

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 conference explores the understudied practice of gifting humans across various cultures. Historians and anthropologists will delve into the motivations of givers, recipients (both divine and human), and the impact on the "gifts" themselves. Analysing aspects like origin, age, gender, and status of these individuals (war captives, slaves, ex voto offerings), the conference will examine how this practice transformed their lives and social standing. Did these human "gifts" gain or lose freedom under their new masters?

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies BCDSS University of Bonn

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VENUE

University of Bonn
Bonner Universitätsforum
Heussallee 18-24
D-53113 Bonn

CONTACT

Workshop Organizer
Dr. Vitali Bartash
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Please register by 15 May via email to:
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Event Coordinator
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HUMANS AS GIFTS HISTORICAL AND ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,
MAY 23–24, 2024



Picture credit: Volker Lannert/University of Bonn

Thursday, May 23, 2024

09:00 – 09:30 A.M. CEST
Welcome and Agenda

Vitali Bartash
BCDSS

09:30 – 10:30 A.M.

Keynote lecture 1: Human Gifts in the Ancient Greek World
David Lewis
University of Edinburgh

10:30 – 11:00 A.M. - Coffee break

Panel I: Ancient Near East and Egypt

Chair: Ludwig Morenz, BCDSS

11:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Humans as Gifts in Late Bronze Egypt: Foreign Policy, Domestic Affairs and Interpersonal Relationships

Christian Langer
Humboldt University, Berlin

11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Self-Dedication and Self-Gifting in Ptolemaic Egypt

Ella Karev
University of Turin

12:00 – 12:30 P.M.

Humans as Gifts in Third-Millennium BC Mesopotamia

Vitali Bartash
BCDSS

12:30 – 1:30 P.M. - Lunch break

Panel II: Biblical World and Medieval European Church

Chair: Jan Dietrich, BCDSS

1:30 – 2:00 P.M.

Human Gift-Giving in the Ancient Southern Levant and in the Hebrew Bible

Emanuel Pfoh
University of Helsinki

2:00 – 2:30 P.M.

Leasing Yourself to God: The Nazirite Between Gift, Sacrifice and Priesthood in Early Judaism

Anne Katrine de Hemmer Gudme
University of Oslo

Thursday, May 23, 2024

2:30 – 3:00 P.M.

The Binding of Gifted Humans to the Church in Merovingian Francia 6th–7th centuries

Eduard Visintini
University of Mainz

3:00 – 3:30 P.M.

Donations of Human Beings to the Church in Northern France c. AD 900 – c. AD 1100

Niall Ó Súilleabháin
University of Poitiers

3:30 – 4:00 P.M. - Coffee break

Panel III: Medieval and Early Modern North and East Asia

Chair: Catherine Cameron, University of Colorado, Boulder

4:00 – 4:30 P.M.

The Gifted Human in Medieval China

Don Wyatt
Middlebury College

4:30 – 5:00 P.M.

Humans as Gifts during the Manchu Campaigns in the Early Seventeenth Century

Dorothea Heuschert-Laage
University of Bonn and BCDSS

5:00 – 5:30 P.M.

Enslaved Indigenous People as 'Mobile Gifts' in Seventeenth-Century Siberia

Chechesh Kudachinova
University of Mannheim

7:00 P.M. Conference dinner for speaker, chairs and organizers

Friday, May 24, 2024

09:00 – 10:00 A.M.

Keynote lecture 2: Humans as Gifts in the Small-Scale Societies of the Americas

Catherine Cameron
University of Colorado, Boulder

10:00 – 10:30 A.M. - Coffee break

Friday, May 24, 2024

Panel IV: Early Modern Europe and Ottoman Empire

Chair: David Lewis, University of Edinburgh

10:30 – 11:00 A.M.

The Practice of *Hibe* in the Early Modern Crimean Khanate

Turkana Allahverdiyeva
BCDSS

11:00 – 11:30 A.M.

Ottoman Girls as Gifts to Noblewomen in Louis XIV's France

Gillian Weiss
Case Western Reserve University

11:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Slaves as Diplomatic Gifts in African-European Relations in East Africa 18th century

Eugénia Rodrigues
University of Lisbon

12:00 – 1:00 P.M. - Lunch break

Panel V: Modern Africa and America

Chair: Don Wyatt, Middlebury College

1:00 – 1:30 P.M.

Family-Making Gifts: Children, Women and Slaves in Southern Senegambia 19th–20th centuries

Alice Bellagamba
University of Milan-Bicocca

1:30 – 2:00 P.M.

Wives for the Ancestors: Gift or Payment to the spirit? Historicity, Practices of Enslavement and Serfdom, and the Challenges to Understanding the Past in the Zambezi Valley

Olga Sicilia
University of Vienna

2:00 – 2:30 P.M.

'Gifted Children': Acculturation and Social Subordination in the Ecuadorian Andes 1880-1950

Javier González Díez
University of Turin

2:30 – 3:00 P.M. - Coffee break

3:00 – 4:00 P.M. - Concluding discussion