



BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

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BCDSS Newsletter No. 12 / May 2022

NEWS

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES AHEAD

This coming Saturday, 07.05.2022: Bonn University [Wissenschaftsrallye](#). Yet again, the BCDSS is taking part in this schools outreach event for 13-17 year-olds. This time we will introduce our participants to “The ‘sweet’ power of dependence: the story of sugar”. If they aren’t put off sugar entirely, they may taste a few “exhibits”. If you know any local youngsters, please spread the word!

08.05.2022 Not to be missed, this coming Sunday: [Charity Concert](#) at the Aula of Bonn University in aid of Ukrainian refugees. See also: [Solidarity with Ukraine Webpage](#) including offers of support and information at the University of Bonn and beyond.

18.05.2022 [DIES ACADEMICUS – Public Lecture by BCDSS Principal Investigator Christoph Antweiler](#) on "Human Norms in the Anthropocene". The talk will be based on his forthcoming publication "Anthropologie im Anthropozän", due to be published by Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, Darmstadt, in May 2022. This is an onsite event.

09.-31.05.2022 [The application period for our MA Programs](#) for national and international applications opens 9 May 2022 and closes 31 May 2022. Do you have any potential MA students in mind? Now is the time! If you are looking for some encouragement, read René Deutschmann’s reflections [Why this program](#), addressed to potential applicants. René is currently completing his second year of his two-year Master’s program *Dependency and Slavery Studies*.

30.05-01.06.2022 [Diversity Days 2022 at the University of Bonn](#) – not without the BCDSS! Thanks to our Equal Opportunities and Diversity working group and the input by four of our PhD students, we will be taking part in a poster exhibition highlighting four exemplary PhD-projects related to different aspects of diversity represented by our cluster. Located at the ULB, the exhibition will be open to the public throughout the month of June 2022. More details to follow soon in the [BCDSS news section](#).

04.07.2022 [Iris Därmann, Reading & Discussion \(Bonn University Festsaal 18-21 CEST\)](#)

We are delighted to announce that on Monday 04 July 2022, cultural studies scholar and philosopher IRIS DÄRMANN will finally join us to read from her book: "Undienlichkeit. Gewaltgeschichte und politische Philosophie", published by Matthes und Seitz, Berlin 2020. The reading will be followed by a discussion with [Birgit Münch](#), BCDSS investigator, and [Christoph Antweiler](#), BCDSS principal investigator. Co-speaker [Konrad Vössing](#) will lead through the event. *More details to follow.*

Save the date: 20.11. – 22.12.2022 [“The Numerus Clausus and Young Women”](#)

An exhibition on academic antisemitism organized by BCDSS Investigator Béla Bodó in cooperation with the Frauenmuseum Bonn and 2b Gallery in Budapest. Detailed background information to follow in the next edition of our DEPENDENT magazine (due in July 2022).

Useful to know: An overview of [BCDSS Library Resources](#) is now available on our website under 'Research'. It distinguishes between the *BCDSS section at the ULB (Adenauerallee)*, the *Library on Ancient Slavery (Heussallee)*, and a section dedicated to *Publication Request*.

**CONFERENCES &
WORKSHOPS**
**DIVINE AND HUMAN DEPENDENCIES IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST
AND THE OLD TESTAMENT**
13-14 May 2022
International Workshop, Bonn, onsite event

 Convenors: [Ulrich Berges](#) and [Kirsten M. Schäfers](#)

Asymmetrical dependencies, especially strong asymmetrical dependencies, substantially determine social relationships and interactions in the Ancient Near East (ANE) and in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible (OT/HB). This basic feature not only characterizes human relationships but also the interactions between divine and human beings. In the ANE, these social, political and religious fields can neither be separated nor be discriminated neatly. Instead, religious, political and social norms, rationales, metaphors and actions intertwine and the fields interact constantly. At the same time, (strong) asymmetrical dependencies take very different forms and are operative on many different levels of society.

