THE MAGAZINE OF THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

## DEPENDENT 201



"STRONG
ASYMMETRICAL
DEPENDENCIES"
ARE A HUMAN
PHENOMENON

PAGE 6



FIELD RESEARCHERS'
REPORTSTRE

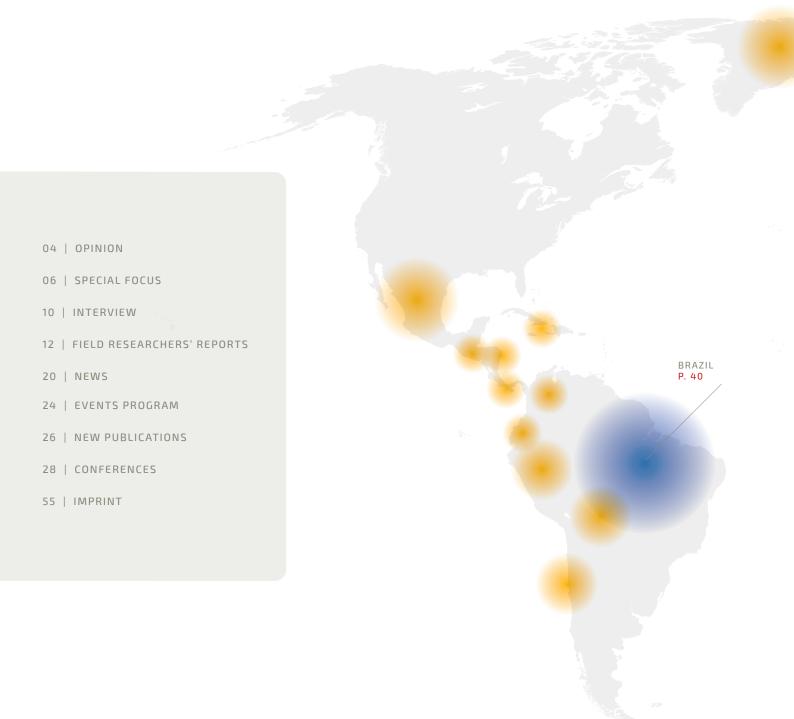
**PAGE 12** 

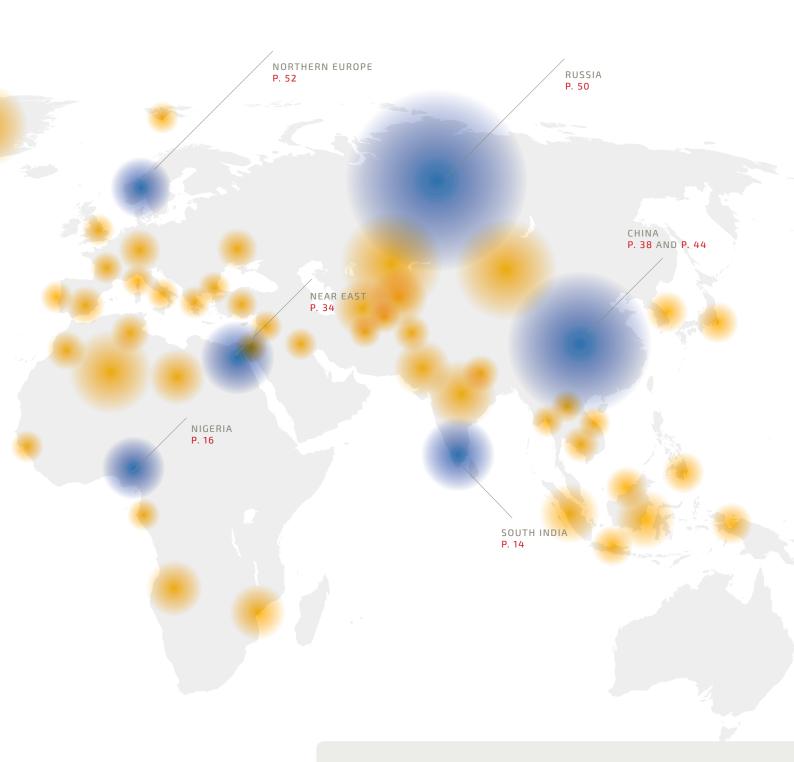
EVENTS PROGRAMCI

PAGE 2

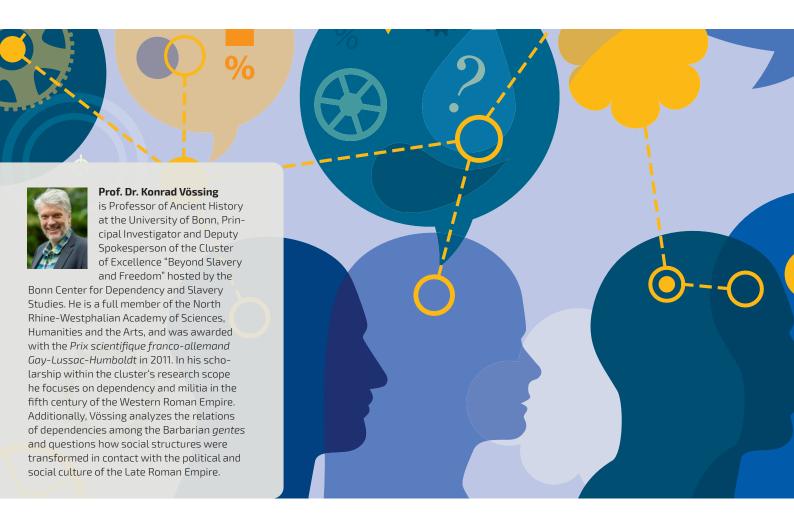
CONFERENCES, LECTURE
SERIES AND OTHER EVENTSOTRE

PAGE 28





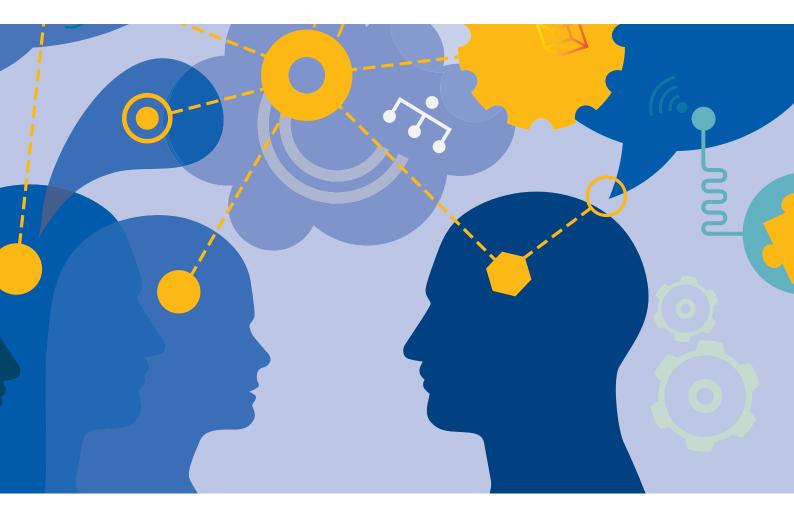
Our research will contribute to the academic debate on numerous and varied expressions of "strong asymmetrical dependencies" from a trans-regional and deep-time perspective. We are interested in social processes in order to better understand why and how distinct forms of asymmetrical dependencies emerged in different places and periods. Our aim is to identify the factors behind their development over time. Therefore, our research looks at a diverse range of places across the world. In this magazine, we focus on the bluecolored regions; the ones marked in yellow are ongoing projects of other of the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies' scholars.



### **WHY DOES OUR CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE NEED ACADEMIC COMMUNICATIONS?**

Konrad Vössing

Publicly financed research has certain obligations to fulfil. It has to publish its research projects and the resulting findings, and it has to communicate those projects and findings to a wider public. While this has always been the case, it is especially important today where we battle against profound public scepticism about science and academia, fake news, authorship for sale and clickbait headlines. For this sort of outreach work accessibility is just as important as are appropriate levels of complexity and differentiation. Let's start with the basics. The very name of our Cluster of Excellence is not easily understood – and how could it be? It has been distilled from many individual historical phenomena. The job of large research projects in the humanities is to question the very foundations of our thinking and our knowledge; but such projects do not have any direct application, and they ask no concrete questions. So an accessible, understandable explanation of what we do will require a good bit of work to achieve the necessary cultural transfer. This is the job the Cluster Magazine wants to undertake.



### **COMMUNICATIONS ONLY WORK WHERE THE RESEARCHERS THEMSELVES SPEAK**

Academic communications and science journalism are often mentioned in the same breath, and frequently they are mixed up or taken for each other. But in fact they are two different ways of making science tangible and explaining its relevance. As part of the media, science journalism is independent (or it certainly should be), whereas academic communications are part of the university system. Both concepts are necessary and both depend on input from scholars, but academic communications do so to a much higher degree. Journalists report from the outside, with professional detachment and no personal investment in the content, but the 'reporters' in academic communications are the very scholars themselves. Our Cluster Magazine aims to be an important forum for them and their reports.

### **OUR GOAL: A DIALOGUE WITH SOCIETY**

It is a delicate balancing act to bring academic research projects before the general public and make them accessible. While researchers are confident that their results (which of course include encounters with the unknown and the apparently remote) are relevant for society, humanities scholars in particular also fear trivialization and superficial utilitarian considerations - that dreaded question: "But what use does it have?" It is an important task to find intelligent solutions and approaches to this problem - but not an easy one. Time pressures and the never ending requirement to publish for the scholarly community mean that academic communications frequently fall by the wayside.

We want to change that. Our ambitious goal is to engage in a dialogue with society. We want to provide insights at a number of different levels, not only into the shared research interest of our Cluster of Excellence (i.e. the broad spectrum of asymmetrical dependencies in pre-modern societies), but also into our various working methods, which involve specialist research as much as the frequent crossing of boundaries between disciplines and cultures. We could not make this spectrum visible and understandable without the help of our scholars.

# "STRONG **ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES**" **ARE A HUMAN PHENOMENON**

Terms such as slavery and forced labor are huge - and terrible - shadows thrown by the past. They remind us of brutality, cruelty, exploitation. But the phenomena they describe surely belong to days long gone; these were things that happened in ancient Greece and Rome, in Persia and China and of course in the US American south, where millions of Africans were forced to toil on cotton plantations while their masters lived like princes. It all happened long ago. So do slavery, forced labor, serfdom, debt bondage and so forth only belong in the history books?

> As a rule, we designate as "slaves" people who live in complete legal or economic dependency. Although many countries have legally abolished slavery, it still exists. The Global Slavery Index of the Australian "Walk Free Foundation" estimates that in 2016, more than forty million people lived in modern slavery, almost twenty-five million in forced labor, and more than fifteen million in a forced marriage. The index estimates that in Germany alone, 167,000 people exist in conditions similar to slavery – that is about 0.2 percent of our population.

Given its perhaps too polarized character, is the word "slavery" really best suited to explaining the phenomenon of unequal (working) conditions in all their forms and manifestations?



Unsurprisingly, there have been energetic calls to finally abolish these anachronistic forms of dependency. But what enables and promotes slavery and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependency? And are these concepts not perhaps too one-dimensional to adequately explain the phenomenon of unequal (working) conditions? That is something we must bear in mind if we want to understand social hierarchies in all of their complexity.

### INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INTO THE COMPLEXITY OF ASYMMETRICAL **DEPENDENCY**

The Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bonn, "Beyond Slavery and Freedom: Asymmetrical Dependencies in Premodern Societies", attempts to comprehensively explore and understand the concept of slavery in all its complexity and its different manifestations, and to add to it other forms of strong asymmetrical dependency.

The idea for this giant interdisciplinary project that bundles many different disciplines across the humanities came about almost by chance: three years ago a

group of scholars realized that their research projects, which looked at a number of different societies in a number of different eras, all had one thing in common: every single one revolved around demographic groups who were strongly and asymmetrically dependent on other groups or individuals. In all of these cases a small group or a single individual controlled resources that were not accessible to the majority. At the same time the persons or groups living in strong asymmetrical dependency were unable to end this relationship without risking extremely negative consequences - death, persecution, imprisonment, the loss of their livelihoods.

This universal circumstance, encompassing a number of different disciplines and regions, drew our attention to the vast scope of the topic. We found it in archaeology, in art history, literary criticism, sociology, theology, and legal history — in short, we found it to be relevant for all disciplines.

This spurred us on, and we began to take the topic into other fields in the humanities, and indeed beyond, and to look for research questions and approaches that we could share. Regular meetings and discussions led to more colleagues getting involved. The circle grew,

and so did our amazement at how almost universal the subject of human exploitation is. Scholars in Bonn recognized that strong asymmetrical dependencies are a global, timeless and interdisciplinary topic: across different subjects, epochs and regions. In it, they had found their research mission.

Exploitation is a global, timeless and interdisciplinary subject.

In this situation the call for proposals for Clusters of Excellence as part of the excellence strategy of the German federal and Länder governments came at just the right time, giving the University of Bonn a unique opportunity to unite different disciplines across the humanities in one single research project. Over the next six years this project aims to establish the new key concept of strong asymmetrical dependency for research into slavery and dependency, enabling interdisciplinary research to overcome the currently used, and simplistic, binary of slavery versus freedom.

To date, the scholarly discourse has been dominated by research into slavery in the Americas, or in antiquity. Just as dominant, in a different way, has been the tendency to approach the topic from a Western/ modern perspective, which neglects a large number of important and meaningful non-European aspects. One example is the point of view of those affected, who by being labeled as "slaves" are stigmatized as unable to speak for themselves. The term "slavery" is more likely to be associated with violence, but it fails to clearly describe the different forms of exploitation.

