Remapping Centre and Periphery: Asymmetrical Encounters in European and Global Context, 1500-2000

23 – 24 June 2016

This two-day workshop examines historical mechanisms of cultural and intellectual exchange across the globe. Historians often assume a one-directional transmission of knowledge, leading to the establishment of intellectual and political hierarchies between centers and peripheries. Instead, this workshop investigates the asymmetrical and multi-directional structure of these encounters within Europe as well as in global context.

Conference organisers
Tessa Hauswedell, Axel Körner, Josephine Salverda, Ulrich Tiedau

Sponsors
European Institute, Grand Challenge of Intercultural Interaction, Humanities in the European Research Area, Joint Faculty Institute of Graduate Studies, UCL History, University of Utrecht

Conference venues
Panel sessions and refreshments
Wilkins Garden Room
Wilkins Building
University College London
WC1E 6BT

Keynote and Centre for Transnational History annual lecture
Lecture
Pearson G22 Lecture Theatre
Pearson Building
University College London
WC1E 6BT

Reception
North Cloisters

Conference dinner
Venue to be confirmed

Conference hotel
Tavistock hotel
48-55 Tavistock Square
London
WC1H 9EU

With many thanks to our partners and funders
Thursday, 23 June 2016

1.00 Buffet Lunch
1.45 Welcome and Introduction (Axel Körner, UCL)

2.00–3.30 Panel 1: Concepts

The opening panel seeks to establish a set of conceptual frameworks to help us reshape the relationship between centers and peripheries in historical perspective.

- Jaap Verheul (Utrecht): Exploring reference cultures in a transnational perspective
- Jan Ifversen (Aarhus): Peripheries, margins and borderlands - a reflection on spatial concepts of asymmetry
- Marta Petrusewicz (Calabria): tbc

3.30 Coffee

4.00–5.30 Panel 2: Globalising peripheries

What is big and what is small? What are the origins of global asymmetries? The panel tries to explain multi-faceted and changing hierarchies over time and space.

Chair: Margot Finn (UCL)
- Michael North (Greifswald): From the Baltic to the Pacific: Trade, Shipping and Exploration on the Shores of the Russian Empire
- Harry Stopes (UCL): From Manchester and Lille to the World: Nineteenth century provincial cities conceptualise their place in the global order
- Pim Huijnen (Utrecht): How the big world enters a small country’s public media: a data-driven approach to the image of the USA and Germany in Dutch digitized newspapers

6.00 Keynote and Centre for Transnational History Annual Lecture

Nicola Miller (UCL): Republics of Knowledge: Reinterpreting the World from Latin America?

Introduction: Axel Körner (UCL)
Vote of Thanks: Peter Burke (Cambridge)

7.15 Reception (North Cloisters)

7.45 Dinner (Venue to be confirmed)

Friday, 24 June 2016

9.00 Coffee

9.30-11.00 Panel 3: Translating Religions

The panel seeks to understand how religious beliefs are translated into different cultures and used to establish political and societal hierarchies on a global scale.

Chair: Miri Ruben (QMUL)
- Silvia Evangelisti (UEA) Missions and Imagination in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America
- Avi Lifschitz (UCL): Reversing the hierarchy of world religions: Voltaire and Enlightenment universal histories
- Maarten van den Bos (Utrecht): The Dutch started to talk back: Discussions on Centre and Periphery in Catholic communities in the long 1960s

11.00 Coffee

11.30-1.00 Panel 4: Knowledge and Commodities in Motion

The panel aims to explain the changing semantics of knowledge and commodities in motion. How does spatial context affect the meaning of goods and ideas?

Chair: Jesper Verhoef (Utrecht)
- Hermione Giffard (Utrecht): Consumption and Transnationality
- Moritz von Brescius (Konstanz): Global experts on the move: colonial botany and the formation of a tropical ‘rubber science’, 1870-1918
- Lily Chang (UCL) ‘The Making of a Legal Statute in the Second World War: Conceptualising Age as a Category of Analysis in Modern China

1.00 Buffet Lunch

2.00 Round Table

Moderator: Ulrich Tiedau (UCL)
- Tessa Hauswedell (UCL)
- Joris van Eijnatten (Utrecht)
- Matthew D’Auria (UEA)
- Jochen Hung (Utrecht)

3.00 Coffee and farewell