Panel I: Dependency and human relations in the ANE

Panel II: Iconographic perspectives on divine and human dependencies

Panel III: Specifications of human and divine dependencies in ANE and OT/HB sources

Panel IV: Dependency, liberation, and justice in the OT/HB

[More information](#)
MAKING THE VAGRANT, CONTROLLING LABOUR MOBILITY
7 – 8 June 2022
International Workshop, Bonn, onsite event

Convenor: [Christian De Vito](#)

The first workshop focuses on a key trans-cultural and trans-epochal feature of the relationship between labour and dependency, namely: the ways in which the social construction of „the vagrant“ and anti-vagrancy policies enable processes of coercion. The workshop will do so by exploring how those processes tie in with the control of workers' mobility, the reproduction of workforces as well as social hierarchies, and the creation of a wide selection of punitive institutions. The workshop is the first step towards the creation of an edited volume to be submitted to Amsterdam University Press. *More information to follow.*

WOMEN AND JUSTICE: FEMALE AGENCY IN LATE ANTIQUE LEGAL CULTURES

10 – 11 June 2022

International Workshop, Bonn, onsite event

Convenor: [Julia Hillner](#)

Much of late Roman written law is, famously, status-based, but gender-neutral. Because both men and women could hold citizenship and property, in theory women had access to legal procedure to defend their interests in the same way as men, as long as they were free. Nonetheless, we know remarkably little about female agency in late Roman legal procedure. This may be because the frequent gender-neutral language of Roman legal writing has led modern scholars to prioritise the perspectives of men, and because contemporary moralising literature tends to downplay or denigrate female agency and needs to be read against the grain. It may, however, also be due to gender differentiation in legal practice.

This workshop brings together historians and legal scholars to investigate potential scenarios and loci of conflict resolution through which late antique women of different types and status could access or facilitate justice, or were denied of doing so, from the courtroom proper to the household to religious communities. In particular, we aim to recover the role some women may have played as informal legal patrons, negotiators and arbitrators of justice for their dependents. *More information to follow.*

DEPENDENCY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN PRE-ROMAN ITALY

16 – 18 June 2022

International Workshop, Bonn, onsite event

Convenors: [Martin Bentz](#) and [Patrick Zeidler](#)

In the past, most studies on pre-Roman societies in Italy (1st millennium BCE) focused on the elites, their representation and cultural contacts. Recently, however, research on dependent and marginalized social groups has considerably increased. The aim of this conference is to look at these less visible social groups, which are often even difficult to define (slaves, servants, freedmen, peasants, mercenaries, captives, “foreigners”, athletes, women, children

etc.). [More information](#)

SLAVERY AND OTHER FORMS OF STRONG ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES IN OTTOMAN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

23 June 2022

Virtual Workshop via Zoom

Convenor: [Stephan Conermann](#)

The workshop wants to analyze slavery and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependencies in Ottoman South Eastern Europe. We look to the Ottoman Empire from different angles and are thus interested not only in an Istanbul-centered perspective, but also in studies concerning regional aspects in its European provinces and border-regions – from the Crimean Khanate to Dalmatia, from Hungary to Crete, including connections with neighbouring regions.

[Register](#) by 16 June. *More information to follow.*

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GERMAN GLOBAL HISTORY

06-08 July 2022

International Conference, Bonn, onsite event

Convenors: [Claudia Jarzebowski](#), BCDSS, [Pia Wiegminck](#), BCDSS, Susanne Lettow (FU Berlin) and Heike Raphael-Hernandez (University of Würzburg)

The symposium brings together scholars working in the fields of Global History, German Global History, Slavery Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Literary and Cultural Studies to discuss the contents, contexts, methodological challenges, theoretical debates, and comparative perspectives that inform current research on slavery, dependency, heritage, and German global history. *More information to follow.*

SAVE THE DATES

21-22 September 2022

BCDSS Annual Conference: „Norms, Institutions, and Practices of Dependency“.

More information to follow.

05-08 October 2022

BCDSS International Conference, Bonn: Freedom and Liberation in Mediterranean Antiquity.

[More information](#)

ZERG LECTURE SERIES

TUESDAYS AT 18:15 CEST, HÖRSAAL XVI (HAUPTGEBÄUDE) OR VIA YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM

The [ZERG lecture series](#) are a cooperation between the Centre for Religion and Society (ZERG) and the BCDSS, Research Area C: "Control, Coercion, and Constraint II. The Role of Religion in Overcoming and Creating Structures of Dependency".