The Cluster of Excellence with its various research contributions intends to leave this path and to broaden the perspective in terms of content, space and time. Forms of servitude and coerced labor will not necessarily be associated with the term slavery, while strong asymmetrical dependency includes a wide array of different forms of human exploitation, such as forced labor, debt bondage or serfdom — both in the past and the present.

### **RESEARCH APPROACHES** FOR A NEW SOCIAL HISTORY OF **ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCY**

The Cluster is divided into five Research Areas. each of which approaches the subject of dependency in a different way. All interrogate current, conceptual approaches in the humanities in order to arrive at a new social history of strong asymmetrical dependencies.

The aim of the first research focus, "Semantics, Lexical Fields and Narratives", is to create a new language of analysis. What do we mean by that? We will have to test and reconsider key concepts, terminologies and categories that define the way we think about strong asymmetrical dependencies in order to overcome and to expand the ubiquitous dichotomy of slavery versus freedom. In order to do so, our researchers will analyze narrative patterns used by historical actors themselves to organize their world and to discuss asymmetrical dependencies. Their aim is to create a typology of "Semantics, Lexical Fields, and Narratives" that documents the different ways in which dependency is expressed. Can these concepts and phrases still be valid today? The twin focus will lie on decoding and translating indigenous key concepts, and on exploring narrative strategies for the representation of strong asymmetrical dependencies in texts.

The second research focus, "Embodied Dependencies", investigates non-textual relics of strong asymmetrical dependencies that have been "inscribed" into bodies and artifacts such as sculpture, but also physical markings such as branding, scarification, or tattoos. In this way, and by also taking into account pre-colonial perspectives, our scholars want to address and remedy the prevalent imbalance in how the scholarly community weighs written and non-written traditions. We hope to establish archaeology, art history and object-based anthropology at the same level as disciplines in the humanities that focus on textbased sources. The equal weight given to the analysis of non-textual objects will "give a voice" to people unable to express their dependency in writing, whether in the past or now.

We want the five Research Areas to contribute to the creation of a new social history of asymmetrical dependencies.

"Institutions, Norms and Practices" played a decisive role in the analysis and evaluation of dependency, and continue to do so. Of particular interest for this third area of research are forms of strong asymmetrical dependency that develop at the intersection of contradictory norms and practices. They are best understood as reciprocal movements: top-down when institutions create norms that are converted into patterns of action, bottom-up when practices produce norms which are then "institutionalized". This is where we can identify tendencies still valid today.

The fourth research area, "Labor and Spatiality", participates in current debates about global labor history and looks at strong asymmetrical dependencies that are labor-related, equally taking into account all exploitative and forced forms of labor. We will consider traditional skilled workers side by side with unskilled late-medieval ancillae and with today's textile workers in Bangladesh or outsourced workers in a call center in Eastern Europe. Only a transculturally and diachronically comparative perspective on exploitative working conditions will enable us to investigate slavery and other forms of strong asymmetrical dependency beyond an understanding of history that centers a western and modern perspective, and to draw conclusions about conditions in our own time.

The fifth research area "Gender (and Intersectionality)" investigates strong asymmetrical dependencies at the intersections of social differentiation markers such as gender, status, class, ethnicity, religion and age. Scholars believe that the perspective on gender has the potential to challenge a whole range of assumptions, because it renders visible the very different experiences of oppressed men and women and of gender conforming and non-conforming persons. As such, this area examines the emergence and consolidation of the many different forms of social hierarchization, discrimination and stigmatization that become manifest in strong asymmetrical dependencies.

### INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

To realize this research project, we already have a group of twenty-five so-called *Principal Investigators* working together within the Cluster at the University of Bonn. In addition, there are nine Research Group Leaders from six different countries and disciplines, as well as an outstanding collection of national and international scholars in the Fellowship Program named after Heinz Heinen, the Belgian-German ancient historian and specialist on slavery in classical antiquity. They have been joined by to date nineteen PhD students from more than ten different countries.

All of them want to make a lasting difference by expanding our knowledge about strong asymmetrical dependencies in societies across eras and regions. The term "slavery" describes an age-old human phenomenon in a way that stirs emotions and generates attention. But it is ultimately insufficient and lacks the clarity to adequately identify the many different forms of exploitation from slavery via debt bondage to convict labor, serfdom, domestic service, and many more that have existed around the globe, and continue to do so today.



Prof. Dr. Stephan Conermann is Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Bonn, Principal Investigator and Spokesperson of

the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom" hosted by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. He is Vice President for International Affairs of the University of Bonn and Director of the Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies. In his dependency-related research, Conermann compares different forms of slavery in pre-modern societies. His starting point are "slaveries" in the Ottoman Empire and different forms of dependency in the Mamluk Sultanate in Egypt and Syria (1250-1517), where a predominantly Arabic population was dominated by a Turkish-speaking elite of manumitted military slaves.

### **56** THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION **PROCESS IS** AN OPPORTUNITY **FOR THE** HUMANITIES.

Interview with Matthias Lang conducted by Silvia Oster

People often say, 'In the humanities, you only need books and nothing else.' And now we have the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities (BCDH). Explain to us, how does that go together?

Well, of course, that was never really true. Scholars have always studied archive material, images, maps, cards, and objects to generate new insights. It's simply that until recently, printed books were often the only way to bundle and transport these new insights. But the new digital tools we now have enable us to harness totally new methods of storing, analyzing and presenting knowledge in ways that outstrip the limited capabilities of books. Think for example of sound recordings in musicology or 3D models in archaeology or art history - that's the sort of thing a book just cannot do, or at least not do well. Which is not to say that we want to question the citable publication of results. But we will all have to get used to the existence of new forms of knowledge presentation.

How would you describe to a layperson what digital humanities are or do? What visions of the future does this field offer?

I see digital humanities as a sort of mediator between the humanities on the one hand and information science on the other. The job of DH is developing and applying digital tools that can help us answer the questions asked by scholars in the humanities. This includes digitizing manuscripts or museum objects, but also indexing digital copies of objects in virtual research environ-

I don't see digital humanities as a subject in and of itself. For me, they're more in the nature of a digital auxiliary science that supports researchers by providing them with increasingly sophisticated digital methods and tools in addressing issues common across the humanities.

What concrete objects does the University of Bonn pursue with its recently established Bonn Center for Digital Humanities? And what is your task in this?

The BCDH sees itself first and foremost as a service facility to support researchers at the University in developing joint projects with digital know-how. We plan to build up a comprehensive range of services, in cooperation with the University and State Library, to meet the diverse and different needs across the humanities. What is crucial here is that we start by listening to what scholars have to tell us, to make sure that what we then develop meets their requirements and wishes, and allows us to support the needs of the various disciplines on a long-term basis.

We have been talking about open access for many years: the demand to make research universally available is ubiquitous. Where do digital humanities and open access overlap, and where are the gaps?

Initially, those two have very little in common. But it should be fairly obvious that in open access, digital products have a clear edge over printed books. If we want to make

applied research accessible to the public, digitally and on the web, we no longer need publishers who grant access only to paying customers. Instead, researchers can communicate much more directly with each other and with the public. They can also publish not only their results, but also all the underlying data so that others can review those results and interrogate them with new and additional questions.

Let's talk about virtual research environments: why are they so important? In what ways do they make life (and work) easier for scholars? And in what ways don't they?

Virtual research environments facilitate the standardized collection, visualization and analysis of research data in database-supported web environments. Such systems will play an increasingly important role, especially in interdisciplinary projects, since they allow easy access to data from other disciplines which would be very difficult to integrate without such systems. Take, for example, the possibility of including precise geographical information when you work on historical questions – that's the sort of thing that digital environments make it very easy to visualize and analyze together.

Another decisive advantage is the standardized acquisition of knowledge, which enables meaningful, quantitative analyses of large data sets in the first place. Ideally, this also allows you to easily incorporate data from other projects into your own – at least when such data is freely available. Virtual research environments also enable researchers to collaborate across national and even language borders.

But the really crucial point is that a digital environment can handle most of the necessary knowledge organization, freeing researchers to fully concentrate on their academic tasks.

Of course, all of this is very much a picture of an ideal world. Something that is consistently underrated is the amount of work required for the conception, the development and the maintenance of such systems. As a rule, it takes months or even years for a system to become fully operational so that it can be used for the project. By then it is usually too late for it to be integrated into the research process in any meaningful way. As a result, the acceptance for such developments tends to be low.

The solution, to my mind, are modular and highly flexible systems which can be adapted to the requirements of a new project within a matter of weeks. Over the past several years I have done a lot of thinking about such ideas, and we here in Bonn will continue this work so that we can provide researchers with such systems.

Let's talk about how we store knowledge. Of course these days we can save everything to a USB stick, so that's archiving, right? Will we even need archives in the future? And how can there be archive work in the humanities without archives?

In my experience the half life of digital data is fairly brief. It's not uncommon for data sets to become technically obsolete after just a few years - to the extent that you can't even open them, so that all the knowledge they contain is lost. That is of course especially problematic in the humanities, because here research results tend to retain their validity for a long time, and may be revisited and re-researched much later from new perspectives and with new research questions. And again, once lost they're frequently irretrievable - just think, for example, of data from archaeological excavations. So scholars in the humanities have a special responsibility for their data.

Of course, this is not something that can be resolved at project level. We need commemorative institutions at higher levels to assume responsibility. The permanent archiving of knowledge in digital form is one of the great challenges of our times, and one that a whole range of national and international initiatives is working hard to develop solutions for. An important one is the Nationale Forschungsdateninfrastruktur (National Research Data Infrastructure) initiated by the DFG, which aims to give scholars the opportunity to store their data securely and permanently, including making it accessible for later use. Bonn already has a service center for handling research data that coordinates these services for scholars. We will work closely with colleagues from the University and State Library and the University Computer Center to develop tailor-made services for the humanities.

This has also been a target for criticism: will the technologization of both teaching and learning methods and of digital development practices cause a decline in the humanities?

It is true that there is a certain skepticism, or perhaps even full-blown technophobia, in the humanities, for which there may be a lot of different reasons. One is that many scholars working with conventional research methods feel marginalized by supposedly innovative, cutting-edge digital projects. This is not entirely groundless; especially the media appear frequently to find new methods more attractive than conventional ones. Another major point is the fear of losing control over one's own research process. A complex virtual research environment naturally means a researcher is dependent to a certain degree on the operators and their capabilities, which are difficult to assess for scholars with a humanities background.

Ultimately, however, I believe that we should see the digital transformation process as an opportunity for the humanities. At the end of the day even the most powerful software environment is only a tool that may offer unimagined opportunities to researchers, now or in the future.

But there is one thing that will not change: knowledge production is not the work of a computer, but will continue to be done by applying the methods traditional to the human-

Many thanks for this interesting interview!

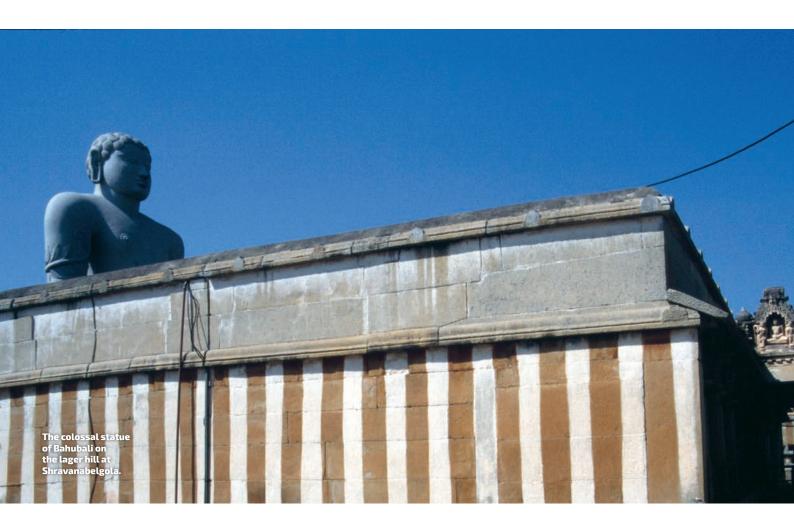


Dr. Matthias Lang is the coordinator of the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities (BCDH). He is responsible for the coordination and development of the

BCDH in the coming years. Founded in the summer of 2019, the BCDH will offer a broad, demand-oriented portfolio of digital humanities services to members of the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom" and to all humanities scholars at the University of Bonn. In close cooperation with the University and State Library and the University Computer Center, the BCDH aims to establish and maintain a longterm, stable research infrastructure for the humanities at the university.







### **EXTREME FORMS OF DEPENDENCY MIRRORED** IN THE ART AND **ARCHITECTURE OF** KARNATAKA, SOUTH INDIA

Julia A.B. Hegewald

### **RESEARCH TRIP TO INDIA**

FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2019

There are many ways to investigate the subject of extreme dependencies in the field of South Asian art and architectural history. I began by further developing the so-called re-use theory in the south of India. In 2012, I had already co-edited a volume with my colleague Subrata Kumar Mitra from the University of Heidelberg about the re-use theory in South Asia from an Arts and Social Sciences perspective. I also wrote about the topic in a number of articles.

Re-use is the renewed or modified use of objects or buildings. It can occur on a completely voluntary basis through new media or through contact with a different religion or a novel form of building. But forced expropriations or rededications of forms of art and building can also characterize situations in which two or more groups come into contact, with one of them being in a situation of extreme dependency. These can be situations such as war, territorial expansion or conquest by a new ruling family or dominant religious group.



