



Workshop

## **EMPIRES AFTER THE GLOBAL 'TURN'**

### **Planned Migrations, Colonial Agents and Informal Imperialism, c.1800-1950**

1-2 June 2017, European University Institute

Sala del Torrino – Villa Salviati, Via Bolognese 156, 50139 Firenze

Organisers: Lucy Riall (European University Institute), Pieter Judson (European University Institute), José Juan Pérez Meléndez (European University Institute & University of California, Davis)

Organised in association with the European University Institute's Imperial History Working Group and the "Rethinking Modern Europe" seminar at the Institute for Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London

#### **■ ABSTRACT**

The global 'turn' in historical scholarship has transformed the study of empire in recent decades. Historians now stress the multiplicity of imperialisms in the modern and contemporary period and the diversity of imperial relations and practices; they also contest the analytical separation between metropole and colony, and explore the influence of the latter on the former. However, when it comes to displacing the grand narrative of 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century European hegemony and expansion, historians have been less successful and, for all the emphasis on imperial pluralities, the assumption of centre and periphery has been hard to dislodge. Moreover, many new works continue to offer the British and French cases as archetypes of modern colonialism and/or the centrality of Africa and the Indian Ocean as the main theatres of empire. The recent inclusion of Germany among the big imperial players has done little else to broaden the comparative reach of colonial history. Despite research that has complicated the chronologies of European expansion in the modern period, the overriding importance of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century 'Age of Imperialism' is still taken for granted. Notwithstanding global historians' attempt to challenge Eurocentrism, their idea of Europe remains

strongly traditional, with the assumption that the northwest region of the continent is at its core proving strikingly persistent.

This workshop will explore relationships between colonialism and globalization involving irregularities, unlikely actors, and scales passed over in traditional narratives of colonialism. In particular, we want to look beyond spheres of European conquest and coercion for evidence of different forms of global influence and other types of colonizing activities, and to include parts of the world (Latin America, North Africa, the Pacific Ocean) that were actively involved in colonial expansion without always being the subjects of direct colonial rule. We are especially interested in the protagonists of colonialism, in those groups and individuals who moved across and within formal Empires; in agents of colonization and colonial knowledge who encouraged or made possible these mobilities; and in types of colonial settlement and migrations that could take place outside or despite formal imperial control. What might a focus on a range of colonial players tell us about the practices and impact of modern colonialism, about its motives and its persistence? How does a broadening of the category of informal Empire alter our definition of colonialism? And how might this different focus allow us to develop a more integrated understanding of colonization, by placing ‘home’ and ‘abroad’ in a single frame?

## ■ PROGRAMME

### Day 1, Thursday 1 June 2017

**14:15**                    **Welcome and Introduction**

**14:30**                    ***Migrations and Colonization***

Chair: Pieter M. Judson (European University Institute)

José Juan Pérez Meléndez (European University Institute/UC, Davis): *What is Colonization? Latin American Counterpoints to a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Phenomenon*

Lucy Riall (European University Institute): *From the Alps to the Andes: Ideas and Agents of Colonization in South America, c.1840 to c.1880*

Discussant: Martin Dusenberre (University of Zurich)

**16:00**                    **Coffee break**

**16:30**

***Colonial Agents***

Chair: Christian Goeschel (University of Manchester)

Gonzalo San Emeterio Cabañes (Zurich University): *Empires Within Empires: The Role of the Japanese Traders as Colonial Agents in the Pacific during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

Tim Chamberlain (Birkbeck University of London): *Empirical Adventurers: Science and Imperial Exploration in East Tibet, 1900-1949.*

Discussant: Katalin Straner (European University Institute)

**18:00**

**Cocktail reception - Grotto**

**Day 2, Friday 2 June 2017**

**9:15**

***Intellectual Projects and Diplomatic Practices***

Chair: Mate Rigo (European University Institute)

Miquel de la Rosa (European University Institute): *Race and Inter-Imperial Power: French Ideas on Mexico in the 1860s*

Gaël Sánchez Cano (European University Institute): *'Spiritual Empire': Spanish Diplomats and Latin America circa 1926*

Discussant: Fernando Padilla Angulo (University of Bristol)

**11:00**

**Coffee Break**

**11:30**

***Italian Slaves and Settlers in World Scenarios***

Chair: Giancarlo Casale (University of Minnesota/European University Institute)

Giulia Bonazza (European University Institute): *Slavery and Migration between the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Mediterranean and the Atlantic: The Italian Case*

Alessandro Bonvini (University of Salerno): *'The Plough and the Sword': Mazzinian Settlers beyond the Rio de la Plata Borderlands, 1855-60*

Helois Rojas Gomez (European University Institute): *Informal Fin-de-Siècle Colonization? Italian Activity in the Black Sea*

Discussant: Federico Tomasello (Università di Firenze/European University Institute)

