



# BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

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## BCDSS Newsletter No. 3 / December 2020

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear members and friends of the BCDSS,

we are looking back on a year full of challenging surprises that forced all of us to rethink, reconsider and restructure. Despite all of these challenges, we are proud that the BCDSS managed to keep on going – be it with publications, virtual events, or the establishment of new networks and working groups.

We would like to thank all of you for your passion, patience and flexibility. We are looking ahead to 2021 – a new year full of challenging surprises for sure. We are happy that we will tackle them together and are already looking forward to new accomplishments and successes.

We wish you – in whatever way you are celebrating – a happy holiday season and an amazing start into 2021.

With all best wishes for you and your loved ones

Jeannine Bischoff  
Stephan Conermann  
Marion Gymnich  
Karoline Noack  
Konrad Vössing

**CONFERENCES  
&  
WORKSHOPS****SLAVERY IN CONTEXT:  
MATERIALITIES OF  
ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES****January 13, 2021**

Kickoff Workshop of Research Area B “Embodied Dependencies” in order to organize the living exhibition “Slavery in Context: Materialities of Asymmetrical Dependencies” planned for May/June 2021.

**PUNISHMENT, LABOR AND THE LEGITIMATION OF POWER****February 18–19, 2021**

The International Workshop *Punishment, Labor and the Legitimation of Power*, organized by the BCDSS research group [Punishment, Labor and Dependency](#), seeks to investigate how, within specific historical contexts, various forms and sources of punishment have impacted multiple labor regimes. Moreover, we aim to analyze the practices and discourses of different historical (elite and non-elite) actors that have constructed and contested the legitimation of punishment and labor regimes. Finally, we wish to understand how and under which circumstances the interactions between punishment and labor have resulted in the creation of personal, social and spatial dependencies.

[Click here for more information](#)

**CONTEMPORARY ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES BEYOND THE  
PANDEMIC: COVID-19, MIGRATION AND GLOBAL LABOR****March 25–26, 2021**

The COVID-19 pandemic that has swept the world has dramatically altered global supply chains, labor markets, and society as a whole. In a matter of weeks, unprecedented constraints on mobility were introduced through the closure of international borders, limitations on freedom of movement, and mandatory quarantines which resulted in business closures, job losses and massive unemployment. The pandemic and its aftermath created and reinforced economic, social and structural inequalities, disparities and therefore [asymmetrical dependencies](#) that impacted almost all workers, but particularly migrant workers. The restrictions on the global movement of goods, commodities and labor revealed the precarious position of these workers and forced many migrants around the world into exploitative and dependent relationships.

This e-symposium is being organized by the Research Group [Contemporary Asymmetrical Dependencies \(CAD\)](#) at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, Germany. Focusing on this nexus between pandemic, migrant labor and vulnerabilities, we hope that this symposium will highlight some of the major challenges that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic, and provide a direction for future research and policy engagement.

[Click here for more information](#)

## JOSEPH C. MILLER LECTURE SERIES JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2021

Please **register** for each online presentation via [events@dependency.uni-bonn.de](mailto:events@dependency.uni-bonn.de). We will send you a unique link so that you can join the **ZOOM lectures**.

After the individual presentations there will be an opportunity to ask questions to the speaker.



LECTURE  
SERIES

### **January 11, 2021, 4 pm**

Astrid van Oyen:

Making Things Forget: Human and Material Dependencies in Roman Pompeii and Herculaneum

### **January 18, 2021, 4 pm**

Jonathan DeVore:

The Apotheosis of Primitive Accumulation: Cash Transfers, Debt, and Rent in the COVID-19 Crisis

### **February 1, 2021, 4 pm**

Mariana Armond Dias Paes & Paulo Cruz Terra:

Brazil and Africa in Global Legal History and Global Labor History

### **February 8, 2021, 4 pm**

Ravi Ahuja: “Racial Management” on Board British Steamers in the Early Twentieth Century

### **February 22, 2021, 4 pm**

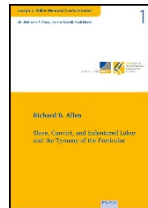
Rafaël Thiébaud:

Changes in Enslavement Methods on Madagascar (1725–1810)

[Visit our events website for more dates.](#)



## JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURES SERIES



**Richard B. Allen:**

***Slave, Convict, and Indentured Labor and the Tyranny of the Particular***

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 1.  
Berlin: eb Verlag 2020.

In *Slave, Convict and Indentured Labor and the Tyranny of the Particular*, historian Richard B. Allen draws on forty-five years of research on slavery and indentured labor in the Indian Ocean world and Asia to challenge scholars to look beyond the chronological, conceptual, and geographical confines of the specialized case studies that characterize research on slavery and related forms of migrant labor and situate their studies in more fully developed local, regional, pan-regional, and comparative contexts.

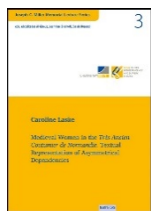


**Maria Ågren:**

***At the Intersection of Labour History and Digital Humanities: What Vaguely Described Work Can Tell Us about Labour Relations in the Past***

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 2.  
Berlin: eb Verlag 2020.

This book uses evidence from early modern Sweden to discuss patterns, showing that a common way of talking about one's work was to specify whom it benefitted: an employer, a family member, a relative. The author suggests ways in which historians and computer linguists can join forces efficiently to uncover the many dependencies that work has created over time.



**Caroline Laske:**

***Medieval Women in the Très Ancien Coutumier de Normandie: Textual Representation of Asymmetrical Dependencies.***

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 3.  
Berlin: eb Verlag 2020.

