

FROM PALAEOCOLONIALISM TO POSTCOLONIALISM: NARRATIVES ON VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA WITH DISTINCT FOCUS ON AFRICA THROUGH THE AGES

WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 5-6, 2026

THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

hosts the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom", which aims to overcome the binary opposition of "slavery versus freedom". We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

Narratives of trauma and violence are the key theme of Research Area C "Power – Violence – Trauma", at the BCDSS. This upcoming workshop incorporates this central question with a focus on Africa. A continent, once and for the longest time mistaken as a continent without history, has lately emerged as a space of interest for approaches to archaeology and history that bridge traditional chronologies and temporalities.

This workshop aims to explore new perspectives on asymmetrical dependencies and relating historical artefacts and contemporary objects, reaching from the Neolithic period to Modernity and Postmodernity. It brings together international scholars to discuss how violence is not just a physical act but a consumed cultural product from ancient gladiatorial souvenirs to modern day true crime. It is designed as trauma informed and, interdisciplinary space. It focuses on how historical violence has mutated into contemporary systemic structures and psychological dislocations. The workshop also aims at bringing African voices to the world, show its different potentiality from its different countries. Scholars working from East, West, South and North Africa will contribute to gain a multifaceted understanding of Violence and Trauma in Africa from palaeocolonialism to postcolonialism, i.e. from 3500BC to 2026AD.

**Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS)
University of Bonn**

Niebuhrstraße 5
D-53113 Bonn
dependency@uni-bonn.de
www.dependency.uni-bonn.de

Follow us on social media:



@dependencybonn.de



DependencyBonn



dependencybonn

UNIVERSITÄT



**BONN CENTER
FOR DEPENDENCY
AND SLAVERY
STUDIES**

VENUE

University of Bonn
Ägyptisches Museum / Egyptian Museum
Seminar Room, 3rd Floor, Poststr. 26,
D-53113 Bonn
and online via ZOOM

CONTACT

Workshop Organizers:

Ludwig Morenz, BCDSS, University of Bonn
Neema C. Munisi, BCDSS, University of Bonn

Please register via email with Jan Hörber (events@dependency.uni-bonn.de) **by September 24, 2026.**



Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

Monday, October 5, 2026

9:15 AM
Welcome

Neema Munisi, Ludwig Morenz
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:30 AM
Opening talk

Ludwig Morenz
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:45 – 10:00 AM – Coffee Break (+ group photo)

10:00 – 11:00 AM
Panel I: Palaeocolonialism
10:00 – 10:20 AM
Pharaonic Paleocolonialism

Ludwig Morenz
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

10:20 – 10:40 AM
From Difference to Otherness: The Image of the
Nubian and the Visual Grammar of Proto-Racism in
New Kingdom Egypt
Uroš Matic
(LMU Munich & Columbia University)

10:40 – 11:00 AM – Discussion
Chair: Antonio Loprieno
(University of Basel)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Panel II
11:00 – 11:20 AM
Pharao Smites the Enemies - Discussion of Egyptian
Artefacts in the Museum
General Discussion (with Egyptological input)

11:20 AM – 12:00 AM – Discussion
Chair: Antonio Loprieno

Monday, October 5, 2026

12:00 – 2:00 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 – 3:00 PM
Panel III: Medieval Period
2:00 – 2:20 PM
Zimbabwe Architecture

Shadrack Chirikure (online)
(University of Oxford)

2:20 – 2:40 PM
Disrupted Science, Displaced Heritage: Reflection on
the Archaeology of Tanzania and Its Colonial Pasts
Nancy Rushohora
(University of Dar es Salaam)

2:40 – 3:00 PM – Discussion
Chair: Antonio Loprieno

3:00 – 3:20 PM – Coffee Break

3:20 – 4:20 PM
Panel IV: 19th Century Slavery
3:00 – 3:20 PM
The Socio-Political Trauma of Ex-Slaves in Zanzibar,
1897-1963

Ali Mkubwa
(University of Dodoma)

3:20 – 3:40 PM
Colonial Violence, Cultural Loss, and Social Memory:
The Transformation of Indigenous Guild Systems in
Post-1897 Benin, West Africa
Mary-Jane Ogar
(Central European University)

3:40 – 4:00 PM – Discussion

4:00 – 5:00 PM – General Discussion,
Guided Tour of the Egyptian Museum (optional)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Panel V: Postcolonialism

9:00 – 9:20 AM
Review of yesterday's discussion

Neema Munisi
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:20 – 9:40 AM
How Modern Technology and Market Places
Package Violence for Consumers Today (Dark Tourism)
in Relation to the Pasts

Herman Kiriama (online)
(Kisii University & La Trobe University)

9:40 - 10:00 AM – Discussion

10:00 – 10:20 AM – Coffee Break

10:20 – 10:40 AM
Overview of BCDSS Research Area C:
Power, Violence and Trauma

Claudia Jarzebowski
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

10:40 AM – 12:00 PM
How to Move Forward with the Concept of Strong
Asymmetrical Dependency (SAD)
Neema Munisi, Ludwig Morenz
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

**1:00 PM – Closing Remarks, including discussion of
potential publication**

1:30 PM - Lunch