



## BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

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## BCDSS Newsletter No. 10 / November 2021

### EVENTS & GUEST LECTURES

#### NEW "DEPENDENCY FILM COOPERATION" UNDER WAY

Are you in or around Bonn? Then join our "Dependency" film screening of Medhin Tewelde Serrano's documentary "Negra", an empowering portrait of five women affected by everyday racism in Mexico.

We are pleased to say that preparations for a four-year cooperation (2022-2025) with the Bonner Kinemathek are well under way. We will be screening four films annually with a dependency related theme. The screenings will be followed by talks with film makers, members of our cluster and the audience.

The screening of "Negra" is a pilot project. This particular film is part of the Spanish language film festival "Cinescuela" at Bonner Kinemathek e.V.

Come and see for yourselves!

When: 25 November 2021, 6 pm CET.

Where: Kino in der Brotfabrik, Kreuzstraße 16, 53225 Bonn-Beuel.

[Find out more here.](#)

#### IRIS DÄRMANN:

#### “UNDIENLICHKEIT. GEWALTGESCHICHTE UND POLITISCHE PHILOSOPHIE” – **POSTPONED**

Due to rising numbers of Corona infections, we regret to announce that we have to postpone the reading to the summer semester 2022.

Cultural studies scholar and philosopher IRIS DÄRMANN will 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 Claudia Rauhut, Heinz Heinen fellow. Our BCDSS co-speaker Konrad Vössing will lead through the event.

This reading marks the first in a series of upcoming readings/book discussions over the course of the coming years. The event is free of charge and open to ALL. It starts at 6.15 pm CET. Some light refreshments will be served. Please note that the reading will be held in GERMAN.

[Find out more here.](#)

## COCONUT COLONIALISM. WORKERS AND THE GLOBALIZATION OF SAMOA

On **Tuesday 30 November, 6pm CET**, Holger Droessler, Assistant Professor of History at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, will present his new book "Coconut Colonialism Workers and the Globalization of Samoa" at the American Studies Research Colloquium Guest Lectures.

The guest lecture is a cooperation between the BCDSS, the Cluster Initiative "ConTrust: Trust in Conflict – Political Life under Conditions of Uncertainty" and the American Studies Department at Goethe University Frankfurt.

The lecture is held online via Zoom: <https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/2140964225?pwd=OGkrRm1vZVhGTE11RFU4cEpsWlNYdz09>

[Find out more here.](#)

### LECTURE SERIES

## JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

Please **register** for each presentation via [events@dependency.uni-bonn.de](mailto:events@dependency.uni-bonn.de). Please note some of the upcoming Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures will be hybrid formats, meaning that a certain number of participants can be present in the room with the speaker. Therefore, when registering, please indicate whether you will be attending online or in person. For online participation you will receive the unique Zoom Link.

When **attending on the premises**, you need to provide proof that you are either fully vaccinated, that you tested negative, or that you have recovered from a Corona infection.

Each presentation is followed by a Q&A session with the speaker.

**November 15 (online), 4:15 pm CET**

*Denis Regnier (University of Global Health Equity, Kigali; Ruanda):*

An incomplete emancipation: Unintended consequences of colonial abolition in Madagascar

**November 22 (hybrid), 4:15 pm CET**

*Martin Ebner (University of Bonn, Prof em.):*

Interdependenzen transformieren: Der Philemonbrief des Paulus als Fallbeispiel

**November 29 (hybrid): 4:15 pm CET**

*Clara Almagro-Vidal (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main):*

Uneven Relationships: Exploring the Dependence of Muslims on Military Orders in Medieval Iberia

**December 6 (online): 4:15 pm CET**

*Girija Joshi (Independent Researcher):*

Defining 'Legitimate' Dependency in Colonial Panjab: Colonial and Local Perspectives

**December 13 (online), 4:15 pm CET**

*Pamela Crossley (Dartmouth College):*

Dependency and the Mirage of "Ethnicity"

**January 10 (mode of participation TBC), 4:15 pm CET**

*Karen Woods Weierman (Worcester State University):*

The Case of the Slave-Child, Med and the Problem of "No Evidence"

**January 24 (mode of participation TBC), 4:15 pm CET**

*Andrew Wells (TU Dresden):*

Slavery Beyond the Human: Animals and Chattel Slavery in the British Atlantic World, 1600-1840

**January 31 (online), 4:15 pm CET**

*Caroline Wallis (University of Helsinki):*

Symbolic acrobatics and economic phenomena in early Mesopotamian states: balancing calendars, stars, gods, debts and social structures in the first millennium BCE.

[Please visit our events site for more information on the individual lecture.](#)

## LECTURE SERIES: CONTROL, COERCION, AND CONSTRAINT. THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN OVERCOMING AND CREATING STRUCTURES OF DEPENDENCY

During the winter semester 2021/2022 and the summer semester 2022, a lectures series organized by the [Centre for Religion and Society \(ZERG\)](#) and the [Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies \(BCDSS; Research Area C\)](#) will explore the question of the role of religion in both overcoming existing and creating new forms and types of dependencies.

