

SLAVERY, SERVITUDE, SERVICE: DIFFERENCE AND SOCIAL RELATIONS ACROSS SOUTH ASIA AND ITS GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, 1400-1800



HYBRID WORKSHOP
JULY 14-15, 2023

THE BONN CENTER FOR DEPENDENCY AND SLAVERY STUDIES

hosts the Cluster of Excellence "Beyond Slavery and Freedom", which aims to overcome the binary opposition of "slavery versus freedom". We approach the phenomenon of slavery and other types of strong asymmetrical dependency from methodologically and theoretically distinct perspectives.

This workshop considers how unequal social and labor relations were entangled with notions of difference between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. Across South Asia during this period, articulations of difference – expressed across multiple registers of discourse and practice – produced and sustained asymmetrical relations and networks of dependencies. Through exploring the interplay of these factors during this period, as well as potential connections or disjunctures with prior and subsequent eras, the workshop hopes to contribute towards developing a comparative framework across distinct contexts from Mughal North India to Portuguese Goa to the Deccan under Maratha rule. Participants will examine how social categories such as caste, gender, origin, and ethnicity intersected with relations of slavery, servitude, and/or service, looking at examples such as military labor, domestic service, and corvée labor.

**Bonn Center for Dependency and
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VENUE

**University of Bonn
BCDSS**
Niebuhrstraße 5
D-53113 Bonn
and online via Zoom

CONTACT

Workshop Organizers:

Emma Kalb BCDSS, University of Bonn
Eva Lehner BCDSS, University of Bonn
Nabhojeet Sen BCDSS, University of Bonn

Please **register** for the [workshop](#)
by July 10, 2023 via email to:
slaveryservitudeservice@gmail.com



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Friday, July 14, 2023

9:15 AM CEST **Welcome & Introduction**

Emma Kalb, Eva Lehner & Nabhojeet Sen
(all BCDSS, University of Bonn)

9:50 AM

Caste and Slavery: Concubinage Beyond Royal Households
Divya Cherian
(Princeton University)

10:40 AM

The Brother-in-Law's Wife: misplaced sexual desire and caste in 18th century Tanjavur

Kashi Gomez
(University of Pennsylvania)

11:30 AM – Coffee Break

12:00 PM

Too familiar to explain? Notions of unequal (social) relations in an 18th century Indo-Persian Ego-Document

Anna Kollatz
(Heidelberg University)

12:50 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 PM

Demanding subjects: Workers' demands for rights and pay in late Mughal documents.

Nandini Chatterjee
(University of Exeter)

2:50 PM

Because of Love, Marriage, or Violence: Slaves Between Conversion, Suicide and Manumission in Malabar in the 16th Century

Mahmood Kooria
(University of Leiden)

3:40 PM – Coffee Break

4:10 PM

What is a Eunuch? Understanding Enslavement and Castration in the Mughal World

Emma Kalb
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

Friday, July 14, 2023

5:00 PM

'Holy Servants': the representation of eunuchs in a Sufi vernacular tale of 17th century India
Annalisa Bocchetti
(Ghent University)

5:50 PM – Reception

Saturday, July 15, 2023

9:00 AM CEST

Domestic Slavery in Goa in the 16th–17th centuries: Between Black Legend and *Goa Dourada*

Ines Županov
(Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)

9:50 AM

Identities and Iterations: Servant and Slave
Nitin Sinha
(Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

10:40 AM – Coffee Break

11:10 AM

Angela van Bengalen, or what is in a name? People from South Asia in Dutch colonial Cape Town (1652–1795)

Eva Lehner
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

12:00 PM

Enslaved and manumitted South Asians in nineteenth-century Cape Town: a first attempt at tracing lives

(online via Zoom) Kate Ekama
(University of Stellenbosch)

12:50 PM – Lunch Break

2:00 PM

Caste, Coercion and Enslavement: Western Deccan through the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Century
(online via Zoom) Nabhojeet Sen
(BCDSS, University of Bonn)

Saturday, July 15, 2023

2:50 PM

Between Hired and Forced Productive Labor – Transition from Simple to Generalized Commodity Production in 17th and 18th Century Gujarat and Mysore?

Kaveh Yazdani
(University of Connecticut)

3:40 PM – Coffee Break

4:10 PM

Differentiating (Modes of) Enslavement – Reflections for global(micro) historical approach to slavery in the early modern Dutch Atlantic and Asian Empires.

Matthias van Rossum
(IISG, Amsterdam)

5:00 PM – Open discussion

7:30 PM – Conference Dinner at [Schumann's](#)
(speakers, chairs and organizers only)