I began to research one such situation during my field studies in the south of India, where I focused on the seventh through fourteenth centuries. The Jaina religious group had dominated the state of Karnataka until the middle of the twelfth century. From the early centuries CE until this time, Jainism had strongly influenced art, literature and culture. But the early twelfth century saw the rise of new religious cults such as the Vīra-Śaivas (Liṅgāyats), the the Śrī-Vaisnavas and Islam, which spread throughout the region and defeated the

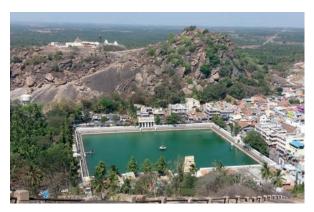
This led to the widespread appropriation and redeployment of Jaina statues and buildings, especially temples. The Jaina themselves, however, also reacted by creating forms of art that could be more easily accepted by the new rulers (such as non-figural representations instead of figurative icons in predominantly Muslim areas).

largue that redeployment – in the shape of the misappropriation or destruction of the original context – initially is felt as a painful discontinuity. In the longer term, however, it can lead to integration

on a cultural (albeit not religious) level and even to reconciliation; an option that is not possible in cases of complete destruction (such as by the Taliban or Daesh in recent years). My research focus on Karnataka is an example of a situation in which the new elites appropriate existing buildings and works of art of another religion and adapt them in order to showcase their newly gained position of power. It is also a situation in which artists, architects and traditional craftspeople belonging to suppressed communities purposely out of a situation of extreme dependency create adapted objects of material culture, which are acceptable



Talking to pilgrims in Karkal.



Shravanabelgola, a center of pilgrimage

to the new rulers. It is interesting to note that such appropriation of cultural assets also indirectly influences and changes the dominant culture and religion.

So far, I mostly visited places in the coastal region and in the south of Karnataka state, where the appropriation of Jaina pilgrimage centers and temples are very noticeable. Future travels will take me to the north and the central regions of Karnataka in order to complete the picture.



Prof. Dr. Julia A.B. Hegewald is Principal Investigator

at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and Research Area Speaker of Research

Area B "Embodied Dependencies". She focuses on artistic and architectural expressions of different forms of dependency in Asian, particularly South Asian, art and architecture. She employs the theory of re-use to show how different people have reacted in a variety of situations of extreme dependency, frequently in very creative ways, to integrate the old and the new, to bridge divides and eventually to contribute to cultural processes which are able to heal and mediate between at times wide and violent disparities of cultural expression. Her current research project is titled "Artistic Communities and Patronage in Asia: Dependencies and Freedoms".



### **MASQUERADE FESTIVAL IN A NIGERIAN TOWN**

Malik Ade

### **RESEARCH TRIP TO EKITI STATE, NIGERIA**

MAY-JUNE 2019

My field trip in the Ekiti State of Nigeria, witnessed the Okemesi masquerade festival called Oladunwo or Ladunwo (which I would translate as "it is very entertaining"). The masquerade festival served as part of the primary sources for my research project on the roles of pre-colonial Yoruba men and women, which explores their marriage, labor and masquerade institutions from a historical perspective with the aim of determining if men's and women's roles were gender or context based.

### THE YORUBA AND EKITI PEOPLE

The most popular version of the Yoruba traditions of origin claims that the Yoruba originated from Ile-Ife, an ancient Yoruba city located in present-day south-western Nigeria. Through this tradition, most Yoruba monarchs, including the Ekiti, regard themselves as descendants of Oduduwa, Ile-Ife's earliest and deified monarch. While some Yoruba identify Oduduwa as a man, others identify her as a woman. Scholars of Yoruba history such as Stephen Adebanji Akintoye, who employs historical and oral traditions and archaeological interpretations, have associated Oduduwa with a period of socio-political change and economic boom among the Yoruba between the tenth and twelfth centuries. While these phenomena seemed to have taken place in Ile-Ife, they later spread to other Yoruba settlements as many Yoruba migrated and resettled during this period.

The people of Okemessi Ekiti, like other Yoruba regions, also claim Ile-Ife dissent through Oduduwa's daughter, Oyelagbo Iyun, described as a trader and warrior. According to two versions of her story, she had either reigned as a monarch herself and was then succeeded by her son, Adeniyi Agodongbo; or she had immediately crowned her son, since she needed time for her trading. Whether history or myth, the case of Iyun (meaning coral beads, a very popular Yoruba product of export to other West African regions and beyond) with her followers alludes to female leadership and economic roles in pre-colonial Yoruba societies.





The rural settlement of Okemesi Ekiti. Note the stadium-like mountain in the background which surrounds the settlement. This mountain shielded the people from enemies during the pre-colonial period. Also, note on the left the sacred trees under which the masquerades usually camp out during the festival before going to pay homage to lineage ancestors, and displaying their functions, or simply dancing. The picture was taken on the final day of the ceremony.

### **FROM CAVALRY TO MASQUERADE INSTITUTION**

Oyo took over from Ile-Ife as a Yoruba major power, reaching its zenith around 1600-1800. During this period, Oyo employed different measures to subject different West African societies, including presentday Benin, Togo and parts of Ghana. Oyo's use of horses was upgraded by a female monarch, Orompoto, during the sixteenth century. Through her wellequipped cavalry, Oyo employed military measures to subjugate both Yoruba and non-Yoruba neighbors, placing in their settlements ambassadors to ensure loyalty to the Oyo crown. But in mountainous and forest regions like Ekiti the Oyo army suffered defeat by local fighters, as the topography challenged the effective use of horses. Additionally, the local tsetse flies in the region caused sleeping sickness in humans and horses.

Despite the seemingly failed military measures, Oyo's efforts to seal allegiances with other Yoruba regions succeeded through trade and masquerade. The late

eighteenth century witnessed the sending out of hundreds of male and female royal messengers to other Yoruba regions in the tradition of Oyo, where they performed masquerade theater. This historical period corroborates with oral, performance and mnemonic traditions I collected in Okemesi during my field trip. I was told that an Alarinjo or acrobatic and travelling theater group from Oyo came to perform and was asked to stay, as their masquerade institution was admired and adopted and has continued to be celebrated since then.

Indeed, there are other groups of Yoruba and non-Yoruba neighbors who migrated to Okemesi sometime before 1900 and their traditions including masquerades have continued to reflect their identities until today. Also, the Okemesi people, like their Ekiti counterparts had their own masquerades and cult groups prior to the arrival of different migrants. With these multiple historical identities, the masquerade festivals as celebrated today glaringly depict these varieties which an onlooker would regard as mere entertainment.







It should be noted, however, that whilst masquerade posed as an entertaining institution, there are different kinds of masquerades, each depicting, or functioning as, or representing, a historical experience of the people. Thus, first, the persona, identities, sacred, and historical functions of masquerades play important

roles in my project. So far, my field trip has shown that the Yoruba depend on masquerades to relate with their ancestors, hence their being considered as sacred. Secondly, the people relate and reflect their historical experiences through the masquerades as shown in the pictures. Critical study of the masquerade costumes and performances unleash the experiences of a particular period, such as war. Thirdly, masquerades embody different social entities, such as warriors, men, market women, children, plants, animals, etc., as they all play significant roles in the Yoruba worldview.



### **TELLING THEIR STORIES** THROUGH THE MASQUERADES

The masquerades depict and personify different historical periods and entities. Through mnemonic evidence, praise poems and costumes, this project classifies masquerades into pre-nineteenth century, nineteenth century and the contemporary periods. During the festival about a hundred masquerades are usually on display. Most of the pre-nineteenth century masquerades are considered sacred, so that their photographs cannot be published but only used privately for analysis. Witnessing the masquerades is thus only possible during the festival. The second category of masquerades reflect the nineteenth century. They reference the century-long Yoruba civil wars and depict fearful, war-like and awesome appearances. Characteristic to this category is also the carrying of big sculptured objects on their heads, while the costumes encompass animal skins and plants. The contemporary masquerades, which depict experiences of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, are more colorful and less sacred.



#### Malik Ade

is doctoral researcher at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. He aims to understand gender relations in the process

of social reproduction and community (re)formation of an interior Yoruba group of West Africa. In other words, he seeks to investigate the relationships between men and women in managing the socio-political situation of the nineteenth century in their quest for societal protection, preservation and community building. He is part of the Research Group Dependency, Gender and Labor in the Household. All pictures were taken in May 2019 by Malik Ade. Pictures posted here are ethically authorized by their custodians.

Suggestion for further reading: Stephen Adebanji Akintoye: A History of the Yoruba People. Amalion Publishing: 2010.

# NEWS

### "BEYOND SLAVERY AND FREEDOM: OPENING UP NEW FIELDS"

Cluster Opening Conference, November 6-7, 2019

Our Cluster of Excellence held its Opening Conference "Beyond Slavery and Freedom: Opening Up New Fields" at the Heinz Heinen Kolleg to kick off our work over the next six years. The two-day event started with a key note by Trevor Burnard (Universities of Hull and Melbourne), on "A Pack of Knaves: The Demise of the Royal African Company, the Triumph of the Big Planter Class and the Nadir of Enslaved Experience in British America, 1672–1708" followed by a panel discussion on "Work, Freedom, Dependence?" and a reception. On November 7, the speakers approached the different research areas of the cluster in six high profile lectures.

Detailed conference report on page 30



### **NEW COORDINATOR OF THE BONN CENTER FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

Matthias Lang is responsible for the coordination and development of the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities.



As of the beginning of November 2019, the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities (BCDH) has a coordinator: Dr. Matthias Lang.

He is responsible for the coordination and development of the BCDH in the coming years. Founded in summer 2019, the BCDH will offer a broad, demand-oriented portfolio of digital humanities services to members of the Cluster of Excellence Beyond Slavery and Freedom and to all humanities scholars at the University of Bonn. In close cooperation with the University and State Library (ULB) and the University

Computer Center (HRZ), the BCDH aims to establish and maintain a long-term stable research infrastructure for the humanities at the university.

As head of the eScience Center at the University of Tübingen, Matthias Lang was responsible for the application and development of digital methods in the humanities. Similar to the eScience Center, the BCDH, as a central service institution, will also provide services in the field of digital humanities and, together with the HRZ and the ULB, will establish a research data repository for the university. In his research, Lang works on the modelling and development of sustainable integrated database systems for the humanities, as well as with the standardized exploitation of heterogeneous knowledge. The database-supported integration, analysis and visualization of different media, from texts to geo-information to complex 3D environments, is a particular focus of his work.

Interview on page 10

### **SLAVES, SERFS AND FREE LABOR** IN MEDIEVAL NORTHERN EUROPE

Conference, October 25-26, 2019

On October 25 and 26, 2019, the Department of Scandinavian Studies at the University for Bonn and the Bonn Center of Dependency and Slavery Studies held an interdisciplinary conference on "Slaves, Serfs and Free Labor in Medieval Northern Europe" with participants from a number of universities worldwide.

The conference sought to investigate forms of free and unfree labor in medieval Northern and North-western Europe. While previous research on medieval Scandinavian dependencies has mainly concentrated on the economic impact of Viking-Age slave-making by studying the influx and effect of Near Eastern dirhems on the Scandinavian silver economy,



or on the literary topoi developing out of Viking-Age slavery into the high medieval West Norse Saga literature, this conference concentrated on the different types of labor and the social strata recognizable in the medieval sources to arrive at a fuller picture of the Scandinavian labor situation in pre-modern times.

Detailed conference report on page 52

### SLAVERY, CAPTIVITY AND FURTHER FORMS OF ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES IN EARLY MODERN RUSSIA

Conference, September 26-27, 2019

The dichotomy between "slavery" and "freedom" has clouded the view on related forms of dependency in and outside the modern West and downplayed the historical importance of the great variety of types of bondage and coercion found in debt bondage, convict labor, servitude, serfdom and tributary labor, as well as in wage labor and various types of patronage.

To broaden the academic perspective, this conference focused on changing concepts of dependency and coercion in early modern Russia and adjacent areas. In order to grasp the "continuum of asymmetrical dependency", the conference considered textual articulations of dependence.



dencies and their historical semantics as well as institutional norms and local practices; it also focused on representations facilitating bondage, captivity, banishment and imprisonment; on imperial legislation and local practices; the role of asymmetrical dependency in cultural transfer and entanglement.

Detailed conference report on page 50

### KNEELING WOMEN, BLINDED SLAVES: CHARACTER INTERPRETATION AND THE HISTORICAL SEMANTICS OF CHINESE TERMS OF DEPENDENCY

International Workshop at Ruhr University Bochum, July 12-13, 2019



Semantic analysis based on character interpretation once formed an indispensable part of traditional Chinese lexicography and has led to many fanciful claims and speculations. Thus, the character for the word  $n\ddot{u}$ , "woman", has been argued to depict a kneeling woman, a posture that reflects women's generally inferior position in premodern Chinese society.

Several leading international experts in the field of Chinese paleography and historical semantics were invited to address the question of correlations between semantic value and orthographical form of Chinese characters with regard to the semantic field of asymmetrical dependency in Classical Chinese. The workshop provided valuable in-

sights into the traditional Chinese social construction of reality and helped to deconstruct existing concepts and narratives of *freedom* and *slavery*.

Detailed conference report on page 44

### BONN CENTER FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES (BCDH) OFFICIALLY OPENED

On July 3, 2019, the Bonn Center for Digital Humanities was officially opened in a ceremony in the *Festsaal* of the University of Bonn.

