



BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

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BCDSS Newsletter No. 4/December 2019

Review 2019

2019 finally brought the Cluster of Excellence to life

Looking back on this first year as a Cluster of Excellence, we have achieved many things together: First and foremost, however, scholars of more than twenty disciplines within the humanities joined forces to work together interdisciplinarily and cooperatively – appreciating each other’s views and approaches.

This past year has been full of drive and energy. We hired around thirty researchers from all over world, we successfully set up a Fellows’ Program and welcomed our first Fellows, we developed two MA programs and a structured doctoral program, we founded the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities, we established a lecture series in memory of Joseph C. Miller.

We will begin the new year with just as much energy, excitement and curiosity – counting on everybody’s euphoria about our project of growing and learning together. We have six years of excellent research and exchange in which to overcome the dichotomy between slavery and freedom. We are all looking forward to that work! Wishing all of you a happy time over the holidays in the circle of your loved ones, it is now time for us to say a big THANK YOU for a great year: all of us in the Management Unit want to thank you for bringing the cluster to life in 2019. Thank you for many beautiful, exciting, fruitful moments. We’re looking forward to a creative, research-intensive and successful 2020, and wish you much joy during the holidays and an exciting and Happy New Year!

Eight PhD Positions Open In Four Newly Established Research Groups

The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies invites applications for eight Research Associates (65%) in our four newly established research groups.

Starting date: **October 1, 2020.**

Contracts will have a fixed duration of three years (ending September 30, 2023). The **deadlines** for the applications are **March 15, 2020.**

The research groups deal with:

- [Coerced Circulation of Knowledge](#) led by Lisa Hellman;
- [Marking Power: Embodied Dependencies, Haptic Regimes and Body Modification](#) led by Sinah Kloß;
- [The Archaeology of Dependency \(ArchDepth\): Resources, Power and Status Differentiation](#) led by Christian Mader;
- [Structures of Dependency in the Late Antique and Early Medieval Western Church](#) led by Julia Winnebeck.

Please refer to the [calls for application](#) for further information.



Upcoming Event

The Cluster Goes Abroad

**Conference: What Is Global About Global Enslavement?
Crossing Time-Space Divides, Tel Aviv, December 29–30, 2019**

The study of enslavement has acquired urgency over the last two decades. Social scientists, legal scholars, human rights activists, and historians who study forms of enslavement in both modern and historical societies seek – and often achieve – common conceptual grounds. This "turn" has also intensified awareness of enslavement as a global phenomenon, inviting a comparative, transregional approach across time-space divides.

This conference aims to bring together scholars who work with different theoretical approaches and study the diverse manifestations of enslavement in various regions, periods, and aspects in both past and present societies in order to interrogate global enslavement and what was global about it.

Download the conference outline [here](#).



International Expert Workshop: Forced Relocations: Conceptualizations, Cases and Data

Call for
Papers

On May 11–12, 2020, we will organize a workshop which foregrounds the question of how to deal with forced relocations, acknowledging the slave trade as only one of its many historical manifestations. We invite contributions that explore the phenomenon of forced relocation by one (or multiple) different angles. Proposals can be sent until **December 31, 2019**.

We invite contributions that explore one or several of the following angles:

- Conceptualizing forms of forced relocations
- Comparatively analyzing historical case studies of forced relocations
- Studying or conceptualizing the relation between (forms of) forced relocation and regimes of coerced labor or extreme asymmetrical dependencies
- Exploring and analyzing sources for data creation on forced relocations
- Reflecting on the implications of any of these topics on conceptualizing and creating a suitable data infrastructure

Please refer to the [call for papers](#) for further information or check our [website](#).

Important Dates

First Meeting of Newly Established Working Group "Contemporary Dependencies"

January 16, 2020, 2–4 pm, Heussallee 18–24, 53113 Bonn

All researchers interested in contemporary forms of strong asymmetrical dependency are welcome to join this newly established working group. If you would like to attend and take part please contact **Sarah Dusend**, researchandstudy@dependency.uni-bonn.de.

Post-graduate Project Presentations

January 24, 2020, Heussallee 18–24, 53113 Bonn, all-day event

PhD students will present their finalized project proposals or the current stage of their research projects after the first year at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. These presentations are part of our BCDSS PhD program. We will discuss their proposals during the postgraduate day with the BCDSS faculty.



This is the doctoral students' opportunity to present their research in progress to peers and scholars; what they present should therefore reflect the project they are actually going to work on during the next three years. In addition, we ask the 13 new PhD students to briefly introduce themselves and their projects again, so that those who have not yet had a chance to meet them can do so on this occasion.

Contact: Sarah Dusend, researchandstudy@dependency.uni-bonn.de.

Freedom and Border-making in the Early Modern World

Interdisciplinary Conference
February 27–28, 2020

Upcoming
Workshop

Space and labor are key for the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies [Research Group D Labor and Spatiality](#). Through discussing the intersection between the two — that is, when labor demanded spatial shifts — we soon arrive at the borders of the past. The relationship between such border-making and the way that the process of creating, shifting and upholding borders creates radical asymmetries of power is still under-researched, despite their importance to the past (and present) world. Border-making also interacts with the construction of modern ideas of freedom, and of its limits.

In order to best explore how border-crossing labor can illuminate historical constructions of spatiality and freedom, and in line with the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies' commitment to interdisciplinary research, the participants in this conference aim to connect history, geography and international relations.

The conference is organized as a cooperative event between Lisa Hellman, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, and Manchester University, and forms part of the project "Living on the Edge: experiences and responses to Europe's changing borderlands". It will help integrate the British Academy-funded project into the activities of the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, and offers a perfect fit for the discussions being held in Research Area D *Labor and Spatiality*.

Organizers: Lisa Hellman, Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies; Mariana Boscaroli, Manchester University; Edmond Smith, Manchester University



Lecture Series

Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series continues in 2020

After the first fascinating lectures, which offered new insights into the research of dependency and slavery, we will continue with the Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series in 2020. Renowned international researchers will present their research and deal with questions of asymmetrical dependency and slavery.

January 13, 2020

Gudrun Bühnemann

(University of Wisconsin-Madison):

Crushed Underfoot: Patterns of Subjugation and Extreme Dependency in the Buddhist Iconography of Nepal

January 27, 2020

Pierangelo Buongiorno

(Università del Salento):

The *Dictionary* of Dependencies in the Roman Empire: Some Remarks

February 3, 2020

Ian Hodder

(University College London and Cambridge University):

The Force Fields of Things

February 10, 2020

Paulo Cruz Terra

(Universidade Federal Fluminense and BCDSS Fellow) and

Mariana Armond Dias Paes

(Max Planck Institute for European Legal History and BCDSS):

Brazil and Africa in Global Legal History and Global Labor History

The audio recordings of our Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series can be found [here](#) and those of our Opening Conference [here](#).

February 17, 2020

Gwyn Campbell

(McGill University):

Western Attitudes to Slavery in the Indian Ocean World from the 1807 Ban on the Slave Trade to the Present Day

March 2, 2020

Michaela Dimmers

(University of Göttingen) and

Nabhojeet Sen (BCDSS):

Punishment, Labor and Dependency: Perspectives from the Global South

March 9, 2020

Turkana Allahverdiyeva:

tba

March 16, 2020

Damian Pargas

(University of Leiden):

Performing Freedom: Strategies of Escaping Slavery in the Slaveholding South

March 23, 2020

Julien Loiseau

(University of Aix-Marseille):

tba

March 30, 2020

Raquel Sirotti

(Max Planck Institute for European Legal History):

tba



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