This paper examines the legal capacity which secular women enjoyed or lacked in late medieval Normandy. The issue is particularly relevant to decoding asymmetrical dependencies, since a lack of legal capacity was the quintessential expression of women's inferior position and dependency in society and in the eyes of the law. The research discussed in this paper reveals the extent of that legal dependency in real, rhetorical and linguistic terms.

[Visit our publications website for more information.](#)

## HEINZ HEINEN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM 2021

Apply from **January 1, to March 15, 2021**, for our Heinz Heinen Fellowship Program 2021/2022.

The Heinz Heinen Kolleg brings together excellent international scholars whose research focuses on different forms of strong asymmetrical dependency and slavery in all historical periods before the twentieth century, and all cultural contexts.

We highly appreciate the active and creative involvement of our fellows, who are invited to present their research project and its results in the seminars, as well as in the form of a working paper at the end of their stay. This will be published in the *Heinz Heinen Kolleg Working Paper Series* with its own ISSN number, which is designed to publish preliminary results.

[More information.](#)

CALL FOR  
APPLI-  
CATIONS

## GLOBAL PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN HISTORY

The University of St Andrews and the University of Bonn are pleased to offer a cotutelle scholarship funded by St Leonard's Postgraduate College, to support one exceptional student undertaking doctoral research in the project: *Slavery in the Pre-Modern Turko-Persian World*.

The scholarship will support a cotutelle doctoral degree program between the School of History at St Andrews and the University of Bonn in Germany. The student will be supervised by Professor Andrew Peacock (University of St Andrews) and Professor Stephan Conermann (University of Bonn).

[More information.](#)

## MASTER'S PROGRAM 2021

Are you looking for cutting-edge research? Join the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies! We offer a broad and in-depth Master's program that is unique and innovative.

The Master program "Dependency and Slavery Studies" is a research-oriented degree program offering you a broad perspective on interdisciplinary research on slavery and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependencies through time and space.

**Duration:** 2 years

**Start:** Winter semester (October)

**Program Language:** English

Download our [Master's Program flyer](#) and [find out more.](#)

## PRESS AND PR MANAGER

The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies is looking for a new Press and PR Manager. The deadline for applications is 28 February 2021. [Please click here for details.](#)

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPER

The Bonn Center for Digital Humanities and the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies are looking for a Software developer. The deadline for applications is 15 March 2021. [Please click here for details.](#)



## NEWS

### NEW CLUSTER MEMBERS

Professor [Kristina Großmann](#), Professor of Anthropology of Southeast Asia at the University of Bonn. Her research project *Dependency and Agency* will focus on asymmetrical dependencies, patronage networks and agency in the course of current contentious natural resource use such as mining and palm oil production in Southeast Asia, especially in Indonesia.

Professor [Birgit Münch](#), Professor of Art History at the University of Bonn, will investigate the visualization of illness in Dutch and French art in early modern time. She intends to work on images of prostitutes from the colonies in Amsterdam.

Professor [Sabine Feist](#), Professor of Christian Archaeology at the University of Bonn, will analyze the formative role of the Christian veneration of saints in late antique and early medieval societies. She will examine the value of relics, their distribution and importance and who was able to afford them.

[Dennis Mario Beck](#), Senior Researcher for Classical Archaeology at the University of Bonn, will look at *Personal Dependence Criticism*. He wants to define the role of personal dependencies within an ancient economy in terms of the distribution of resources and social landscape.

A heartfelt welcome to the Cluster!

## BCDSS WORKING GROUPS

A total of seven Working Groups introduced themselves at the General Assembly on December 4. Working groups both within Research Areas and across Research Areas are a way of developing the structure of the Research Areas as well as the BCDSS as a whole further. Working groups provide a flexible way of organizing joint research and discussions. Below you can find the list of currently existing Working Groups and the respective contact persons:

Asymmetrical Dependencies in Classic Maya Society: [Paul Graf](#)

Contemporary Asymmetrical Dependencies (CAD): [Alexander Rothenberg](#)

Gender Reading Group: [Danitza L. Márquez Ramírez](#) and [Dita Auzina](#)

Narratology: [Marion Gymnich](#)

Reading Group Dependency in the Early Church: [Wolfram Kinzig](#)

Serfs and Rural Tax Payers: [Christoph Witzenrath](#)

Terminology: [Jutta Wimpler](#) and [Jeannine Bischoff](#)

Theory: [Christoph Antweiler](#)

## CALL FOR REVIEWS OF MAINSTREAM ART ON THE THEME OF DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY

We are looking for reviews of pieces of mainstream art and entertainment that deal with the subject matter of our Cluster. The reviews will be published on our homepage at irregular intervals. We hope that they will be of interest to the general public, but that we will also inform and even entertain each other. What we have in mind is not scholarly 'reception studies', but short, intelligent and entertaining pieces that will be of interest to a general reader or to a scholar, in the manner of the arts or review pages of for example the [Times Literary Supplement](#), the [Times of India](#), or the [New Yorker](#). We are thinking of current novels, films or series, and plays. The texts should have a length of between 500 and 1,000 words.

If you are interested in writing or publishing such a text, please let us know in advance so that we can coordinate the procedure and avoid duplications or misunderstandings. Anyone and everyone can participate! We look forward to your contributions.

Please contact us via: [pr@dependency.uni-bonn.de](mailto:pr@dependency.uni-bonn.de)

### Imprint

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