The Bonn Center for Digital Humanities (BCDH) is located at the Faculty of Arts, where it assists in collaborative digitization projects, including a digital atlas with an interactive depiction of archaeological sites of artifacts and bodies that will feature in a touring exhibition focusing on "bodies of dependency". The exhibition will be jointly curated by the University's various collections and museums, and museums in the region. There will also be a mapping project, "Voices of the Voiceless", which will visualize social differences and trace migration movements of voiceless people.



In addition, the BCDH will consolidate numerous existing digital projects across a wide variety of disciplines, including a text database and dictionary of Classic Mayan and an archive of virtual Maya inscriptions; an online database of images for teaching classical archaeology and art history; a digital collection of reports on "Saracens" in Latin Christian sources from the seventh to the eleventh centuries (work in progress); a relaunch of the *Thesaurus Linguae Sericae* (a synonym dictionary of Classical Chinese); a semantic database that explores the University's dynamic collection and discourse history based on Alexander von Humboldt's concept of the cosmos (KOSMOS); and a digitized version of the Acts of the Council of Ephesus in the year 431 CE.

### DEPENDENCY, INEQUALITY AND MATERIAL CULTURE

International Conference, February 12-14, 2019

Under the heading "Dependency, Inequality and Material Culture", thirteen scholars from six countries and with backgrounds in diverse regional and disciplinary areas came to Bonn. The aim of the conference was to obtain a clearer idea of the enormous scope which this research focus might offer to art historians, archaeologists and visual anthropologists working in the Mediterranean Region, Eastern Europe, in Mongolia, Central and South Asia as well as in the Americas.

Detailed conference report on page 36

FURTHER NEWS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF
BCDSS EVENTS CAN BE FOUND
ON OUR WEBSITE:

https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/press-releases

https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/events

https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/events

PUBLIC LECTURES AND OTHER BCDSS EVENTS AS AUDIO PODCASTS

video-and-audio-podcasts-of-selected-conferences

### THEMATIC YEAR RESEARCH AREA A: **SEMANTICS – LEXICAL FIELDS – NARRATIVES**

March 5-6, 2020

**SEMANTICS AND LEXICAL FIELDS OF SLAVERY AND OTHER FORMS OF ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES** 

### Workshop

organized by Jeannine Bischoff and Stephan Conermann

July 2-3, 2020

**NARRATIVES OF DEPENDENCY** 

### Workshop

organized by Elke Brüggen and Marion Gymnich

October 1–2, 2020

**SLAVERY AND OTHER FORMS OF STRONG ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES: SEMANTICS, LEXICAL FIELDS, NARRATIVES** 

### **International Conference**

organized by Jeannine Bischoff, Stephan Conermann and Marion Gymnich

### **LECTURE SERIES**

### The Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture Series continues in 2020

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

Februar	ry 10, 2020	Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture on "Punishment, Labor and Law: Perspectives from the Global South"  Paulo Cruz Terra (Federal University of Fluminense, Brazil) and  Mariana Armond Dias Paes (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and Max Planck Institute for European Legal History):  Brazil and Africa in Global Legal History and Global Labor History
Februar	ry 17, 2020	<b>Gwyn Campbell</b> (McGill University): Western Attitudes to Slavery in the Indian Ocean World from the 1807 Ban on the Slave Trade to the Present Day
Februar	ry 20, 2020	Chioma Daisy Onyige (Käte Hamburger Kolleg): Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Nigeria: Methods and Approaches
March 2	2, 2020	Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture on "Punishment, Labor and Law: Perspectives from the Global South"  Michaela Dimmers (University of Göttingen): Labor and Punishment in Colonial Prisons in North-Western/United Provinces: Convicts and Staff Labor, Transgressions and Punishments  Nabhojeet Sen (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies): Punishment and Coercive Labor in British India, c. 1750–1930s
March 9	9, 2020	<b>Turkana Allahverdiyeva</b> (İbn Haldun University Istanbul): Non-elite Household Slavery in the Eighteenth Century in the Crimean Khanate
March 1	16, 2020	Damian Pargas (University of Leiden): Performing Freedom: Strategies of Escaping Slavery in the Slaveholding South
March 2	23, 2020	<b>Julien Loiseau</b> (University of Aix-Marseille): Between Egypt and Ethiopia: Connections, Mobility and Exchange in Medieval Northeastern Africa
March 3	30, 2020	Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture on "Punishment, Labor and Law: Perspectives from the Global South"  Raquel R. Sirotti (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main):  Within the Law: Criminal Law and Political Repression in Brazil (1889–1930)
April 9,	2020	<b>Claudia Rauhut</b> (Free University of Berlin): Redressing Historical Injustice: Caribbean Claims for Slavery Reparations
April 16	, 2020	<b>Sue Peabody</b> (Washington State University Vancouver): Small Stories and Big Data: Strategies for Narrating Slaves' Lives in Their Historical Contexts
April 17,	, 2020	<b>Hyun Jin Kim</b> (University of Melbourne): The Perception of the Barbarian in Ancient Greece and Early China
April 20	), 2020	Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture on "Punishment, Labor and Law: Perspectives from the Global South" Rafaël Thiébaut (Free University of Amsterdam): Changes in Enslavement Methods on Madagascar and Slavery in the Mascarenes (1725–1810)
April 27	7, 2020	Joseph C. Miller Memorial Lecture on "Punishment, Labor and Law: Perspectives from the Global South"  David Lewis (University of Edinburgh):  Slavery and Ancient Greek Economic Development

# PUBLICATIONS

### **NEW BOOK BY RESEARCH GROUP LEADER** MARIANA ARMOND DIAS PAES

Slavery and Law: The Legal Status of Slaves in Nineteenth-Century Brazil, 1860-1888



Escravidão e Direito: o estatuto jurídico dos escravos no Brasil oitocentista, 1860-1888. 338 pages, Portuguese Alameda Editorial, July 12, 2019 ISBN-10: 8-579-39553-4 ISBN-13: 978-8-579-39553-6

Escravidão e Direito: O estatuto jurídico dos escravos no Brasil oitocentista, 1860-1888 (Slavery and Law: the Legal Status of Slaves in Nineteenth-Century Brazil, 1860–1888) draws on extensive archival research on legal doctrine and legal procedures filed before the Court of Appeals of Rio de Janeiro during the last decades of Brazilian slavery. The main argument of the book is that the law on slavery was not a "law of exception" but was fully in accordance with liberal legal principles and civil law norms. Slavery was not incompatible with liberalism.

In order to sustain this argument, the chapters analyze issues such as legal personality and civil incapacity of slaves; the extent of their right of action; the limitations imposed on their capacity to acquire property and make contracts; the issue of slave families; the role of possession in determining people's statuses; the influence of a master's will in shaping legal interpretations of civil law; and the existence of legal categories of people in between slavery and freedom.

### NEW BOOK BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR **WOLFRAM KINZIG**

#### Persecution of Christians in Antiquity



Christenverfolgung in der Antike 128 pages, German Verlag C.H.Beck oHG, August 28, 2019 ISBN: 978-3-406-74009-1 Soon after the death on the cross of Jesus of Nazareth, the persecution of his followers began. Until the fourth century, Christianity remained a religion always at risk, exposed not only to polemical attacks by Roman and Greek intellectuals, but also to brutal persecutions by the authorities: Peter and Paul are said to have been executed in Rome, the emperor Nero is even reported to have burned Christians as living torches, thus illuminating his gardens. Other believers were thrown to the lions or punished for their faith in other horrible ways.

This book explains the background to the persecution of Christians in antiquity, reports on martyrs and apostates, on persecutors and the persecuted, and offers a panorama of ancient worlds of faith that are still shaping the self-image of the church after 2000 years.

### NEW BOOK BY PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR **MICHAEL ZEUSKE**

### Slavery: A History of Humankind from the Stone Age to the Present Day



Sklaverei: Fine Menschheitsgeschichte von der Steinzeit his heute 303 pages, German Reclam Verlag, February 9, 2018 ISBN: 978-3-150-11155-0

The term "slavery" brings to mind African workers on plantations in the Americas. But abduction and forced labor have been part of the human condition virtually from the moment people settled down, occurring all over the globe. In this comprehensive account Michael Zeuske takes us through the entire history of slavery in all parts of the world. He writes about child slaves in China, Ottoman elite slaves, and the so-called "court Moors" (Hofmohren) at the court of Prussian kings. His account includes our own times, where people are still being treated like goods - from forced prostitutes to child soldiers.

**CURRENT PUBLICATIONS** 

https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/publications







### **BEYOND SLAVERY AND FREEDOM: OPENING UP NEW FIELDS** OF RESEARCH

Christian Mader, Julia Winnebeck

### **OPENING CONFERENCE**

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2019

Asymmetrical dependency is a new key concept developed by the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom" in order to open up new perspectives on slavery and dependency. While not all manifestations of servitude and coerced labor in history can necessarily be described as slavery, asymmetrical dependency covers a wide range of forms of human exploitation, including (but not limited to) forced labor, debt bondage and serfdom.

In the past, research focused on the classical forms of slavery in Ancient Rome or the Americas. Over the next six years, the research contributions of "Beyond Slavery and Freedom" seek to break new ground and expand horizons in terms of content, time and space. Forming the starting point of this exciting research endeavor, the conference made an initial foray into the complex issues that will be the subject of the Cluster's research.



The conference started off with a brief welcome address by the Vice Rector for Teaching and Learning Karin Holm-Müller, who described the Cluster as a huge success of the so-called "minor subjects", which were now regarded as a vital pillar for the University of Bonn's status as a University of Excellence.



Stephan Conermann opening the conference.

The speaker of the Cluster, Stephan Conermann, next took the stage. He used the opportunity to look back on the development of the research cluster since 2016 and to thank everyone for their hard work during the application process. In stressing that winning the status of Cluster of Excellence in the fall of 2018 was only the beginning of the interdisciplinary research endeavor, Conermann invited the new international Research Group Leaders and PhD students to "teach the older generation of academics how science is done".

The opening lecture was given by Trevor Burnard (Universities of Hull and Melbourne), who spoke on the politics and economics of the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies. Burnard stressed that modern slavery and multiple forms of dependency still played a major role in many societies and that several modern countries, such as Jamaica, the US, and the UK, would not exist as they do without slavery. In focusing on the overturn of the Royal African Company's monopoly in trading humans, he went on to describe one of the most significant transformations in American history: the rise of a large planter elite, the decline of a lower planter class, and the creation of large plantations where the suffering of the enslaved took place.



Trevor Burnard spoke on the politics and economics of the transatlantic slave trade and its legacies.

Michael Zeuske (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) gave the first high profile lecture on "The Second Slavery as a Global Phenomenon." He dealt with the question to what extent capitalism depended on slaveries and enslaved people, and came to the conclusion that capitalism was not possible without slaveries. Not only was the system extremely dependent on enslaved humans, but modern slaveries could in fact be regarded as forms of capitalism.

In the second lecture, Maria Agren (University of

Uppsala) described how the "Gender and Work Project" was able to evaluate a broad range of evidence of labor activities in written sources, using a combination of historical contextual methods and language technology. For her talk, she focused on a category of statements which in fact do not specify the type of work carried out. The analysis of these statements in their textual context, however, revealed interesting insights into the social relations and dependencies of the working individuals, since their activities are predominantly described in terms of who they worked for, for how long, and/or under what conditions.

In turning to material culture, the third lecture explored the question of the kind of information objects can provide about social structure and gender inequalities. In her research on pre-Columbian ceramic figurines from coastal Ecuador, María Fernanda Ugalde (Catholic University of Ecuador) demonstrated how images and materiality provide an essential way of communication. Next to the depiction of gendered attributes, the pre-Columbian figurines were integrated into sociopolitical and religious spheres of interaction.





Fernanda Pirie presented laws on slavery from the earliest legal codices.

From the bird's eye perspective of global history, Fernanda Pirie (Oxford University) presented examples of laws on slavery from the earliest legal codices. The comparison of these both geographically and historically highly diverse examples led her to the conclusion that laws on slavery were time and again attempts to simplify and organize the much more complex reality of a range of co-existing forms of dependencies.

In the fifth lecture, Noel Lenski (Yale University) explored the historical impact of narratives like the Ham tradition (Genesis 9) which were employed to interpret slavery as a consequence of sin or a punishment for a crime committed by one's ancestors. According to Lenski, the notion of the guilt of dependent or enslaved persons serves to justify the dehumanization of fellow human beings up to the present day.



Rudolf Stichweh described strong asymmetrical dependencies as constitutive elements of social organization.

The last lecture was given by Rudolf Stichweh (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, Forum Internationale Wissenschaft) in the shape of a theory of asymmetrical dependency from a sociological and historical perspective. On the basis of his theory of social interactions as balancing and unbalancing operations, Stichweh described asymmetrical dependency as a power imbalance and strong asymmetrical

dependencies as constitutive elements of social organization.

The Opening Conference's lectures focused on key issues of the Cluster's five major research areas. They showed that dependency is a historically and geographically ubiquitous phenomenon which deserves to be studied as such.



Dr. Christian Mader is leader of the Research Group "The Archaeology of Dependency (ArchDepth): Resources, Power and Status

Differentiation" at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. His research is driven by the question of how to identify forms of asymmetrical dependency in the archaeological record. Integral to this question is the concept of resource dependencies embodied in a wide range of material culture. Resource dependencies imply two significant sorts of strong structural dependency within a larger ecological and sociopolitical context: the first concerns the dependency of people on resources of every kind, which is a crucial basis for the second, which is dependencies between humans.