Upcoming contributions by BCDSS members and partners:

10/05/2022 - Reinhard Zöllner (BCDSS)

Christian Contributions to the Debate on Slavery in East Asia

24/05/2022 - John Coffey (University of Leicester)

William Wilberforce and the Ambiguities of Christian Antislavery

31/05/2022 - Michael Zeuske (BCDSS)

Santería, Palo Monte, Abakuá, Vodún, Espiritismo. Slave Religions and Industrial Revolutions at the Times of Second Slavery (19th/20th Centuries)

14/06/2022 - Marion Gymnich (BCDSS)

References to Religion and their Functions in US-American Slave Narratives and Neo-Slave Narratives

21/06/2022 - Béla Bodó (BCDSS)

The Numerus Clausus Law of 1920, Asymmetrical Dependenc(ies) and the Twisted Road of Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz

28/06/2022 - Sinah Kloß (BCDSS)

Marks of Dependency: Religious Tattooing among Caribbean Hindu Women

05/07/2022 - Jochen Sautermeister (BCDSS)

Slavery and the Image of God. Theological Legitimation and Critique from a Moral-Historical Perspective

[See the BCDSS events page for detailed information on individual ZERG lectures](#)

LECTURE SERIES

JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Please note that all Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures are followed by a Q&A session. The lectures are scheduled for 4.15pm to approx. 6pm CEST. Please check our [events page](#) or social media channels to find out whether an event is held online, onsite or as a hybrid.

May 9, 4.15 pm CEST

ADRIANA CHIRA (EMORY UNIVERSITY, USA)

Patchwork Freedoms: Law and Slavery beyond Cuba's Plantations

May 16, 4.15 pm CEST

HENDRIK HARTOG (PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, USA)

Jack Robbins and the Boy Problem in Progressive Era America

May 20, 4.15 pm CEST

TOYIN FALOLA (THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, USA)
Research in Universities and the Legacy of Colonization

May 23, 4.15 pm CEST

MILES OGBORN (QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, UK)
'He will become a different being': Christianity and Slavery in the early 19th century Anglo-Caribbean World.

May 30, 4.15 pm CEST

CHOUKI EL HAMEL (ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, USA)
Slavery, memory and the archival silence in Islamic societies.

June 13, 4.15 pm CEST

FINNBAR BARRY FLOOD (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, USA)
Asymmetrical Dependencies in a Maritime Cosmopolis: Reading a Medieval Iraqi Image Cycle

June 20, 4.15 pm CEST

MAREN NIEHOFF (HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM, ISRAEL)
Between Metaphor and Reality: Philo of Alexandria on Slavery

June 27, 4.15 pm CEST

CHRIS EYRE (UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL, UK)
Patrons and Clients: Obligation and Loyalty

July 04, 4.15 pm CEST

THOMAS PIERSON (UNIVERSITY OF GIESSEN, GERMANY)
Legal Asymmetries and Dependencies in German Civil Service Relations since the Late Middle Ages

July 11, 4.15 pm CEST

MARK HAUSER (NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, USA)
title TBA

July 18, 4.15 pm CEST

ALEXANDER GEURDS (UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK)
title TBA

July 25, 4.15 pm CEST

KRISTALYN SHEFVELAND (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA, USA)
Colonial Virginia: Plantation Economies, Atlantic Enslavements, and the Indigenous Slave Trade

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

CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ARCHAEOLOGIES OF DEPENDENCY IN LATIN AMERICA"
7 – 8 September 2023, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies
Conference organizers: [Christian Mader](#), [Claire Conrad](#) and [Tamia Viteri Toledo](#) of The Research Group *The Archaeology of Dependency* (ArchDepth): Resources, Power and Status Differentiation

The conference is planned as an onsite event but may be held as a hybrid or online event if necessary.

We invite contributions from scholars of all academic levels. Please submit your abstract (which should not exceed 200 words) by January 31, 2023 to archdepth@dependency.uni-bonn.de. When sending your abstract, please also indicate whether you wish to apply for a travel bursary and from where you will be traveling (a limited number of travel bursaries should be available for accepted speakers). Our plan is to publish the conference papers in a special issue of the Boletín de Arqueología PUCP.

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

NEW PUBLICATION
BCDSS WORKING PAPERS

Bethany J. Walker
Peasant Dependencies in Medieval Islam: Whose Agency in Food Production and Migration?

