

Advertising and Marketing in the Early Modern World (1400-1800)

London, 30-31 May 2019

Workshop jointly organized by the German Historical Institute London, the Institute of Advanced Study at University College London, and the University of Tübingen
Conveners: Christina Brauner (Tübingen) in cooperation with Michael Schaich (GHIL)

Advertising has long been interpreted as a hallmark of modern capitalism. As such, it plays a prominent part in different narratives about the birth of capitalism and the rise of the consumer society, viewed both as an indicator of and a catalyst for economization processes. At the same time, human activities of persuasion and promotion are characterized as a basic anthropological feature that may be traced back to the walls of stone age caves or to the graffiti of Pompeji. Indeed, discourses about advertising's role in modern capitalism appear to be intimately tied up with different and controversial assumptions about human nature and universal workings of 'the market'.

Advertising stirs emotions – both intentionally and unintentionally. Advertising scandals play on a calculated break with existing norms and standards whereas the moral ambiguities of persuasion serve to draw boundaries between legitimate and illegitimate economic practices and to put unwelcome competitors beyond the pale. Debates on history of advertising are obviously connected to divergent attitudes towards market economy and verdicts about its inevitable rise or equally inevitable failure.

Such inherent tensions in both popular and scholarly discourse call for a more thorough historicization of advertising, engaging recent attempts at rethinking early modern economic history beyond revolution narratives and ongoing discussions about the role of shopping and retailing in the early modern world. Focusing on the period between 1400 and 1800, the workshop brings together scholars from early modern and medieval history, art history, and literary studies and aims at initiating a more comprehensive debate. To enable such a discussion in broader perspective, it joins case-studies analysing different commodities and different spaces of buying and selling with reflections on historiographical discourses and conceptual interventions.

All students and academic researchers pursuing related interests are very welcome to attend. There is no charge for attendance but due to limited space booking is essential. Please RSVP to Carole Sterckx by 26 May: [sterckx\(ghi\)ghil.ac.uk](mailto:sterckx(ghi)ghil.ac.uk)

Thursday, 30 May

Venue: German Historical Institute London, Bloomsbury Square

2.00 pm

Christina von Hodenberg & Michael Schaich (GHI London) / Christina Brauner (Tübingen)

Welcome and Introduction

2.45 pm

SECTION I: SPACES OF ADVERTISING: URBAN CONTEXTS

Chair: Allison Stielau (UCL)

Thomas Ertl (FU Berlin)

Commercial Clamor in Late Medieval Cities

Natacha Coquery (Lyon)

The growth of advertising in 18th century Paris (1760s-1790s): rhetoric, evolution, efficiency

4.15 pm

Coffee & Tea

4.45 pm

CONCEPTUAL INTERVENTION

Chair: Hannes Ziegler (GHIL)

Bert de Munck (Antwerp)

Value in History: Pragmatic, Material and Epistemological Perspectives

5.45 pm Break

6.00 pm

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Jon Stobart (MMU Manchester)

Putting early modern advertising in context

7.30 pm Dinner (invited)

Friday, 31 May

Venue: IAS, UCL, Wilkins Building, Common Ground (room G11, ground floor, South Wing)

9.30 am

SECTION II: ADVERTISING AND THE MEDIA

Chair: Michael Schaich (GHIL)

Ursula Rautenberg (Erlangen)

Advertising Books in the Early Modern Period

Dániel Margócsy (Cambridge)

Marketing Lists: The Functions of Early Modern Auction Catalogues

11.00 am
Coffee & Tea

PROJECT PRESENTATION I

Susanna Burghartz / Alexander Engel / Anna Reimann (Basel)

Printed Markets. The Basel Avisblatt – a new information platform for the emerging consumer society? (1729-1844)

12.30
Lunch

SECTION III: ADVERTISING IN TRANSFER

Chair: Tobias Becker (GHIL)

1.30 pm

Christina Brauner (Tübingen)

Advertising in Translation, Or: How to Sell Fire-Engines in Early Modern London (1690s-1720s)

Emma Hart (St Andrews)

Newspaper Advertisements and Settler Colonialism in Eighteenth-Century British North America

3.00 pm Coffee & Tea

3.30 pm

PROJECT PRESENTATION II

Alessandra de Mulder / Charris de Smet (Antwerp)

‘Fashioning old and new’: Consumer Values in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Auction Adverts in the United Kingdom and France

4.30 pm

Concluding discussion

Drinks & dinner (self-paid, for those who want to join)