Dr. Julia Winnebeck is leader of the Research Group "Structures of Dependency in the Late Antique and Early Medieval

Western Church" at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. She explores structures of asymmetrical dependencies within the late antique and early medieval Church and similar structures linking the Church of this period to its surrounding societies. Her current project, "Handling Homicide", focuses on the occurrence of such structures in the ecclesiastical judiciary and the system of penance. Here, she pays special attention to "ethical grey zone cases", such as abortion, suicide, and self-defense.



### VIOLENCE, **PUNISHMENT AND LABOR** IN ANCIENT EGYPT AND THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Adam Fagbore

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

JANUARY 15, 2019

The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies' workshop "Violence, Punishment and Labor in Ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East" was held at the Egyptian Museum of the University of Bonn. The workshop explored how, throughout history, various forms of punishment played different functions in connection to a range of labor relations in the ancient Near East. Within this conceptual frame, labor acts as the starting point to investigate how entanglements between multiple forms of punishment and multiple labor relations co-exist.

Before the formal commencement of the workshop, all speakers were invited to an informal discussion by Stefan Bojowald, Amr El Hawary (both University of Bonn), and Ludwig Morenz (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) on the ongoing Collaborative Research Center project "Lexicographical and Conceptual Analysis of 'Labor' in Pharaonic Egypt". The presentation focused on a wide range of lexicographical and conceptual approaches that contributed to an informal discussion of how historical investigations into labor practices can be approached in practice in Pharaonic Egypt.



The workshop formally began with a presentation by Christian De Vito (University of Bonn, member of the Cluster of Excellence) who formally introduced the wider themes of the workshop before discussing the specific research aims of the newly established research group "Punishment, Labor and Dependency".

The first session of the afternoon was chaired by Christopher Eyre (University of Liverpool) and was led by discussions by Alex Loktionov (University of Cambridge) and Adam Fagbore (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies). Alex Loktionov's presentation "Formal, Informal, and Divine: Compulsion Mechanisms, Punishment and Labor Through a Prism of Legal Pluralism in Ancient Egypt, 2700–1100 BCE" investigated how multiple legal regimes and punishments meted out under different legal regimes expressed concurrent or complementary visions of justice and authority. Adam Fagbore's discussion on "Institutional Punishment as Normative Modes of Dependency and Labor in Pharaonic Egypt" focused on the role of flogging as the mode of revenue collection and peasant control in the Egyptian countryside.

The second session was chaired by Ludwig Morenz and was led by interesting discussions by Uroš Matić (University of Münster; Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna) and Julia Giessler (University of Leiden). Uroš Matić's talk on "To Kill Like a God and To Kill Like a Man: Ontological Turn and Violent Treatments of Enemies and Prisoners of War in New Kingdom Egypt" explored how symbolic violence (depicted violence/punishment) against captives of conflict (internal population and foreigners) can be separated from actual modes of violence that were used in practice.



Abu Simbel, Egypt

The final presentation by Julia Giessler on "Mark Them or Put Them in Fetters! On Punitive Functions of Body Marks in First Millennium Babylonia" discussed the realities behind the penalizing use of body marks in Neo-Babylonian temples. The concluding panel debate discussed whether the analytical distinction between violence and punishment was useful in the historical context considered.

The outcome determined that modern separations between violence and punishment were not particularly relevant in ancient contexts where historical actors seemingly expected to be violently punished for digressions against their superior.



### Adam Fagbore

is doctoral researcher in the research group "Punishment, Labor and Dependency" at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies.

His research project analyzes the balance between the role of deliberate displays of institutional violence and how various forms of punishment acted as modes of social organization in the pre-classical world. He aims to find out how state hierarchy in one context, is to be examined in relation to the degree of penetration of state power into hierarchical forms of behavior at local level.

### DEPENDENCY. **INEQUALITY AND MATERIAL CULTURE**

Julia A.B. Hegewald

### **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

FEBRUARY 12-14, 2019

Americas.

In order to actively enter into the debate about dependency studies at the outset of the Cluster, the speakers of Research Area B "Embodied

Dependencies", Martin Bentz and Julia A.B. Hegewald, organized a three-day international conference at the University of Bonn. Under the heading "Dependency, Inequality and Material Culture", thirteen scholars from six countries, who work within the diverse regional and disciplinary areas of the research area, came to Bonn. The aim of the conference was to obtain a clearer idea of the enormous scope which this research focus might offer to art historians, archaeologists and visual anthropologists working in the Mediterranean Region, Eastern Europe, in Mongolia, Central and South Asia as well as in the

"Embodied Dependencies" will examine primarily non-textual remnants of asymmetrical dependencies which have been "inscribed" in bodies and artifacts. The scholars hope to correct the widespread imbalance in the academic evaluation of written and non-written traditions in order to establish art history, archaeology and object-based anthropology on an equal level with those disciplines of the humanities that predominantly focus on textual sources. In this way, we intend to give a voice to actors - and to their objects - who operate in non-textual environments.

After words of welcome and an introduction the first afternoon focused on the Mediterranean World and largely on archaeological approaches. The first presentations concentrated on slaves, their working conditions and archaeological evidence for less privileged and dependent strata of society. The opening speaker was Dennis Beck (University of Bonn), who had also been actively involved in organizing this conference. His research focuses on the use of slaves in the process chains of marble production in Tunisia. Exposing the enormous scope of different approaches, the next presenter, Andrea Binsfeld (University of Luxembourg), moved our attention to the area of gender inequalities and the theme of transcending gender in the Ancient World. The subsequent papers by Irene Högner (University of Munich, LMU), on material from Campania, illustrating how social inequality influenced dietary patterns documented in skeletal remains from the Iron Age; and by Nicolò Pini (Universities of Cologne and Bonn), focusing on settlement patterns as indicators for asymmetrical dependencies, concluded this first section on the Classical World. The final contribution of the day, on slavery in East Central Europe, was given by Matthias Hardt (University of Leipzig).

The first two speakers of the second section, Kristen Pearson (Harvard University and University of Ulaanbaatar) and Gudrun Bühnemann (University of Wisconsin-Madison), extended the regional scope. Their presentations focused on Mongolia and Nepal respectively, directing attention of the discussion to Asia. By speaking about allegorical religious statues which embody an imagery of suppression, the paper on Buddhist art from the Kathmandu Valley widened our understanding of what extreme forms of dependency can include or refer to. The geographical concentration on Asia was further continued during the following contributions with three more specialists speaking on South Asian visual remains. Both Tiziana Lorenzetti (University of Rome La Sapienza) and Cristina Bignami (University of Tübingen), showed evidence of self-enslavement by adherents of the South Indian bhakti movement. Followers of this cult called themselves "slaves of god". As can be deduced from decorative carved panels and specially shaped preserved ritual knives, some went as far as sacrificing their very lives, by cutting off their own heads. The information presented by Jahfar Shareef Pokkanali (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies), who since has been offered a place as a doctoral candidate by the Cluster, illustrated forms of extreme dependency expressed in the art and architecture of the minority Muslim communities on the west coast of South India.

The remainder of this and the next day were filled with contributions presenting archaeological and ethnographic material from different regions of South

America. The first speaker, who has since been appointed to lead a research group in Research Area B of the Cluster of Excellence, was Christian Mader (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies). Returning to the earlier archaeological focus of the conference, he discussed material on resource dependencies and the formation of social stratification from the pre-Columbian Andes. This was followed by Daniel Aquino (University of San Carlos, Guatemala), who spoke about inequalities between rulers and captives as illustrated in the art of the Maya Lowlands (550–900 CE). The final speaker, Katherina Anne Miller-Wolf (Indiana University East, Richmond), concluded this stimulating conference by presenting bio-archaeological findings from Meso-America from a prehistoric context. The final day also included the chance for attendees to visit either the Academic Art Museum or the Bonn Anthropological Collection from the Americas.

The aim of this first conference of Research Area B had been to obtain a better idea of the diversity of the various geographical regions and disciplinary methodologies, and to find out about new approaches to visual representations of extreme forms of dependency. The speakers and their research foci clearly illustrated that this is a truly vast field. Attendees encouraged the conference organizers and other members of the Research Area to plan a number of more specialized regional as well as focused methodological workshops and conferences in the following years.



Prof. Dr. Julia A.B. Hegewald is Principal Investigator at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and Research Area Speaker of Research

Area B "Embodied Dependencies". She focuses on artistic and architectural expressions of different forms of dependency in Asian, particularly South Asian, art and architecture. She employs the theory of re-use to show how different people have reacted in a variety of situations of extreme dependency, frequently in very creative ways, to integrate the old and the new, to bridge divides and eventually to contribute to cultural processes which are able to heal and mediate between at times wide and violent disparities of cultural expression. Her current research project is titled "Artistic Communities and Patronage in Asia: Dependencies and Freedoms".



# CAPTURE, BONDAGE, AND FORCED RELOCATION **IN ASIA**

Claude Chevaleyre



### Dr. Claude Chevaleyre

is leader of the Research Group "Beyond Slavery: Dependency in Asian History" at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. At the crossroads of Chinese studies and labor history, his research

addresses the global history of human bondage in early-modern China (between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries). It covers two main research fields: a first aspect explores the articulations and interactions between norms, concepts and practices of bondage. A second aspect of his research concerns human trafficking in early-modern China and East Asia. Both aspects of his research are interrelated and converge in an overarching interest for the semantics of dependency. By looking at these phenomena from China and Eastern Asia, Chevaleyre's research also questions the singularity of Western experiences, as well as the relevance of categories elaborated from Western historical contexts as universal concepts to think dependency as a global phenomenon.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE DE LYON MARCH 13-14, 2019

In March 2019, an international conference entitled "Capture, Bondage, and Forced Relocation in Asia" was organized at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France) by Claude Chevaleyre (Center for Scientific Research/ Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) and Jennifer Gaynor (State University of New York at Buffalo).

Funded by the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, the Linnaeus University Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, and the Crafoord Foundation, the conference gathered more than twenty-five international specialists on slavery, human trafficking and forced labor in early-modern Asia and the Indian Ocean World (including four members of the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies). It was also one of the events selected to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the French National Center for Scientific Research.

The Lyon conference was not the first academic event devoted to the study of bondage dynamics, slaving and trafficking in early-modern Asia and the Indian Ocean World. Over several years, a wide network of historians has gradually formed around workshops, conferences and digital humanities projects to reassess the place and history of slavery and trafficking in this broad area extending from the eastern coasts of Africa to the Far East.

A kick-off workshop held at the International Institute of Social History in 2016 (the proceedings of which were published in March 2019 in a special issue of the International Review of Social History) was soon followed by an international conference organized by Jeff Fynn-Paul (Leiden University) and Richard Allen (Framingham State University) in June 2017 at Leiden University. With keynote lectures by Anthony Reid (Australian National University) and James Warren (Murdoch University), the Leiden conference was a first attempt to broaden the scope of the history of "Slavery in Asia and in the Indian Ocean world" by moving beyond the colonial framework to integrate the continental and East-Asian experiences. The Leiden conference underscored the necessity (as well as the chance) to continue in this direction, and a third workshop was organized in September 2017 in Kalmar (Sweden) by Hans Hägerdal (Linnaeus University, Växjö), expanding both the network and the scope of the contributions.

These first three conferences and workshops also underlined that, in contrast to the Atlantic world, a comprehensive and detailed insight into the scope, structure and patterns of the Asian slave trade is still lacking, with some regions remaining largely unexplored. Out of this concern emerged a series of projects in digital humanities that aim to reconstruct and quantify slave trade and human trafficking voyages in early-modern Asia.

An initial workshop, designed to provide the first steps towards the creation of an integrated database on slave trading in the interconnected parts of maritime Asia and their hinterland was then held at the International Institute of Social History in September 2018. Gathering scholars working mainly (but not exclusively) with European archives, and with the insightful and amicable participation of David Eltis (The Transatlantic Slave Trade Database), the workshop laid the foundations of a pilot project hosted by the International Institute of Social History, and the guidelines for future collaborations.

THE LYON CONFERENCE WAS THEREFORE DESIGNED TO FULFILL THREE OBJECTIVES:

- ► To continue the conversation initiated in the preceding workshop and conferences;
- ► To follow up with the advance of the database project;
- ► To expand the inquiry into bondage-related practices to continental and non-colonial Asian areas.

With regard to the first objective, the papers presented provided original input on slaving, resistance and forced relocation throughout colonial spaces, as well as promising new research questions and projects.

These included Kate Ekama's (Stellenbosch University) study of the dynamics of emancipation, manumission and the internal slave trade in the British Cape colony based on auction records; Alexander Geleen's (International Institute of Social History) use of placards to explore the regulation of slave mobility in Batavia; and Patricia Souza de Faria's (Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro) investigation of the characteristics of slavery in the "State of India" centered on Goa. The conference highlighted the potential of digital humanities to help mapping and quantifying human trafficking and slave trading in early-modern Asia. Samantha Sint Nicolaas (International Institute of Social History) presented preliminary insights of her work on the existing datasets collected by the International Institute of Social History, while Fei Si-yen (Penn State University) introduced her promising research on human trading in late-imperial China using the LoGarT research tool developed by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

As for the ambition to go toward a truly connected history of slaving in Asia, the program has kept its promises. Besides a complete panel on slaving practices in Indonesia (Hans Hägerdal, Emilie Wellfelt (Stockholm University) and Jennifer Gaynor (University of Buffalo and State University of New York)), new inputs were sourced from contributions to the history of slavery in late-imperial China (Fei Si-yen and James Fujitani (Azusa Pacific University, California)), while Jeannine Bischoff (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) and Lisa Hellman (Free University of Berlin) presented challenging papers on human transactions in Tibet and on the life cycles of Swedish captives across Central Asia and beyond, respectively.

