



BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

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BCDSS Newsletter No. 11 / February 2022

NEWS

"DEPENDENT 22-1, OUT NOW!

DEPENDENT is the bi-annual research magazine of the *Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies*.

In this edition's lead article Rudolf Stichweh addresses "Values, Norms, and Institutions in the Study of Slavery and other Forms of Asymmetrical Dependency". Find out in how far he applies the paradoxical theory of "including exclusion" to strong asymmetrical dependencies and what it means for the historical and contemporary study of societies.

Material culture: Get to know our Cluster professors [Julia Hillner](#), [Claudia Jarzebowski](#), [Pia Wiegink](#), and [Christoph Witzenrath](#) through "their objects" as each of them discusses an object that is representative of their research. By way of analyzing the social dimensions of material culture they manage to lay bare the many different layers of dependency relations.

Out and about: While some of our researchers were able to make use of the temporary ease in COVID-related restrictions and quickly squeezed in their long overdue field trips, others altered their research project altogether. Find out from our own "correspondents": Michael Zeuske (Cuba), Ayesha Hussain (Italy), Paul Graf (Guatemala), Martin Bentz, Philippe Kluge, and Matthias Lang (Italy), Katja Girr, Ayesha Hussain (Turkey), Dita Auzina (Belize).

You can also find out who is new at the BCDSS and of course, as always, we provide an overview of all the latest news and publications, as well as past and upcoming events. [Find the full content here](#)

OPEN ACCESS

We are pleased to say that the Gold Open Access to the *Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series* published by EB-Verlag is now fully in place. As of now, our quality, peer-reviewed scholarship is free to read and download.

[Access all volumes here](#)

HEINZ HEINEN KOLLEG: CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The *Heinz Heinen Kolleg – Center for Advanced Study* at the *Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies* is calling for applications for ten fellowships for the academic year 2022/2023. The center brings together excellent international scholars whose research focuses on various forms of strong asymmetrical dependency and slavery in all historical periods before the 20th century and all cultural contexts. [More information here](#)

PROFESSORIAL PROMOTIONS

We are very pleased to announce that our BCDSS fellows Dr. Firat Yaşa has been promoted to [Associate Professor](#) (History Department) by his home institution, Düzce University (Turkey), and Dr. Chioma Daisy Onyige has been promoted to [Professor of Sociology](#) (Criminology) by her home institution, the University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria).

OUT NOW: “RESOURCES OF POWER” EXHIBITION FILM

The “Resources of Power” exhibition, which was launched last summer, is still on display until 30 March 2022 across four locations at the University of Bonn. If you cannot visit in person, watch our latest video on the exhibition to learn more about the materiality of strong asymmetrical relationships of dependency and slavery. Karoline Noack and Julia Hegewald, both BCDSS Principal Investigators, explain the concept and intention of the exhibition and how it reflects the cluster’s ongoing research. Wolfer Stumpfe, our new BCDSS curator, gives a foretaste of the cluster’s large exhibition planned in 2024/25. [Watch here](#)

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SLAVERY: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Safe the date: 24 – 26 March 2022

International Workshop

Convenors: [Stephan Conermann](#), [Claudia Rauhut](#), [Ulrike Schmieder](#) and [Michael Zeuske](#)

Keynote by Stephan Conermann, BCDSS Spokesperson & Principal Investigator

Panel I: Haiti and Dominican Republic. Chair: Pia Wiegink, BCDSS

Panel II: Cuba. Chair: Claudia Rauhut, BCDSS

Panel III: British Caribbean. Chair: Trevor Burnard, Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation at the University of Hull, UK

Panel IV: French Caribbean. Chair: Ulrike Schmieder, Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

Panel V: Circum-Caribbean. Chair: Michael Zeuske, BCDSS

More information to follow soon.

