Day 1, Monday, August 28, 2023
Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 120

9:00–9:10 Welcome and Introduction: Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard) & Christof Dejung (Bern)

9:10–10:30 KEYNOTE LECTURE
Corey Ross (Birmingham/Basel): Water Resources, Empire, and After: Reflections from the Water Faucet and Irrigation Canal
Chair: Sebastian de Pretto (Bern)

10:30–10:45 Coffee Break

10:45–12:15 SCIENCE, MARKETING AND THE CONSUMPTION OF “NATURAL” RESOURCES
Chair: nn
Commentary: Heinzpeter Znoj (Bern)

12:15–13:30 LUNCH

13:30–15:00 LAND REGULATIONS AND TRADING INSURANCES
Chair: nn
Martin Lengwiler (Basel): “Global and Local Cultures of Risk: Non-Life Insurance and Natural Resources in a Global and Transepochal Perspective”
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)
15:00–15:20 Coffee Break

15:20–16:50 MINING AND MINERALS
   Chair: nn
   Iva Pesa (Groningen): “Resource Extraction, Commodity Cycles, and Environmentalism in Africa”
   Florence Hachez-Leroy (Université d'Artois): A Material History of Aluminum
   Commentator: Martin Dusinberre (Zurich)

17:00 Mid-Conference Commentary & Discussion
   Richard Drayton (King’s College)

18:30 Conference Dinner for Speakers
   Casa d’Italia, Bühlstrasse 57, 3012 Bern, joint walk from Hotel

Day 2, Tuesday, August 29, 2023
Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 324

9:00-10.25: ECONOMIC BOTANY
   Chair: Rea Vogt (Bern)
   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: Thomas Bartoletti (Zurich)

10:25-10:35 COFFEE BREAK

10:35-12:00 MARKETS AND COMMODITIES
   Chair: David Rentsch
   Marc Polen (Exeter): “Free Markets, Natural Resources, National Sovereignty, and Supranational Regulation: The Left-Wing Anti-Imperial Imagination and its Contradictions”
   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 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)

14:30-14:45 Coffee Break

14:45-16:00 LABOUR
Chair: Agnes Gehbald (Bern)
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”
Jelmer Vos (Glasgow): “The Labour of Coffee: Angolan Forced Labour in Comparative Perspective”
Commentary: Julia Tischler (Basel)

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-17:30 COMMODITY FRONTIERS
Chair: Marius Fellinger (Bern)
David Rentsch (Bern): “Afterlives of a Colonial Concession: Cash Crops and Agronomic Research in Yangambi, DRC”
Ernst Langthaler (Linz): “Soy Frontier Expansions: Regional Arenas of Agro-Food Globalization in the Long Twentieth Century”
Commentator: Antoine Acker (Geneva)

17:30 Concluding Roundtable & Discussion
Sebastian Haumann (Salzburg) & Friedrich Lenger (Gießen)
Moderation: Christof Dejung

END OF CONFERENCE

19:00 Dinner for Speakers
Haus der Universität, Schlösslistrasse 5, 3008 Bern; joint walk from Hotel at 19:00