The Lyon conference paved the way toward an improved understanding of the local and transnational dynamics that allowed for the social uprooting of individuals and their reinsertion into contexts of enslavement and dependency. The scholarly network formed out of this conference and its forerunners has reached a critical mass that now permits us to consider new means of continuing the dialog and to disseminate the results of individual and collective research.

As a word of conclusion, we would like to honor the memory of Joseph Calder Miller (1939-2019), distinguished T. Cary Johnson Jr. Professor of History at the University of Virginia, who passed away only a few days before the conference started. Joseph C. Miller had been an active participant in our previous workshops and conferences and had kindly accepted, once again, to join us in Lyon. Those who had the opportunity to meet him in the past years will miss his enthusiasm, his kindness, and his challenging and always caring observations.

<sup>\*</sup> Further Reading: Free and Unfree Labor in Atlantic and Indian Ocean Port Cities (1700-1850). International Review of Social History 64, Special Issue 27 (2019).



# THE LIBERATED AFRICANS: **SLAVERY, FREEDOM AND DEPENDENCY IN THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY ATLANTIC**

Mariana Armond Dias Paes

### **LECTURE BY BEATRIZ MAMIGONIAN**

APRIL 2, 2019

The Cluster of Excellence received a visit from Beatriz Mamigonian, Professor of History at the Federal University of Santa Catarina, in Brazil. She gave a talk entitled "The Liberated Africans: Slavery, Freedom and Dependency in the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic".

The Liberated Africans were a dependent group distinguished from both slaves and freed people, and an interesting case in thinking about Atlantic categories of dependency where issues of race, gender and colonialism intermesh. In Brazil, Liberated Africans were the eleven thousand men, women and children freed from slave ships and forced to undertake compulsory labor between 1821 and 1864. But, according to a radical reading of the Brazilian abolition law of 1831, all the eight hundred thousand Africans who were brought into Brazilian territory in contravention of the law until the early 1850s, and illegally held as slaves, fell under the category of Liberated Africans.



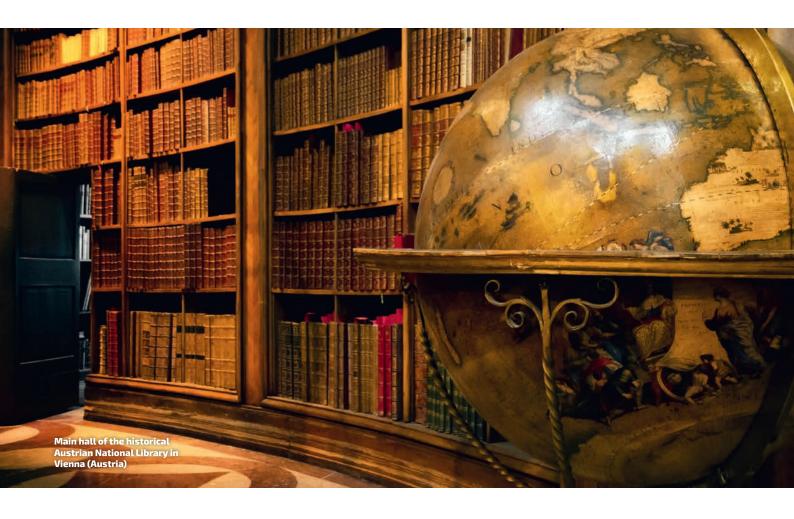
The political and diplomatic conflicts over the enforcement of suppressive measures from the 1830s through the 1850s, and the political conundrum resulting from the legal challenges to illegal enslavement from the 1860s through the 1880s, framed and distinguished the experience of the Liberated Africans in Brazil from that of liberated Africans elsewhere in the Atlantic World.

Professor Mamigonian's talk was based on her most recent book Africanos livres: a abolição do tráfico de escravos no Brasil (2017). She reconstructed the individual and collective experiences of Liberated Africans from their being apprehended and emancipated from slave ships, to their assignment, compulsory labor and final emancipation, thanks to unusually rich records of named persons from the Brazilian government. The British regarded the recaptured Africans as the human face of the suppressed slave trade and as symbols of abolitionist efforts. In Brazil, however, the prospects of Liberated Africans living their lives in freedom were considerably restricted by the extensive practices of illegal enslavement. In her book, the "Liberated African Question" serves as a new lens to view slavery, abolition, compulsory labor and dependency structures in nineteenth-century Brazil.



Dr. Mariana Armond **Dias Paes** is leader of the Research Group "Law and the Creation of Dependency in the Ibero-Atlantic" at the Bonn Center for

Dependency and Slavery Studies. In her research project, she analyzes how legal categories, norms and institutions of property law created asymmetrical structures of dependencies in the shared legal environment of the Lusophone South Atlantic. She examines property law institutions and categories that shaped slave and land property as well as the statuses of diverse groups of people in-between slavery and freedom between the 1780s and the 1880s.



## **GRAMMARS OF COERCION**

Juliane Schiel

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP, **VIENNA UNIVERSITY**

JUNE 17-19, 2019

The international workshop "Grammars of Coercion", generously sponsored by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) and the Faculty of Historical and Cultural Studies of the University of Vienna, brought together social and labor historians as well as anthropologists working on issues such as slavery, serfdom, convict labor, sex work or unpaid care work. Also present were some twenty Masters students of history from the Universities of Vienna and Zurich studying the potentials of an historical semantics approach to social history.

The workshop had a twofold aim: First, it was meant to bring together researchers and Masters students for a mutual exchange and joint training on new methods in historical semantics, ranging from micro-semantic analyses to new text mining tools, future means of digitization and big data collections. Second, the workshop's participants aimed at setting up the analytical framework for a collaborative project of the COST Action CA18205 Worlds of Related Coercions in Work (WORCK) on "Grammars of Coercion".



The organizers of the workshop, Juliane Schiel (University of Vienna) and the working group "Free and Unfree Labour" of the European Labour History Network (ELHN), had prepared a reader with relevant publications that set the basis for a general exchange on how to distinguish and categorize different forms of labor coercion from each other without using the predefined categories and terms of the modern West, often overloaded with colonial meanings.

On the first day, researchers from Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland presented and discussed empirical cases ranging from Ancient Rome (Uiran Gebara da Silva, University of São Paulo), the Arabic Middle Ages (Undine Ott, University of Göttingen) and early-modern Denmark (Johan Heinsen, Aalborg University) to the Ottoman Empire (Hayri Özkoray, University of Aix-Marseille), early-modern China (Claude Chevaleyre, BCDSS and ENS Lyon) and contemporary Africa (Benedetta Rossi, University of Birmingham). While Juliane Schiel had opened the workshop with conceptual ideas for the planned "Collaboratory on Grammars of Coercion", Maria

Ågren (Uppsala University) and Ludolf Kuchenbuch (Universities of Hagen and Berlin) commented on the discussion from their experiences with collaborative research projects and historical semantics analyses. Silke Schwandt (Bielefeld University) concluded the first day by translating her empirical findings into the logics of a digital database.

On the second day, the international guests were invited to attend the students' training in methods of historical semantics and digital humanities. First, Tobias Hodel (Zurich University) gave a practical introduction into the Handwritten Text Recognition Program of "Transkribus", then Silke Schwandt led a hands-on session on new text mining tools in digital humanities. This was followed by a 90-minute interview with Ludolf Kuchenbuch on the history of concepts and the new perspectives of historical semantics, for which the students had prepared questions. The audio recording will shortly be published as a podcast. Finally, Maria Ågren gave an evening lecture in front of the workshop's participants and a broader audience on "Service, Help and Delegation. Labor Relations in the Past".

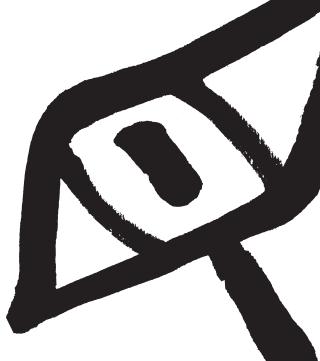
On the third day, the persons overseeing the future COST Action network WORCK (November 2019 to October 2023) met to sum up the workshop's results and decided on the general framework and the next working steps for the "Global Collaboratory of Grammars of Coercion".

Altogether, it was a very fruitful and intense discussion that forcefully underlined the potential of a historical semantics approach for the study of coercive labor relations in a long-term and global perspective.



Prof. Dr. Juliane Schiel is professor for Economic and Social History in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Periods at the University of Vienna. Her research

interests are slavery in the premodern Mediterranean, social inequalities in preindustrial Europe, labor coercion in a global perspective, historical semantics as well as microhistory and entangled histories.



# "KNEELING WOMEN, **BLINDED SLAVES**": CHARACTER INTERPRETATION AND THE HISTORICAL **SEMANTICS OF CHINESE TERMS OF DEPENDENCY**

Felix Bohlen, Thomas Crone, Paul Fahr and Alexander Saechtig



## **WORKSHOP RUHR UNIVERSITY BOCHUM**

JULY 12-13, 2019

The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and the Department of Chinese Language and Literature of the Ruhr University Bochum co-organized a workshop on questions of Chinese paleography and historical semantics pertaining to the semantic field of asymmetrical dependency in Classical Chinese. The workshop was hosted by the Faculty of East Asian Studies of the Ruhr University Bochum and included talks by twelve invited international experts.

Following the welcome speeches by the Rector of the Ruhr University, Axel Schölmerich, and the dean of the Faculty of East Asian Studies and organizer of the conference, Christian Schwermann, the first series of lectures, which were held in Chinese, focused on the meaningfulness of Chinese character analysis for the understanding of terms of the Early Chinese semantic field of dependency, as well as on approaches towards graph analysis and lexicographic semantics of Old Chinese in general.



Rector Axel Schölmerich opens the international expert workshop.

In his opening lecture on "The Interrelation between Form and Meaning of Ancient Chinese Characters", Liu Zhao 劉釗 (Fudan University, Shanghai) examined different explanatory models for the interpretation of Chinese characters. He pointed out that Chinese character analysis attracts broad attention in China and is therefore often also conducted by non-professionals. He further demonstrated that because even paleographic studies themselves sometimes rely on the results of such "popular" paleography, the question of how to interpret and explain the composition and elements of a Chinese character represents a fundamental problem that even academic paleographers cannot avoid. He particularly warned against the recurrent tendency to misread Chinese characters as pictograms

and deduce semantic content by solely concentrating on the written form and not the usage and context of a word. Liu concluded his talk by arguing that elements of Chinese characters should first be considered to possess phonetic rather than semantic features to avoid misreading "pictophonetic characters" (xingshengzi 形 聲字) as "ideographic characters" (huiyizi 會意字).



Liu Zhao poiting out that Chinese character analysis attracts broad attention in China - also by non-professionals.

Li Shoukui 李守奎 (Tsinghua University, Beijing) was able to build on the problems raised in the introductory lecture. His talk on "Issues in the Explanation of Chinese Characters" focused on the interpretation of the character也 (ye) by Xu Shen 許慎 (ca. 58–148 CE) in his ancient character dictionary Shuowen jiezi 說文解字 (Explanation of Simple-Graph and Compound Characters), where Xu Shen explains the character as representing the picture of a vagina. However, Li demonstrated that Xu Shen's interpretation is based on a specific Small Seal script (xiao zhuan 小篆) version of the character and that the result of his interpretation would probably have been very different if he had considered earlier or even more commonly used versions of the graph. Li argued that Xu Shen's interpretation was probably strongly informed by Han Dynasty (202 BCE-220 CE) cosmology, according to which "Earth" (di), a word written with the structurally related character 地 (di; composed of 'soil' tu 土 and ye 也), was an accumulation of (female) Yin 陰. Therefore, he suggested that while Xu Shen's interpretation may not contribute to our understanding of the term, it nonetheless provides us with insights into the cosmological thinking of that time.

Wang Ping 王平 (Shanghai Jiaotong University) delivered a lecture on passages in Western Zhou (ca. 1045-771 BCE) bronze inscriptions that document the gifting of human beings: "Ren, 'People' as Gifts in Western Zhou Bronze Inscriptions". She raised various questions concerning the nature and significance of this practice and proposed that the gifting of humans was an honor typically reserved for high-ranking aristocrats and rulers. She emphasized that people of very different statuses are listed as gifts in bronze inscriptions and pointed out

that the act of gifting was referred to by different words. The lecture was followed by a vibrant discussion on what these words actually meant and how they might be connected to the status of the human gifts.

In his lecture entitled "Chinese Characters and the Four Stages in the Development of the Chinese Lexicon", Wang Guiyuan 王貴元 (Renmin University of China, Beijing) gave a talk on the general history of the development of Chinese characters from the late Shang (ca. 1600–1045 BCE) and Western Zhou (ca. 1045–771 BCE) periods to the period of the Six Dynasties (220–589 CE). Wang divided the development into four evolutionary stages, which started with a monosemantic use of characters (characters are used to write only one particular meaning of a word) and ended with the establishment of a unified system of "derived characters" (pai sheng zi 派生字). According to Wang, important factors contributing to this chronological development were semantic change and word formation, as well as increasingly influential efforts to systematize the ways of creating and reusing established characters.