NORMS OF DEPENDENCY IN LATE ANTIQUE AND EARLY MEDIEVAL SOCIETIES

31 March – 2 April 2022

International Workshop at the University of Bonn (venue to be confirmed)

Convenors: [Matthias Becher](#), [Martin Schermaier](#), [Konrad Vössing](#) (all BCDSS Principal Investigators), [Julia Winnebeck](#) (Research Group Leader)

Roman law and legal terminology were formative factors in antique Mediterranean as well as in Central and Western European societies. When the *Constitutio Antoniniana* awarded Roman citizenship to almost all inhabitants of the empire in 212, provincial courts and notaries adopted the rules and terminology of the Roman *ius civile*, thereby replacing other legal traditions still prevalent in some provinces. But even after the fall of the two Roman Empires, the importance of Roman legal terminology and thought remained palpable: Charters and testaments, bills of complaint, ecclesiastical legislation, post-Roman law collections, and even non-legal sources such as theological or historical treatises all witness its continued influence.

This workshop of Research Area C intends to gather the terms used to denote dependent individuals and groups in normative texts and analyze the concepts connected to these terms. Through this joint effort of experts, we are hoping that we can further our knowledge of relations of dependency in late antique and early medieval societies.

More information to follow soon.

LECTURE SERIES

JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Please note that all of the upcoming Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures will be held online. Each presentation is followed by a Q&A session with the speaker.

February 14, 4:15 pm CET

Tommaso Beggio (Università Degli Studi di Trento, Italy):

...nam poenae servus est, non Caesaris. Some remarks on the so-called servi poenae.

March 7, 4:15 pm CET

Johannes Michael Rainer (University of Salzburg, Austria):

Title tba

March 21, 4:15 pm CET

Johannes Auenmüller (Museo Egizio, Turin, Italy):

The Display of Social Relations and Dependencies: Case Studies from Pharaonic Egypt

March 28, 4:15 pm CET

Peter Gemeinhardt (University of Göttingen, Germany):

Did late ancient Christianity depend on classical Paideia, and did it ever get rid of it?

April 4, 4:15 pm CET

Christine Walker (Yale-Nus College, Singapore):

Jamaica Ladies: Female Slaveholders and the creation of Britain's Atlantic Empire.

April 11, 4:15 pm CET

Nabil Matar (University of Minnesota, USA):

Mediterranean Captives in the Arabic Archives, 1517 – 1798

April 25, 4:15 pm CET

Juan Lewis (The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK):

Jesus the slave owner and its implications for the history of Christianity and slavery

[Visit our events site for more information on individual lectures](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

COMPETING MEMORIES: THE POLITICS OF REMEMBERING SLAVERY, EMANCIPATION AND INDENTURESHIP IN THE CARIBBEAN

March 29 - 31, 2023, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies

Conference organizers: [Sinah Kloß](#) (BCDSS), [Andrea Gremels](#) (Goethe University Frankfurt) and [Ulrike Schmieder](#) (Leibniz University Hannover)

This conference is co-hosted by the Society for Caribbean Research e.V. Please submit your abstract (200–300 words) and brief biographical information by May 31, 2022 to s.kloss@uni-bonn.de. A limited number of travel bursaries will be available for accepted speakers—please indicate in your application if you wish to apply for a travel bursary. We invite contributions from scholars across the field of humanities and social sciences.

[Find the full content of the call here](#)

JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURES SERIES 9-12


 NEW
 PUBLICATION
**Andrea Binsfeld:**
Dominus and Tyrannos? Narratives of Slavery in the Political Discourse of Late Antiquity

 Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 9.
 Berlin: eb Verlag 2021.

Late Roman authors give us many examples of how firmly images of slavery were anchored in the minds of contemporaries, and how these images were incorporated into literary tradition and political discourse. Images from the world of slavery could be used in a great variety of ways: to criticize an emperor's behavior, to illustrate his loss of authority, or to characterize the relationship between two emperors. The book will show how the presentation and perception of Late Roman emperors, such as Diocletian and his co-emperors, were influenced by narratives from the world of slavery. These narratives form part of a power discourse, a discourse on power relations. Or to speak with Hayden White, "And this raises the suspicion that narrative in general, from the folktale to the novel, from the annals to the fully realized 'history', has to do with the topics of law, legality, legitimacy, or, more generally, authority."

**Paola Revilla Orías:**
Historicizing the Yanacona: Methodological Decisions, Implications and Challenges

 Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 10.
 Berlin: eb Verlag 2021.