**13:30**

**Lunch**

**14:45**

***Informal Empire***

Chair: Corinna Unger (European University Institute)

Damian Clavel (Graduate Institute, Geneva): *The Making of an Imperial Contract: Poyaisian Land, Natural Resources, and the Miskitu King, 1820-1824*

David Todd (Kings College London): *The Legal and Economic Mechanisms of French Informal Colonialism, Egypt, 1802-1882*

Discussant: Simon Jackson (University of Birmingham)

**16.15**

**Break**

**16:30**

***Round Table***

Chair: Lucy Riall (European University Institute)

Pieter M. Judson (European University Institute)

Naoko Shimazu (Yale-NUS)

Courtney Campbell (University of Birmingham)

Ozan Ozavci (University of Utrecht)

**17:30**

**Conclusions**

**19.00**

**Workshop's dinner (only for speakers)**

## ■ SPEAKERS' BIOS

**Giulia Bonazza** is currently a Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, where she is investigating the involvement of Italian noble families in the Atlantic slave trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. She defended her PhD in July 2016 at Cà Foscari University Venice and EHESS Paris with a thesis entitled *Être esclave. Le débat abolitionniste et la persistance de l'esclavage dans les Etats italiens pré-unitaires (1750-1850)* with the *mention très honorable avec félicitations du jury*. She obtained her Masters from Bologna University and Paris 7 Denis Diderot with a thesis on the links between the Santo Domingo Revolution and the French Revolution.

**Alessandro Bonvini** is a Ph.D student at the University of Salerno. He has been visiting student at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogotá and at Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia of México City. He has participated to seminars and conference in Italy, Great Britain and Latin America.

**Giancarlo Casale** is Associate Professor of History (Islamic world) and Distinguished University Teaching Professor at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of *The Ottoman Age of Exploration* (Oxford, 2010) and, since 2011, executive editor of the *Journal of Early Modern History*. He is currently a Braudel Senior Research Fellow at EUI.

**Tim Chamberlain** gained a BSc in Anthropology from the University of East London in 1997, and an MA in World History from Birkbeck College, University of London in 2014, where he is currently writing his PhD, titled: 'Empirical Adventurers: Science and Imperial Exploration in East Tibet, 1900-1949', supervised by: Dr Julia Lovell (Birkbeck) and Prof Naoko Shimazu (Yale-NUS). He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and works as a project coordinator for international touring exhibitions at the British Museum.

**Dr. Courtney J. Campbell** is Lecturer of Latin American History at the University of Birmingham. She is currently completing her book *Region Out of Place: The Brazilian Northeast and the World (1924-1968)* and has published articles in *Past & Present*, *Luso-Brazilian Review*, and *Slavery & Abolition*.

**Damian Clavel** is a doctoral candidate at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva. He was awarded a Doc.CH grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation. He received a BA in economic and social history from the University of Geneva, and an MSc in social and cultural history from the University of Edinburgh.

**Miquel de la Rosa** is a PhD candidate at the European University Institute with a thesis on liberal responses to French expansionism under Napoleon III in the 1860s. He holds a MA in World History and a BA in Journalism (both from the University Pompeu Fabra), and a BA in Modern History (University of Valladolid). He also gained professional experience in the field of corporate communications in several academic institutions. From September onwards, he will be a teaching fellow at Sciences Po, campus Le Havre.

**Martin Dusinberre** is Professor and Chair for Global History at the University of Zurich. He works on the history of Japanese migration and imperialism in the Asia-Pacific region, and is interested also in experimental ways of narrating global history. His first book was a microhistory of a small town in western Japan from 1800 to 2000. In addition to trying desperately--and so far in vain--to finish a new book manuscript, he is currently working on two major projects: 'East Asian Uses of the European Past' (HERA, 2016-2019), and 'Lives in Transit: Steamship Passages in the late-19th and early-20th century world' (SNF-DFG, 2017-2020).

**Christian Goeschel** is a senior lecturer in modern European history at the University of Manchester, currently a visiting fellow at the European University Institute. He has published extensively on the social and cultural history of Weimar and Nazi Germany, including his 2009 *Suicide in Nazi Germany* (Oxford University Press, German translation Suhrkamp, 2011). He is currently investigating the cultural diplomacy of Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany and is interested more generally in writing a global cultural history of diplomacy.

**Simon Jackson** is Lecturer in Modern Middle Eastern History at the University of Birmingham, where he directs the Centre for Modern & Contemporary History. With the support of a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship, he is completing a book on the global political economy of French rule in Syria and Lebanon after World War One, and co-editing another, forthcoming with Routledge in 2017, on the interrelationship of the League of Nations and the United Nations. His new project uncovers the origins of the global food production system in late colonial rule.