Working Paper 3, ISSN 2747-9331

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, 2022/03

Editors: Abdelkader Al Ghouz/Jeannine Bischoff/Stephan Conermann

Medieval feudalism, while it took different forms in different parts of the world, shared one common characteristic: the military, political, and economy foundations of society were constructed with peasant labor. The “state” could not exist, in this form, without a compliant peasantry. The everyday lives of peasants living in the pre-industrial world thus evokes images of immobility, servitude, and a legal and social status that remained static over time. The realities of peasant life in the Islamicate world, however, were quite different. This paper explores the marked inequalities of the mutually dependent relationships that developed between the Mamluk and Ottoman sultanates and peasant society, focusing on two areas of

encounter and control that mattered most to both sets of actors: food production and peasant mobility in its many forms (relocation, dislocation, abandonment of villages, and mass migration).

[Download BCDSS Working Paper 3](#)



Fabrizio Filioli Uranio:

Embodied Dependencies and Valencian Slavery in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

Working Paper 2, ISSN 2747-9331

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, 2022/03

Editors: Abdelkader Al Ghouz/Jeannine Bischoff/Stephan Conermann

The aim is to investigate slavery in the Kingdom of Valencia in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. As we will see, slavery can be analysed in a perspective of both global history and micro-history, that is, the way the Valencian institutions played a precise role in the social control of slavery and in determining the price of slaves. Looking at some personal trajectories of these slaves will allow us to get closer to the Valencian reality of the Early Modern Period, showing us how the very concept of identification of these subjects, by means of brands and tattoos, was particularly important for local institutions precisely to recognize the slaves and possibly runaway slaves. In fact, one of the major concerns of the Valencian authorities was to avoid vagrancy phenomena, which could lead to petty criminal activities. Finally, those institutional mechanisms will also be highlighted by means of which slaves, without running away, could legally reach the much-desired freedom.

[Download BCDSS Working Paper 2](#)



Paulo Cruz Terra:

Anti-Vagrancy, Punishment and Labor Relations in the Context of the Abolition of Slavery in Brazil and the Portuguese Empire (1870–1910)

Working Paper 1, ISSN 2747-9331

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, 2022/03

Editors: Abdelkader Al Ghouz/Jeannine Bischoff/Stephan Conermann

Focusing on the Brazilian and Portuguese Empire contexts, between 1870 and 1910, this text aims to investigate how the slavery abolition process affected the different historical definitions of what constituted vagrancy and how those definitions related to categories such as class, race and gender; and the way punishments for vagrancy changed over time and how those changes were linked to the transformations associated to the new workers' labor and production relations. This article first explores the effect that the abolition discussions had on the definitions of vagrancy, and what the previous definitions had been. It goes on to show how, in the post abolition period, the concept of vagrancy was expanded to criminalize workers' practices and behaviors. An important innovation and contribution of this article is that it is the first comparative and connected analysis of the transformations in labor relations in the abolition context in those spaces with the persecution of vagrancy as its central focus.

[Download BCDSS Working Paper 1](#)

[For an overview of all Working Papers see the BCDSS website](#)

BCDSS CONCEPT PAPERS



Christoph Antweiler:

On Dependence, Dependency, and a Dependency Turn. An Essay with Systematic Intent

Concept Paper 2, ISSN 2747-9331

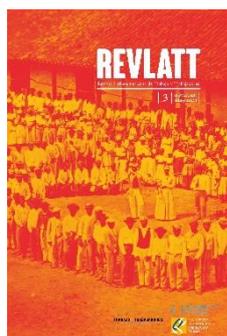
Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, 2022/03

Editors: Abdelkader Al Ghouz/Jeanine Bischoff/Stephan Conermann

Which phenomena are to be considered as forms of asymmetrical dependence and dependency among human beings? How can we distinguish between dependence and dependency? Do we need a “dependency turn” in cultural studies, social science and historical research? These are the key questions addressed in this paper. It is an explicitly conceptual paper that aims at a clarification of analytic issues of dependence and dependency in a systematic manner. This conceptual orientation entails an abstract approach. Accordingly, this piece does not analyze specific cases or case histories in detail, although I will give short examples throughout. The first BCDSS concept paper¹ explored the intricacies of dependence and slavery and discussed many concepts rooted in different scientific approaches. This paper is focused on basic forms, processes, and types of asymmetrical relationality.

