

**Extraction, Sovereignty and Resources in the Long Great Acceleration: Writing  
Global Economic and Environmental Histories, 1800-2000**

**August 28-29, Bern**

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) & 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

*Moritz von Brescius* (Bern/Harvard): *“Invading the World: Commodity ‘Research & Propaganda’ and the Global Expansion of Rubber Consumption, 1900–1980”*

*Robrecht Declercq* (Ghent): *“Material Worlds. Resource Institutes and the Making of Consumer Markets for Metals (1920-1970)”*

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, Bühelstrasse 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 Palen* (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 Fellingner* (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, Schösslstrasse 5, 3008 Bern; joint walk from Hotel at 19:00c