinique)

Remembrance and Silence: Enslavement at Plantation Sites in Martinique and Cuba

Ulrike Schmieder
(Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)

Remembering Enslavement in 21st Century French Seaport Museums

Julia Nitz
(Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany)

Room 2

Memories and Narratives of the Haitian Revolution

Chair: Jennifer Leetsch (University of Bonn, Germany)

Remembering the Haitian Revolution Otherwise: Rediscovering Joseph Antenor Firmin's The Equality of Races (1885)

Nina Schneider
(University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany)

Heinrich von Kleist: The Betrothal in St. Domingo (1811) – a Prussian View on Haiti around 1800

Adrian Robanus
(Kleist-Museum, Frankfurt/Oder, Germany)

How Not to Talk about Slave Revolution: Early Accounts and Representations of the Revolutionary Events in Haiti

Anja Bandau
(Leibniz University Hannover, Germany)

11:00 – 11:30 AM: Coffee Break

Room 1

Plural Memories and Indenture

Chair: Sinah Kloß (University of Bonn, Germany)

One, Two, Many: Stuart Hall's Reflections on Hybridity in the Caribbean

Jarula Wegner
(Zhejiang University, China)

"Mémoire en nasse": Entangled, Multidirectional and Creolised Memories of Indenture and Slavery in Guadeloupe

Sandrine Soukaï
(Gustave Eiffel University, France)

'Overlooked, Miscategorized, Misunderstood': Moving towards 'another' Windrush in the UK

María del Pilar Kaladeen
(University of London, UK)

Room 2

The Politics of Narrative

Chair: Anne Brüske (University of Regensburg, Germany)

"the powerful memory of ghosts": Haunting (and) Guilt in Maisy Card's These Ghosts Are Family

Marie Berndt
(University of Bonn, Germany)

From Atlantic Slave Trade to Modern Slavery: Politics of Memory and Education in L'esclavage raconté à ma fille by Christiane Taubira

Miriam Lay Brander
(Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)

André Schwarz-Bart et Léon Damas et le monument décolonial

Kathleen Gyssels
(University of Antwerp, Belgium)

1:00 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

Room 1

Oral Histories and Testimony

Chair: Andrea Gremels (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)

Memories of the Haitian Revolution and the Plantation Regimes in the Caribbean: The Non-History of Ex-Slaves

Michael Zeuske

(University of Bonn, Germany)

"Pour moi, c'était hier" – Memoria de la esclavitud en el Caribe y (docu)ficción en Passage du milieu (2001)

Karen Genschow

(Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)

La literatura como espacio intersticial de la cultura: Tradición y contra-memoria en las letras latinoamericanas

Juan Felipe Castro Maldonado

(Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany)

Room 2

Like a Plantation-Machine: The Remakings of the Earth and the Plantatiocene

Chair: Clémence Léobal (CNRS-Lavue, France)

Guyanese Expectations in the Age of Oil: Ethnographic Notes from Demerara

Rogério Viana

(Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

Mining to Escape the Plantation? The Case of Small Scale Gold Mining in French Guiana

Clémence Léobal

(CNRS-Lavue, France)

3:30 – 5:00 PM: Final Discussion