**Pieter M. Judson** is Professor and Chair of the History Department at the EUI. His latest book *The Habsburg Empire: A New History* (Harvard 2016) will appear in German, Italian, Croatian, Slovene, Polish, Chinese and Japanese translations. Currently he and Tara Zahra are writing a history of the Habsburg Empire during World War I. Together with Mark Cornwall Judson is editing the *Cambridge History of the Habsburg Monarchy*.

**Dr H. Ozan Ozavci** is Assistant Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History and Research Fellow at Utrecht University and associate member at the (CETOBaC, UMR 8032). His research specialisms are in the histories of security, liberalism and the oil industry in the Middle East and Russian Caucasus in the long nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Fernando J. Padilla**, from Spain. Currently 4th year PhD candidate in Hispanic Studies at the University of Bristol. My main areas of interest are Global History, Imperial History, and modern Spanish colonial history. My thesis focuses on the evolution of Spanish Loyalism in the imperial context, in relation to the State and the emergent anticolonial nationalisms, through the study of a colonial militia that operated in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines: the Volunteers.

**José Juan Pérez Meléndez** is a historian of Latin America and the nineteenth-century Atlantic. He received early training in History at Princeton University and obtained his doctorate at the University of Chicago in 2016. He is completing a post-doctoral fellowship at the European University Institute and will start teaching in the fall at the University of California, Davis. He is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Peopling for Profit: Colonization and the Brazilian Empire, 1808-1878*.

**Lucy Riall** is Professor of the Comparative History of Europe at the EUI. Her current research focuses on the history of European colonialism, biography, and on the politics and culture of Italy. Her publications include *Garibaldi: Invention of a Hero* (New Haven and London, 2007), *Under the Volcano: Revolution in a Sicilian Town* (Oxford, 2013) and (edited, with Valeria Babini and Chiara Beccalossi) *Italian Sexualities Uncovered* (London, 2015).

**Mate Rigo** obtained his PhD from Cornell University, and is currently a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. He works on trans-European history, by linking East-Central Europe to Western Europe. He has previously earned an M.A. degree in History and Jewish Studies from Central European University and History and English Literature from Eotvos

Lorand University in Budapest. He will join the faculty of Yale-NUS College as Assistant Professor of History in fall 2017.

**Heloisa Rojas Gomez** is a 2nd-year doctoral student at the Department of History and Civilization of the European University Institute (Florence). Her current research focuses on the Italian migration to the Russian Black Sea region and the Crimea between the 1870s and the 1920s. More broadly, she is interested in the process of foreign immigration and colonization of southern Russia and in the changing regimes of citizenship from Imperial Russia to Soviet Union.

**Gaël Sánchez Cano** is a third-year doctoral researcher in History and Civilization at the European University Institute. His research deals with Spanish diplomatic practices of empire in the 1920s. He plans to submit his thesis in 2018.

**Gonzalo San Emeterio Cabañes** obtained his BA in East Asian Studies at the Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain), followed by a MPhil in Osaka University. For three years he worked afterwards as researcher at Osaka University. He is currently Ph.D. student at Zurich University where he works as assistant at the chair of Global History.

**Naoko Shimazu** is Professor of Humanities (History) at Yale-NUS College, Singapore. As a Fernand Braudel Fellow at EUI from January to June 2015, she worked on a cultural history of diplomacy. Her major publications include *Japanese Society at War: Death, Memory and the Russo-Japanese War* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), and *Japan, Race and Equality: Racial Equality Proposal of 1919* (Routledge, 1998).

**Katalin Stráner** is a Max Weber Fellow at the EUI. Her research focuses on the history of science and urban history in modern Europe, the study of translation and reception in the history of ideas, the effect of migration and exile on knowledge transfer, and Habsburg Central Europe. She is currently working on a monograph on the translation and reception of Darwin's work in 19th-century Hungary.

**Federico Tomasello** is post-doctoral researcher at the SPS Department of the University of Florence and visiting fellow at the History and Civilization Department of the EUI. In 2013 he received his PhD in History of Political Thought from the University of Bologna, in 2015 he published the monographic book *La violenza. Saggio sulle frontiere del politico* (manifestolibri, Roma) and he is

currently editorial board member of the journals «Scienza&Politica», «Historia Magistra» and of the website «EuroNomade». His research interests include the genesis of social sciences in nineteenth century France and the concept of utopia.

**David Todd** is a senior lecturer in world history at King's College London. His latest book is *Free Trade and its Enemies in France, 1814-1851* (Cambridge: CUP, 2015) and he is currently writing a history of France's informal empire in the nineteenth century.

**Corinna R. Unger** is Professor of Global and Colonial History (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) at the Department of History and Civilization, European University Institute, Florence, Italy. Before joining the EUI, she taught Modern European History at Jacobs University Bremen, Germany, and worked at the German Historical Institute Washington, DC. Her fields of research include the history of decolonization and development, international organizations, the Cold War, and the history of knowledge and the social sciences.