In his lecture on "Relations between Form and Meaning in the Semantic Field of Slavery", Li Yunfu 李運富 (Zhengzhou University) discussed the importance of gender differentiation in Early Chinese terms of dependency. He analyzed the use of the words chen 臣, gie 妾, nu 奴 and bi 婢 in texts of the pre-Qin, Qin (221–206 BCE), and Han period (206 BCE-220 CE) and focused particularly on their use within parallelisms. He pointed out that while the parallel use of chen and gie can be traced back to the oracle bone inscriptions of the Shang Dynasty, the pair is replaced by *nu* and *gie* in Qin, and finally by *nu* and bi in Han texts. Moreover, in all parallelisms chen and nu refer to male, while qie and bi refer to female "slaves". Li argued that the chronology of this change provides us with an interesting perspective on the diachronic shift of the conceptual field in general, and shows that dynastic change possessed a significant influence on the use of Early Chinese terms of dependency.



Liu Shoukui focused on the interpretation of the character 也 – providing us with insights into the cosmological thinking of the Han

The final talk of the first day of the conference, "An Exemplary Collation of Word Meanings in Traditional Texts and in Newly Excavated Manuscripts of the Qin Dynasty" by He Yuhua 何余華 (Zhengzhou University), was a comparison between word meanings in received and excavated texts of the Qin period (221-206 BCE). Focusing on terms of the semantic field of dependency, He Yuhua showcased several instances of word meanings that are common to excavated texts but are only rarely found in traditionally transmitted sources. He pointed out that such cases can help to clarify word meanings and entire text passages and also may provide new insights concerning the dating of received texts. With regard to the semantic field of dependency, word meanings in excavated texts also shed an interesting light on language policies enacted by the Qin emperors and provide important semantic material that should be incorporated into modern reference works.

The second series of lectures was held in English and dealt with problems at the interface of paleography, semantics, and semantic change in individual Chinese terms of dependency or specific parts of the wider semantic field of dependency.

William G. Boltz (University of Washington, Seattle) devoted his talk to "The Myth of the Kneeling Woman". He argued against the common belief that the graph 女 (nü, "woman") expresses a lexical meaning of "kneeling" and thus reflects women's "inferiority." Boltz emphasized the necessity to make a strict distinction between a character's orthographical form and the word(s) it denotes. He stressed that underlying concepts are reflected in words, but not in characters. With regard to the character for  $n\ddot{u}$  and its usage in oracle-bone inscriptions and other early texts, Boltz argued that nothing indicates a semantic connotation of a "kneeling woman" or even a correlation to concepts of "inferiority." Rather, the graph simply writes the word denoting "woman." However, in addition to this meaning, there is plenty of textual evidence that the character could also write the word "settled, stable," from which the later graph 安 (an) derived. Moreover, there is phonological evidence that the word nü (Old Chinese \*nrah) and homophone personal pronouns of the second person like ru 汝 (Old Chinese \*na?) and er 而 (Old Chinese \*n**ə**) are etymological cognates, lacking any semantical notion of "kneeling" or "inferiority." Overall, based on an investigation of the character's usage in early texts, Boltz' talk provided valuable lexicological and etymological arguments against the common interpretation of the character's form of nü reflecting female "inferiority."

Wolfgang Behr (University of Zurich) focused in his talk "Ears Wide Shut: On jianyi 兼義 and the Non-suppressibility of Latent Semantics in Chinese Word and Character Formation" on different ways in which Chinese characters and words could be imbued with new meaning by later interpretation. He began by introducing Wang Anshi's 王安石 (1021-1086 CE) work Zishuo 字說 (Explanations of Characters), in which Wang had interpreted characters according to their graphic components. Behr called that phenomenon "etymography" referring to Jan Assmann, who had described the same way of ancient character interpretation concerning the Egyptian hieroglyphs. In the second part of his talk, Behr drew attention to so-called "folk etymology" as a trigger of semantic change. By that process, Chinese translators of Buddhist texts would analyze Sanskrit words erroneously, creating well-known but etymologically misguided Chinese terms; or they would read meaning into Chinese characters which were only used phonetically in the beginning. Overall, Behr illustrated how the re-interpretation of Chinese characters and words from the semantic field of dependency shaped the lexicon of that language in a significant manner.



Christoph Harbsmeier explored a wide range of words that are central to the concept of dependency in ancient China.

Another approach was presented by Ken-ichi Takashima (University of British Columbia, Vancouver) in his talk "Paleography, Historical Phonology, and Historical Semantics: 'Kneeling Women with Wrists Crossed' and 'Slaves with Eyes Gouged'", in which he tackled the question of why graphs in oracle-bone inscriptions were designed and written in certain specific ways. Which factors might have guided a scribe in creating new graphs or modifying existing ones? To answer this question, he introduced the concept of an "underlying meaning" that might have been a decisive factor for a scribe to design a graph in a specific way. Takashima illustrated this approach on the basis of the two characters 女 (nü, "woman") and 民 (min, "people"), which were two of the workshop's key terms. With regard to the former, Takashima suggested that graphical elements such as "to bind" and "kneeling human figure" indicate the underlying meaning of "sex suppressed by external forces." For the latter, Takashima presumed an underlying meaning of a class of human beings considered as "ignorant populace." He accepted the view that the character writing the word min is composed of the two graphemes denoting "eye" and "instrument to harm the eye," but concluded that, due to the character's limited usage in oracle-bones, the graphic intent of the scribes remains obscure.

In his talk on "Character Interpretation and Semantics of Chinese Terms Used for Convicts of the Category li chen qie 女 in Qin and Early Han Time Manuscripts," Ulrich Lau (University of Hamburg) drew attention to a standard legal category of convicts liable to penal labor in ancient China. The compound li chen gie is used in historical documents from 304 up to 118 BCE. The etymology of all three constituents of the compound poses certain problems. Concerning li, Lau proposed that this term might be related to the homophonous word li 戾, meaning "transgression", "crime" or "punishment." According to this line of reasoning, li chen gie would refer to enslaved people who had committed some crime, being thereby liable to punishment. Concerning chen, Lau followed the thread of Liu Zhao and Wolfgang Behr, both of whom had discussed the meaning of that word in their talks. Accordingly, Lau proposed that chen might be explained as "someone being looked down at," "someone being despised," that is: a "slave." Concerning qie, Lau finally introduced several possibilities how that character might be analyzed as well as how that word might be explained etymologically. Overall the talk made vividly clear how etymology and the analysis of ancient Chinese characters can support our understanding of ancient Chinese words relating to the concept of dependency, especially when studying newly excavated manuscripts.

In her talk on "Bodily Submission: The Chinese Art of Bowing and Kneeling," Françoise Bottéro (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) presented a detailed overview of terms from the semantic field of "bowing," such as zuo 坐 ("to kneel"), qui 跪 ("sit on both knees"), bai 拜 ("to salute") or fu 伏 ("to lie down"). The gathered evidence from transmitted texts proves the complexity of this semantic field and its development in Classical Chinese until 220 CE. The terminological diversity is also proven by the existence of a rich commentary tradition on issues concerning the "the art of bowing" However, a closer look reveals that "bowing" was not so much a matter of "gender submission," but rather gender-neutral and an indispensable means for non-verbal, performative communication. Moreover, Bottéro drew attention to the fact that "the art of bowing." did not only play an important role in ancient China, but is prevalent in present-day East and South-East Asia's etiquette and ritual communication.

Christoph Harbsmeier's (University of Oslo) talk on "Reflections on the words chen 臣, ren 人 and min 民" focused on various semantic as well as syntactic properties of the words referred to in its title as well as other related terms of dependency. Not only did Harbsmeier



Ulrich Lau made clear, how etymology and the analysis of ancient Chinese characters can support our understanding of ancient Chinese words relating to the concept of dependency.

shed light on the reference of words like ren, which, as a grammatical subject, regularly denotes the "other people." He also investigated the question which words expressed the concept of man in ancient China, arguing for example that the meaning of the word ren ("human being") comprised "ordinary persons" (shumin 庶民) as well as the "gentleman" (junzi 君子), or that wanmin 萬 民 ("the many, ethnically diverse peoples") has to be distinguished from baixing 百姓 ("the commoners who are governed by the ruler and his officials"). Finally, Harbsmeier drew attention to certain conceptual features of the ruler-minister relationship. For example, an excavated manuscript compares the relationship of ruler and minister to the relationship between father and son, noting however, that the former connection could be terminated if one party wished to do so. By drawing attention to passages like these, Harbsmeier explored a wide range of words that are central to the concept of dependency in ancient China.

In conclusion, the workshop provided valuable insights into the role of character interpretation in the historical semantics of classical Chinese terms of dependency. The lectures' topics reflected the conceptual complexity and scope of the semantic field and raised several important questions regarding the diachronic change of the field between the Shang and the Han periods and its relatedness to orthographic changes. Fundamental issues, such as the general relation between character interpretation and word meaning were discussed as well as particular lexical and conceptual details of various areas of the semantic field. Together with newly furnished etymological and textual evidence, these discussions contributed to an advancement on several issues.



# GENDER, INTERSECTIONALITY AND DEPENDENCY

Marion Gymnich

### INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

JULY 18-19, 2019

The main goal of the international workshop "Gender, Intersectionality and Dependency" organized by Research Area E "Gender and Intersectionality" was to explore different intersectional approaches to the study of dependencies across various regions and in a wide range of different historical periods, with a special focus on gender and its relation to other social factors shaping dependencies.

The workshop brought together members of the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom: Asymmetrical Dependencies in Pre-Modern Societies" and eleven international scholars from various different fields, whose research focuses on epochs ranging from the Old Assyrian period, which was discussed in Sarah Schlüter's (University of Munich) paper on "Female 'Slaves' in the Old Assyrian period (ca. 1950-1750 BC)", via the European middle ages addressed in Janel Fontaine's (University of London) discussion of "Intersectionality and Enslavement in Early Medieval Europe", to the beginning of the twentieth century, which Christine Whyte's (University of Glasgow) paper on "Paying the Right Bone: Adultery, Labor and Domestic Violence in

Early Twentieth Century Sierra Leone" focused on. Several presentations explored primarily developments in the nineteenth century (in Latin America, Europe and Africa): "A Literary Counter Canon of the Oppressed in Nineteenth Century Latin America" by Catarina von Wedemeyer (Free University of Berlin); "Gender, Dependency and Slavery in Marriage" by Helen McCabe (University of Nottingham); and "Money, Price and Inflation in Fang Bridewealth, Early Nineteenth Century to the 1930s" by Enrique Martino (University of Göttingen).

Two of the papers presented in the context of the workshop exemplified what can be gained by adopting a longue durée perspective: "Understanding the Emergence of Authority in Prehistory: The Development of the 'Family'" by Judith Spicksley (University of Hull) and "The q'ateras in the Popular Markets of the Andes: Expectations and Gender in the Longue Dureé of Asymmetric Dependencies" by Carmen Ibáñez (Free University of Berlin).

Patterns of dependency in the Caribbean were discussed from various vantage points by Amalia S. Levi (archivist and curator, Barbados) in her paper on "Asymmetrical Dependencies in a British Caribbean Colony: The Case Study of the Enslaved in the Jewish Households of Bridgetown, Barbados"; in the presentation "Marking Bodies, Making Wives: Ritual Tattoos and Gender Relations in Caribbean Hindu Communities" by Sinah Kloß (University of Cologne); and by Wolf Behnsen (University of Hannover), who examined "The Marriage Policy of the Moravian Church After the Slave Emancipation in Suriname in the Nineteenth Century".

The workshop allowed all of the participants to benefit from the expertise of the speakers and enormously fruitful discussions. The presentations provided insight into different theoretical approaches, conceptualizations of dependency and methodologies which have proved useful in the context of intersectional approaches to the study of dependencies in disciplines including medieval history, literary studies and anthropology. The workshop has shown the potential and the necessity – of paying attention to gender as a factor that has shaped dependencies in very different periods and regions of the world. In particular, in the final roundtable discussion the members of Research Area E were able to profit from the extremely useful and encouraging feedback on the collaborative project pursued by this research area.



### Prof. Dr. Marion Gymnich is Principal Investigator at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and Deputy Spokesperson

of the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom: Asymmetrical Dependencies in Pre-Modern Societies". She is Professor of English Literature and Culture at the University of Bonn and explores changes and continuities in a wide range of literary and nonfictional depictions and negotiations of asymmetrical dependencies that shaped the lives of domestic servants in Britain from the Restoration period to the end of the nineteenth century. The juxtaposition of fictional representations of domestic service that were targeted at a middle-class and/ or upper-class readership, "lowbrow" texts and non-fictional texts, promises to shed new light on social stereotypes and recurring narratives that informed dominant discourses on relations between employers and (domestic) servants.



Chair Dittmar Dahlmann (University of Bonn) discusses with Andrey V. Gornostaev (Georgtown University), Lisa Hellman (Free University of Berlin/ Uppsala University) and Christian De Vito (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies).

# **SLAVERY, CAPTIVITY** AND FURTHER FORMS **OF ASYMMETRICAL DEPENDENCIES IN EARLY MODERN RUSSIA**

Elena Smolarz, Christoph Witzenrath

#### **WORKSHOP**

SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2019

Recent research has demonstrated that early-modern slavery was much more widespread than the traditional concentration on plantation slavery in the context of European colonial expansion would suggest. Moreover, the "slavery versus freedom" master narrative, promoted by revolutionaries and enlightenment philosophers just at the time when the labor of enslaved non-Europeans became the basis of the Atlantic economies, tells us much more about Europe's self-conception as a cradle of modernity and a pioneer for human rights and democracy, than about the complex historic phenomenon itself.