Based on the critical analysis of historiographic assertions focused on the study of Yanaconazgo as a long-standing labor institution, this text proposes various key factors to broaden the historical perspective. It is supported by concrete data from the context of the jurisdiction of La Plata in Charcas (Bolivia) between the sixteen and eighteenth centuries, which provides a glimpse into the complexity of this labor system, as well as the diversity of situations of both free and unfree servitude in which workers of different origins, genders and ages were immersed. The study encourages a breaking away from methodological attachments or other constraints that may lead to uncritical repetition of certain terms of a proscribing nature. At the same time, it gives an approach to the daily functions that gradually molded this labor institution and that remind us that history is engineered by people's actions.

**Enrique Martino:**
How to Create a Labour Market in Colonial Situations: Spanish Guinea, Southern Cameroon and Northern Gabon, 1890s-1940s

 Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 11.
 Berlin: eb Verlag 2021.

This study is, at once, a historical critique of neoclassical and Marxist economics of labour

market formation, a critical history of the colonization of continental Equatorial Guinea by France, Germany and Spain, and a comparative inquiry of the labour recruiters who forged the gateways to expanding imperial peripheries of colonial production. A recruitment boom for the cacao plantations of the Spanish island of Fernando Po swept into Rio Muni and the Fang areas of southern Cameroon and northern Gabon during the first half of the twentieth century. By documenting the volatile phases as well as the recruitment techniques for this great boom and eventual bust, the author argues that recruiters have usually been empirically conflated or conceptually obviated even though they stood in sharp contrast to the slave trade or state-organized forced labour schemes. They were key informal vectors of commercial conquest across a variety of times and regions, and operated non-violently by way of persuasive and distorted communication and immanently through credit and money creation in the form of gifts and advance payments.



Henry B. Lovejoy:

[Mapping Conflict during the era of the Slave Trade: Metadata Schema for a Spatial Statistical Model and Digital Archive of Enforced Migrations in Pre-Colonial Africa](#)

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 11. Berlin: eb Verlag 2021.

Labelled a crime against humanity by the United Nations in 2011, the slave trade and its legacy of bondage unfortunately continue to shape modern society through racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias. For those who were silenced, and for their descendants, there is little reconciliation. Without knowing their individual stories – where they came from, where they were taken – this part of human history remains a generalized story of mass atrocity, lacking details about the experiences of enslaved human beings. While historians have amassed data for over 12.5 million people involved in the Atlantic slave trade between 1500 and 1867, we have not been able to piece together enforced population movements from specific African places inland to slave ships at the coast. By applying methods from GIScience and spatial statistics, it is possible to learn about global migrations resulting from slavery within pre-colonial Africa. By extracting spatial data from primary and secondary sources, it is possible to design a spatial data repository and digital archive of pre-colonial African places with instances of conflict to operate on a temporal scale with Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

[Visit our Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series website for all volumes.](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

Firat Yaşa, Born and Bred in Seventeenth-Century Crimea: Child Slavery, Social Reality and Cultural Identity. In *Children and Childhood in the Ottoman empire. From the 15th to the 20th Century*, edited by Gülay Yilmaz and Fruma Zachs, 177–195. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2021.

Pia Wiegink, African American Women in Europe, 1850s. In *Search of Liberty: African American Internationalism in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic World*, edited by Ronald Angelo Johnson and Ousmane K. Power-Green, 254–278. University of Georgia Press 2020.

Pia Wiegink, Race, Slavery, and Emigration in Nancy Prince’s Life Writing. In *African American Literature in Transition, vol 3, 1830–1850*, edited by Benjamin Fagan, 202–220. New York: Cambridge University Press 2020.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Josef Köstlbauer: Claiming a Runaway Slave in the Holy Roman Empire: The Case of Samuel Johannes (1754). In *WORCK Worlds of Related Coercions in Work*, 21 Sept. 2021.

Claudia Rauhut: Reassessing the Compensation Payments to British Slave Owners in Current Caribbean Claims to Reparations. In *Sociologus. Journal for Social Anthropology* 70/2, 123–41, 2020.

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Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS)
Niebuhrstraße 5
53113 Bonn
Germany

phone: +49 (0)228/ 73 62444
E-Mail: dependency@uni-bonn.de

www.dependency.uni-bonn.de

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Cécile Jeblawei, Meltem Dramali

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Wencke UHL

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