[Download BCDSS Concept Paper 2](#)

REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA DE TRABAJO Y TRABAJADORES: REVLATT (CO-FUNDED BY THE BCDSS)



REVLATT

No. 3: November 2021 - April 2022

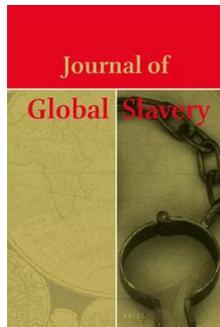
e-ISSN 2667-3231

Red Latinoamericana de Trabajo y Trabajadores, International Institute of Social History, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies

An initiative of the "Red Latinoamericana de Trabajo y Trabajadores" (REDLATT), the "Revista Latinoamericana de Trabajo y Trabajadores" is a journal devoted to the history of labor. It aims to bring together research with diverse views and perspectives about and from Latin America. Among the phenomena covered in the journal are a variety of socio-economic systems, the diverse non-evolutionary continuum of coercive labor and labor regimes, and labor precariousness as a phenomenon with a long history.

REVLATT publishes articles in English, Spanish and Portuguese, and its contents are available in [open access](#). [More information](#)

MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED VOLUMES

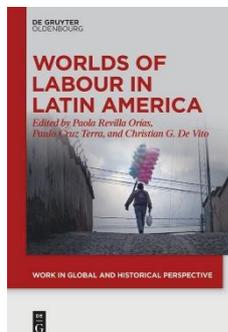


Christian G. De Vito and Viola F. Müller (eds.):

Punishing the Enslaved: Slavery, Labor, and Punitive Practices in the Americas, 1760s–1880

Journal of Global Slavery, Special Issue: Vol. 7/ 1-2 (Mar 2022), Brill.

This special issue explores how enslaved workers of African descent were punished in the Americas. It studies punishment inside and beyond the criminal justice system, investigating its legitimation and implementation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Collectively, the articles address three main themes: the relationship between the enslaved, the slaveholders, and the state; the shifts in modalities of governance across space and time; and the entanglement of modes of punishment across geographies. This perspective illustrates the broader implications of punishment for issues of labor supply and labor control, and helps us understand how slavery was produced and reproduced in different, yet connected, regions of the Americas.



Paola Revilla Orías, Paulo Cruz Terra and Christian G. De Vito (eds.):

Worlds of Labour in Latin America

Work in Global and Historical Perspective 13. Munich:
De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2022.

This book reflects the development of Latin American labour history across broad geographical, chronological and thematic perspectives, which seek to review and revisit key concepts at different levels. The contributions are closely linked to the most recent trends in Global Labour History and in turn, they enrich those trends.

Here, authors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Spain take a historical and sociological perspective and analyse a series of problems relating to labour relations. The chapters weave together different periods of Latin American colonial and republican history from the vice-royalties of New Spain (now Mexico) and Peru, the Royal Audiencia de Charcas (now Bolivia), Argentina and Uruguay (former vice-royalty of Río de La Plata) and Chile (former Capitanía General).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

Walker, Bethany. 2022. "Echoes of the Late Antique Ebus in Mamluk Ḥisbān (Jordan)." In *Cities as Palimpsests? Responses to Antiquity in Eastern Mediterranean Urbanism*, edited by Elizabeth Key Fowden, Suna Çağaptay, Edward Zychowicz-Coghill and Louise Blanke, 103–122. Oxford: Oxbow.

Zeuske, Michael. 2021. "Writing the History of Slavery." In *Writing the History of Slavery*, edited by David Stefan Doddington and Enrico Dal Lago. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Ansar, Anas. 2022. "Bangladeshi women migrants amidst the COVID-19 pandemic: Revisiting globalization, dependency and gendered precarity in South-South labour migration. *Global Networks* 23(3): 1–14. [<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/glob.12368>].

De Vito, Christian G., and Viola Franziska Müller. 2022. "Introduction: Punishing the Enslaved in the Americas, 1760s–1880s." *Journal of Global Slavery* 7: 1–18. [https://brill.com/view/journals/jgs/7/1-2/article-p1_1.xml].

Großmann, Kristina, and Alessandro Gullo. 2022. "Mining and Masculinity in Indonesia." *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*. [<https://doi.org/10.1080/14442213.2021.2019824>].

Kopp, Luvena. „Black Lives Matter – eine Bestandsaufnahme,“ *bpb*, 06.04.2022, <https://www.bpb.de/themen/nordamerika/usa/507013/black-lives-matter-eine-bestandsaufnahme/>.

Stichweh, Rudolf. 2022. "Values, Norms, and Institutions in the Study of Slavery and Other Forms of Asymmetrical Dependency." *Dependent. The Magazine of the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies* 22(1): 4–8.

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