For Russia, mutually exclusive concepts have recently been suggested: on the one hand, self-enslavement and self-colonization, and on the other a "peasant myth" imported from abroad. Yet if we broaden our view of slavery as exclusively a legal form, social institution, or mode of production, and start studying processes of creating slavery and serfdom and enslavement as particular contextualized strategies and as human experiences, new perspectives on slaving and its interrelations with further practices of asymmetrical dependency open up.



To broaden the academic perspective, the workshop focused on changing concepts of dependency and coercion in early-modern Russia and adjacent areas. In order to grasp the continuum of asymmetrical dependency, the workshop considered textual articulations of dependencies and their historical semantics as well as imperial legislation, institutional norms and local practices.

In his introduction Christoph Witzenrath (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) proposed new perspectives and research approaches for forms of extreme social asymmetrical dependencies applying the concept of slaving zones in early-modern Russia. Elena Smolarz (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) presented results of her recent study on Russian imperial ransoming networks and practices in Central Asia in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries. Stanislav Mohylnyi

(Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) explored factors of subjugation in creating bonded relationships in the Hetmanate and Sloboda Ukraine at the end of the seventeenth and in the eighteenth centuries.

The first panel addressed historical semantics on slavery and servitude, especially in households, in early-modern Russia. Gleb Kazakov (University of Gießen) provided insights into the semantics of terms related to slavery and servitude. Touching upon their differences and spheres of appliance in the early-modern Russian tradition, he convincingly contextualized the usage of such terms as cholop, rab, polonianik and nevol'nik – all denoting slaves or individuals in situations of dependency. Hans-Heinrich Nolte (University of Hannover) continued the discussion on forms of servitude in Russian households. Distinguishing between Orthodox and non-Orthodox servants, he persuasively discussed the legal status, leaving and working conditions of these social groups. Of great value for further research was his overview of Russian sources and related documents.

The second panel dealt with voluntary and forced mobility of dependent persons. Based on court documents of interrogations of fugitive peasants in the Volga-Urals region in the eighteenth century, Andrey V. Gornostaev (Georgetown University) reconstructed their experiences and practices, such as migration, work, and settlement, and underscored their interactions with the imperial state and different social

strata from the moment of escape to the moment of return/capture. Examining the motives and actions of fugitives, Gornostaev convincingly scrutinized the scholarly understanding of peasant flight as a form of resistance. Analyzing mobility patterns of Swedish prisoners of war in the eighteenth century, Lisa Hellman (Universities of Berlin and Uppsala) successfully explored the diversity in the roles played by captives in early-modern Russia. Their experiences connected diverse empires; Russian, western and southern European, Jesuit and Chinese knowledge networks, as well as scientific norms – and finally systems of bondage.

The very productive atmosphere led to fruitful discussions. Most papers dealt with contextual identity constructions and a multiplicity of terms, with concepts of the intersectionality of dependency and its interrelation with agency. Gendering, fluidity and the relationality of legal statuses and of social control, strategies for positive social mobility turned out to be promising research objects. Especially in the field of the concept of slaving, a closer look at the modus operandi of coercion has proven productive.



Dr. Elena Smolarz is research associate and lecturer at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies. She conducts research on coerced mobility and

slave trade practices in Central Asia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Her main areas of interest include the transformation of autochthonous societies in borderland regions under Russian imperial rule, translocal slave trade networks, ransoming processes and spatial and social mobility.



Prof. Dr. Christoph Witzenrath is Professor of Premodern Forms of Social Dependency in Asia at the Bonn Center for Dependency and

Slavery Studies. His research concerns patterns of slavery, dependency and their representations in Russia and Eurasia. Current areas of interest cover political and religious narratives of Muscovy coping with slave raids, early modern slave trade networks, serfdom and literacy and debt.



# **SLAVES, SERFS AND** FREE LABOUR IN MEDIEVAL **NORTHERN EUROPE**

Rudolf Simek

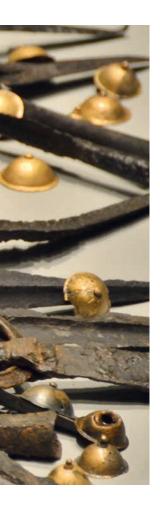
### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 25-26, 2019

The first conference organised by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies in cooperation with the Scandinavian section of the German Department of the University of Bonn focussed on slavery in medieval Northern Europe, and particularly Viking slavery.

Fourteen speakers from Austria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Poland and Sweden had agreed to participate with lectures within this field, and although two foreign experts had to cancel at the last minute due to illness, the talks covered a very wide field, geographically, historically and methodologically.

After introductions by the two organisers, Hanne Østhus, Research Group Leader from the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, and Rudolf Simek (University of Bonn), head of the Scandinavian section of the German Department, Konrad Vössing (Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) introduced the subject by defining and describing slavery at the end of the Roman Empire in his paper "Searching for Slavery in Late Antiquity", which gave unexpected



insights into the "division of labour" in the Roman slave trade as well as the (ethical and social) limitations placed on slavery at that time.

For the Viking Age, Matthias Toplak (University of Tübingen) gave a highly informative overview over what archaeology can tell us about slavery, in his paper "Invisible Agents in Viking Age Society: Slaves and Slavery in the Archaeological Record", which introduced state-of-the-art archaeological research on Viking-Age slavery. For the same period, but from the point of view of language and terminology, Stefan Brink (Cambridge University, currently senior fellow at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies) talked about the rather varied and complicated terminology of Viking and Medieval slavery in "Understanding Early Scandinavian Slavery with the Help of the Slave Terminology".

Using Anglo-Saxon and Latin British sources, Janel Fontaine (University of London) spoke about "Regulating and Restricting Slaving in Anglo-Saxon England" highlighting the ongoing discussion in Early Medieval legal and reli-

gious sources regarding slavery, especially the enslaving of Christians.

The first day was rounded off first by Jón Viðar Sigurðsson (University of Oslo) with a paper on "Viking Age Scandinavia: A Society Based on Slaves (and Women)?" and, looking at the larger picture of slavery within Viking-Age Scandinavian society, finally by Bjørn Poulsen (University of Aarhus), who presented a micro-study of dependent labour in late medieval Danish tax registers in his paper "The Development of Free Labour in Medieval Denmark".

The morning session of the second day of the conference was dedicated to Viking-Age archaeology in Scandinavia with two excellent papers by younger scholars. First, Leszek Gardeła (currently DAAD Prime+ fellow at the University of Bonn) opened a wider picture by looking at shared features of what could be considered potential slaves' graves even beyond Scandinavia and gave new archaeological perspectives on Viking Slavery in his lecture on "Slaves and Graves: Reappraising an Old Problem in Viking and Slavic Archaeology". This was followed by Ben Raffield (Uppsala University) with "The Invisible Inhabitants of the Viking World: Comparative Archaeologies of Slave Raiding and Trading during the Eighth to Eleventh Centuries", using ample ethnological comparative material for the Scandinavian findings on slavery during the Viking period.

A final paper concentrating on archaeology was delivered by Wolfgang Neubauer (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology, Vienna) "Birka-Hovgården: New Aspects on a Proto-urban Trade Centre" which introduced the audience to a relatively new archaeological method of geo radar and its possible consequences, using the example of a potential slave-trading place such as Birka.

The final section, "Narratives of Viking Slavery: Past and Present", dealt with literary sources of a very different kind. First, Rudolf Simek talked about early medieval hagiographical sources in



Latin in his paper "Viking Slavery from Below", trying to give a voice to slaves themselves. Talking about quite different perceptions, well over 1,000 years later, Tsukusu Jinn Ito (Matsumoto University) spoke on the current picture of Viking-Age slavery in his paper on "Viking Slavery in Yukimura Makoto's Vinland Saga, The Vikings, and Vicky the Viking" highlighting the surprising presence of Viking slavery in Manga and other graphic fiction.

In a final round that brought together the various strands, co-organiser Hanne Østhus took the question of slavery and unfree and free labour into the early modern period in her comparative paper on "Uses of the Past: How Terms and Notions from the Middle Ages Were Used in Eighteenth Century Debates on Freedom". Finally, Stefan Brink summarised the conference papers and questions that had been raised, thus leading into the general discussion.



Prof. Dr. Rudolf Simek is Professor of Medieval German and Scandinavian Studies at the University of Bonn.



# **WELL-BEING. BORDEAUX AND** TINTIN IN THE CONGO

Katja Girr



### Katja Girr is PhD student at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies and a member of the working group "Contemporary

Asymmetrical Dependencies".

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE **BORDEAUX UNIVERSITY**

OCTOBER 22-25, 2019



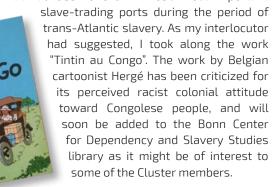
Admitted as a PhD student at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) in October 2019, I had the chance to participate in the international confer-

ence "Well-Being in the North and South: Explorations, Contradictions, Power and Practices" organized by the Institut d'études politiques at Sciences Po Bordeaux.

During four days, keynote lectures, oral presentations in parallel sessions and an exhibition were scheduled. The aim of the conference was to assemble experts from the social sciences and humanities in order to innovate by providing avenues and alternative routes into the political, social, economic, cultural and artistic imaginations of well-being, in a cross-cultural perspective. The event was attended by international participants with different backgrounds, enabling intense discussions and knowledge transfer.

Invited to one of the plenaries I presented my paper "'Where Is Happiness?' The Impact of Tunisian and European Migration Policy on Irregular Sub-Saharan Migrants' Mental Health" based on the field research for my Masters thesis. The topic of well-being and the examined dependence between mental health and migration policy, the core of my presentation, are also crucial to my PhD research focusing on the contemporary migration of Ivorian domestic workers between the two banks of the Sahara. Co-organized by UMR 5115 Les Afriques dans le Monde, the conference was further centred on Africa-related topics, bringing together researchers from all over the world, and allowing me to discuss my PhD project and establish research contacts.

Beyond the conference, discussions with a former resident of Bordeaux led to an evening city tour exploring what had been one of France's most important



The magazine DEPENDENT is published twice annually by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) and contains information, descriptive articles and reports about its research projects and findings, as well as its publications and events. A feature article provides insights on research into areas related to strong asymmetrical dependency. The magazine is sent out by e-mail in PDF format or in print. Information on how to subscribe and future issues can be found at www.dependency. uni-bonn.de/en/publications/dependent-magazine

 Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS), January 2020

Please contact the editorial office if you wish to reprint any content.

Reprint only if full attribution is given.

#### **PUBLISHER**

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) University of Bonn Adenauerallee 18–22 53113 Bonn www.dependency.uni-bonn.de dependency@uni-bonn.de

#### **EDITORIAL OFFICE**

Silvia Oster (responsible in the sense of the press law), Jeannine Bischoff

Contributions identified by name reflect the opinion of the author(s) and are not to be understood as official statements by the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS).

#### PICTURE CREDIT

Title and page 6, 7 (top): iStockphoto/ Spencer\_Whalen; iStockphoto/ DrAfter123 4, 5 (top); Barbara Frommann/University of Bonn 4 (left), 9, 15 (left), 19 (right, bottom), 33 (left), 37, 41 (right bottom), 49, 51; 54 left, middle); University of Tübingen 11, 21 (top); Julia Hegewald/University of Bonn 12, 13, 14, 15 (right, top left); Malik Ade/University of Bonn 16, 17, 18, 19; Heike Wegener/University of Bonn 20, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 (right); University of Bonn 21 (bottom); Elena Smolarz/University of Bonn 22 (top), 50, 51 (top); Ruhr University Bochum 22 (bottom), 44, 45, 46, 47; iStockphoto/Goddard\_Photography 34; iStockphoto/leonardospencer 35 (right); Adam Fagbore/University of Bonn 35 (left); iStockphoto/Susan Vineyard 36; iStockphoto/Shonn 38 (top); French National Center for Scientific Research/Claude Chevaleyre 38 (bottom); iStockphoto/JDawnInk 40, 41; iStockphoto/cristianoalessandro 42; Juliane Schiel/University of Vienna 43; iStockphoto/clu 48; colourbox/Knud Erik Christensen 52; iStockphoto/xochicalco 53 (left, middle); Rudolf Simek/University of Bonn 53 (left, bottom); Sciences Po Bordeaux 54 (top).

#### **DESIGN AND TYPESETTING**

STÄHLINGDESIGN, Darmstadt www.staehlingdesign.de

# OTHER SUBJECTS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM THE BCDSS

Over the coming years, the BCDSS will continue to publish information about its current research projects on its website, and to provide background information on subjects related to the overall topic of dependency. BCDSS scholars will also comment on social developments from their own perspectives. In the "Interviews" section, they talk about the conditions of their work, new methods and the changing nature of research communication. www.dependency.uni-bonn.de

# THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES (BCDSS)

The Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies (BCDSS) hosts the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom", which aims to overcome the binary opposition of "slavery versus freedom". For that we approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependencies (e.g. debt bondage, convict labor, tributary labor, servitude, serfdom, and domestic work as well as forms of wage labor and various types of patronage) from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

The research cluster is part of the framework of the Excellence Strategy of the Federal Government and the Länder and is free and independent in the selection and realization of its research projects.

Our Cluster of Excellence is a joint project of scholars from the fields of Anthropology, Archaeology, History, Law, Literary Studies, Area Studies (including The History of the Islamicate World, Japanese and Chinese Studies, Tibetan Studies), Sociology and Theology. We propose "strong asymmetrical dependency" as a new key concept that includes all forms of bondage across time and space.









Adenauerallee 18-22 D-53113 Bonn Tel. 0228 73-62442 dependency@uni-bonn.de www.dependency.uni-bonn.de