

**Extraction, Sovereignty and Markets: Writing Global Economic and
Environmental Histories**

Organizer: Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard)



Day 1

Monday, August 28, 2023

Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 120

9:00-9:10 Welcome and Introduction: Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard)

9:10-10:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Corey Ross (Birmingham/Basel): Liquid Empires

Chair: Moritz von Brescius

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 ECONOMIC BOTANY

Chair: nn

Marine Bellégo (Paris): “‘Economic Botany’ in the Late-Nineteenth Century British Empire”

Arupjyoti Saikia (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati): “Hardwoods and the British Empire in Assam: The Imperial Life of Sal and Teak, 1850s–1940s”

Commentator: Martin Dusing (Zurich)

12:15-13:30 LUNCH

13:30-15:00 COMMODITY FRONTIERS

Chair: nn

David Rentsch (Bern): “Caoutchouc, Coercion and Cooperatives. Developmentalist Turns in the Belgian Congo’s Rubber Frontier, c. 1930–1960”

Ernst Langthaler (Linz): “Soy Frontier Expansions: Regional Arenas of Agro-Food Globalization in the Long Twentieth Century”

Commentator: Thomas Bartoletti (Zurich)

15:00-15:20 Coffee Break

15:20-16:50 MINING

Chair: nn

Iva Pesa (Groningen): “Resource Extraction, Commodity Cycles, and Environmentalism in Africa”

Jayita Sarkar (Glasgow): “Atomic Capitalism: Fourth World Dispossession in Mining Frontiers”

Commentator: Julia Tischler (Basel)

17:00 Felix Driver (London): Mid-Conference Commentary & Discussion

18:30 Conference Dinner for Speakers (Haus der Universität, Schösslistrasse 5, 3008 Bern; joint walk from Hotel at 18:15)

Day 2

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 324

9:00-10:20: Panel: Science, Marketing and the Consumption of Natural Resources

Chair: nn

Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard): “Manufacturing Markets: Natural Commodity ‘Research & Propaganda’ in Interwar Europe”

Robrecht Declercq (Ghent): “Selling Natural Resources in the Modern World. Resource Institutes, Science and the Making of Consumer Markets for Commodities (1920–1980)”

Commentary: Heinzpeter Znoj (Bern)

10:20-10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:30-12:00 MARKETS AND COMMODITIES

Chair: David Rentsch

Marc Palen (Exeter): “Free Markets, Natural Resources, and Colonial Sovereignty: The Limits of the Left-Wing Anti-Imperialist Imagination”

David Bell (HU Berlin): “Ralli Brothers – ‘The Golden Fibre,’ Portrait of a Specialist Commodity Trader”

Commentary: Christian Büschges (Bern)

12:00-13:15 LUNCH

13:15-14:30 LABOUR

Chair: nn

Anna Sailer (Göttingen): Labor processes related to the production of timber and the associated appropriation and conversion of forests (primary to commercial) in colonial India in the late 19th/early 20th century, *title tbc*

Jelmer Vos (Glasgow): “The Labour of Coffee: Angolan Forced Labour in Comparative Perspective”

Commentary: Antoine Acker (Geneva)

14:30-14:45 Coffee Break

14:45-16:00: FRONTIERS

Chair: nn

Gunnel Cederlöf (Linnaeus University): “Exceptional, Pragmatic and Provisional: Formation of British Imperial Governance in Asian Frontier Tracts”

Gareth Austin (Cambridge): “Ghana’s Cocoa Frontier and the Concept of ‘Forest Rent’”

Commentator: Christian Gerlach (Bern)

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-17:30 Panel: Land Regulations and Trading Insurances

Chair:

Martin Lengwiler (Basel): “Trading Insurances”, *tbc*

Tobias Haller (Bern): “Colonial Legacies of the Sustainable Development Goals: Why the SDGs could become the abbreviation of Sanctioning Disciplined Grabs”

Commentary: Judith Vitale (Zurich)

17:30 Concluding Roundtable & Discussion

Julia Adeney Thomas (University of Notre Dame) & Friedrich Lenger (Gießen)

Moderation: Christof Dejung

Dinner for Speakers (Casa d’Italia, Bühlstrasse 57, 3012 Bern, joint walk from Hotel)