The lectures series will take place on **Tuesdays at 18:15 hrs (Hörsaal X in the Hauptgebäude)**. It is planned as a hybrid event which is to be delivered in Bonn before an audience and simultaneously streamed on the internet.

[Find more information and the list of all lectures here.](#)

### CALL FOR PAPERS

#### SLAVERY AND DEPENDENCY: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GERMAN GLOBAL HISTORY

**July 6-8, 2022, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies**

**Conference organizers: Claudia Jarzebowski and Pia Wiegink (BCDSS), Susanne Lettow (FU Berlin) and Heike Raphael-Hernandez (University of Würzburg)**

The conference will explore questions regarding the heritage of slaveries and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependencies in history such as peonage, indentured servitude, bondage, serfdom in and beyond German global history since the 1450s. For the longest time knowledge production has mainly considered primary sources that often comprise authoritative texts, criminal records, court documents, company archives, and life writings by those who enslaved and exploited men, women, children and who – as merchants of goods and humans – grew rich. Other sources, that is, texts produced by enslaved or bonded people, material remnants, medical and spiritual knowledge, and oral culture as remembered and kept alive in music, dance, and oral literature, were often ignored by Western historiography. Therefore, questions pertaining to the agency and resistance of enslaved and dependent people will be of primary importance. This line of thinking touches upon Walter Johnson's request, not to ask if, but what kind of agency did enslaved and dependent men, women, and children possess or strive for. Debates on slavery and dependency heritage have increasingly gained attention (and criticism).

These debates have inspired a broad discussion of what cultural heritage means, in particular, which remnants of colonial oppression, aggression, and violence should be considered heritage and hence 'worth' preserving. As Bénédicte Savoy, Felwine Sarr and many others have pointed out, this question needs, first and foremost, to be answered by those who have been muted and/or whose demands of restitution, redress, and reparation remained (and still largely remain) unheard ever since European museums amassed cultural goods from African,

Asian, and American territories and cultures. What are the repercussions of these debates on German Global History and how do they reframe and reorient research on the heritage and legacies of slavery and dependency in German territories, thought, and culture? German actors were partaking in colonial expansion and enslavement from the very beginning. At present, heritage discussions accelerate especially in the context of the Humboldt Forum and its museal collections.

However, approaches, such as the notions of “slavery hinterlands” (Brahms/Rosenhaft) or “global peripheries” (Wimmeler/Weber) are by and large still absent from public discourses and debates of German heritage. The conference thus aims to bring 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.

We invite paper proposals that address (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- Labor
- Race/Racism
- Mobilities
- Narratives
- Embodiment
- Spirituality
- Nature
- Law
- Property
- Gender
- Kinship/Genealogies

Please send a 400-word abstract and a short bio blurb (max 400 words) to [newperspectives@dependency.uni-bonn.de](mailto:newperspectives@dependency.uni-bonn.de) by January 31, 2022.

[Find out more here.](#)

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

### REASSESSING ROME AFTER EMPIRE: AN URBAN HISTORY APPROACH

2 - 3 Dec 2021, The British School at Rome (Italy) and Online

[The British Academy Conferences](#)

Conference Convenors:

**Dr Caroline Goodson, University of Cambridge**

**Professor Julia Hillner, University of Bonn**

[Contact the events team](#) for further information about accessibility at this event

When does antiquity end? What is medieval about the post-classical period? What makes a city, after empire? How did the inhabitants of cities experience living in a period of change? This conference will bring together the latest historical and archaeological research on the city of Rome from c. 400 to c. 1050, by emerging and established scholars. It will create an interdisciplinary and international dialogue to move beyond artificial divisions between periods, methods, and approaches.

This two-day conference will be in English.

This event will take place via Zoom and requires advance registration. Please book to reserve your place.

A limited number of in-person spaces are also available. Everyone attending this event in person in Rome must pre-register via Eventbrite and will be required to present a valid Covid vaccination pass.

[Find out more here.](#)

## JOSEPH C. MILLER MEMORIAL LECTURES SERIES

**NEW  
PUBLICATION**



**Damian Pargas:**

***Performing Freedom: Strategies of Escaping Slavery in Southern Cities, 1810–1860***

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lectures Series, Vol. 8.

Berlin: eb Verlag 2021.

“Performing Freedom” examines the attempts by enslaved African Americans living in the nineteenth-century US South to escape slavery by fleeing to towns and cities within the slaveholding states and disguising themselves as free blacks. Going to great lengths to “look” and “act” free—often even acquiring forged free papers—thousands of enslaved people “passed for free” in urban areas with large free black communities. Such strategies of escape underscore the importance of visibility to the successful development of slavery as an

institution, and reveal how enslaved people attempted to erase visible markers of enslavement to live in freedom.

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