

International Workshop (pre-circulated papers)

The Circulation of (Post)Colonial Knowledge: A Transpacific History, 1800-1980

Friday, March 13, and Saturday, March 14, 2015

Location:

Friday: KO2 F 172, Main Building, University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland

Saturday: KOL G 212, Main Building, University of Zurich, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich, Switzerland

Organization and Co-organization

- Christa Wirth, Oberassistentin, History Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Bernhard Schär, Postdoc and Research Assistant, History of the Modern World, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Participants

- Allan Lumba, Global American Studies Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University, USA
- Benjamin Zachariah, Senior Research Fellow, Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg, Germany,
- Harald Fischer-Tiné, Professor History of the Modern World, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
- Hilary Howes, Postdoctoral Fellow (from 30 March), School of Archaeology and Anthropology, Research School of Humanities and the Arts, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University, Australia
- Holger Drössler, Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies, Harvard University, USA (skype)
- Judith Fröhlich, Postdoc Stiefel-Zangger Stiftung, History Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Kapil Raj, Dean and Professor of École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- Konrad Lawson, Lecturer in Modern History, University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK
- Lisa Ford, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales, Australia (skype)
- Marieke Bloembergen, Senior Researcher, KITLV Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden University, Holland
- Martin Dusinberre, Professor of Global History, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Monika Dommann, Professor of Modern History, University of Zurich, Switzerland
- Robert-Jan Wille, Scholar in Residence, Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany
- Sujit Sivasundaram, Fellow, Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, UK
- Sven Trakulhun, Associate Professor for Modern History, University of Konstanz, Germany

Registration: christa.wirth@hist.uzh.ch

Picture: Arnold Heim, New Caledonia, 1921
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**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

The Circulation of (Post)Colonial Knowledge: A Transpacific History, 1800-1980

The history of science has lately been experiencing tectonic shifts from a focus on local practices of science within a narrowly defined community to a scope that crosses national borders, continents, and oceans. Central to these transnational frameworks are questions of circulation. Since the dawn of the new millennium, the “imperial turn” has additionally evoked transnational perspectives in the history of science that emphasize the concept of mobility, circulation, and transfer within empires. The main questions are: How do knowledge, techniques, and practices travel? How are they transformed as they meet resistance and power? And how are they negotiated and reconfigured?

The workshop “The Circulation of (Post)Colonial Knowledge: A Transpacific History” aims to debate these movements of knowledge within the field of science history. We will discuss cases along several axes of time, topics, sites, and (post)colonial settings. We begin in the early 19th century and continue into the more recent past, delineating ideas along the topics of health, drugs, botany, zoology, law, economics, and anthropology in places such as the Dutch East Indies, Samoa, the Swiss Alps, New Guinea, China, and the Philippines, among others, while locating these stories within the histories of the Japanese, German, U.S., British, and Dutch empires, and within Swiss nation building.

The following questions and aspects tie all these cases together. Firstly, how is knowledge created through interactive processes? Secondly, how does knowledge travel and get altered within global networks? And finally, we explore the Pacific as a site of knowledge encounters: we are interested both in cases of local exchanges in and beyond the Pacific and in networks of knowledge circulation in and beyond the Pacific without neglecting asymmetrical material realities of empire.

Date

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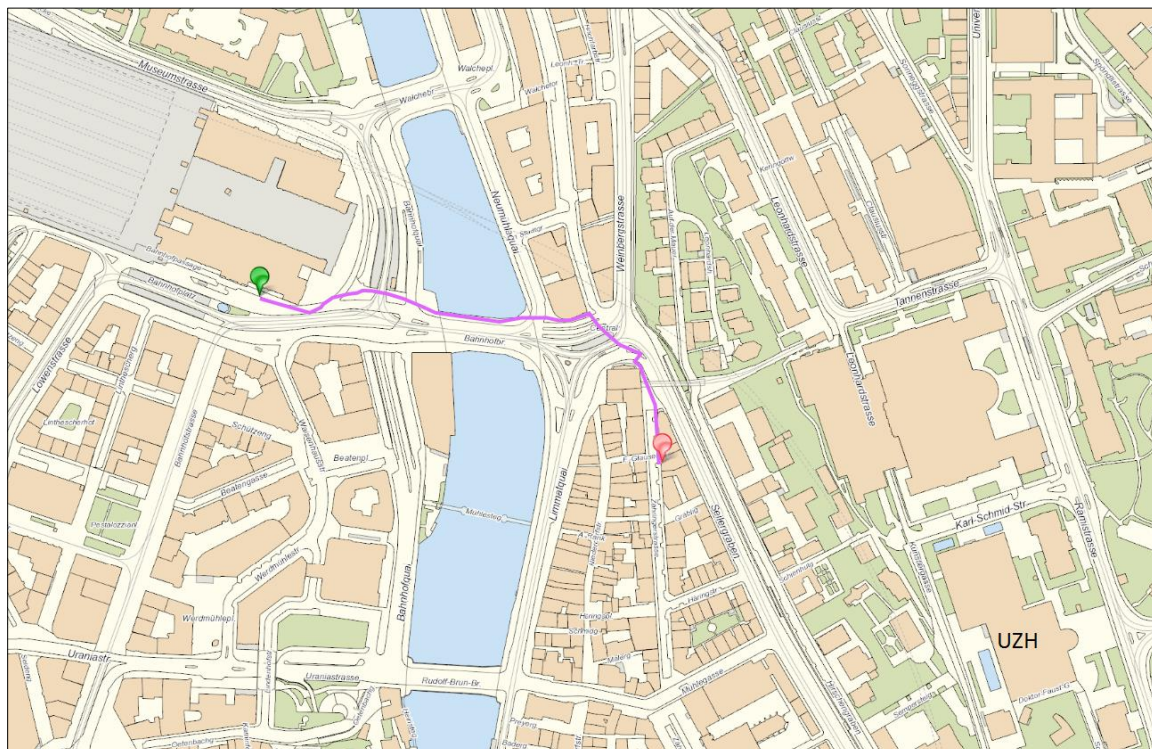
Christa Wirth, Oberassistentin, History Department, University of Zurich (UZH)

Bernhard Schär, Postdoc and Research Assistant, History of the Modern World, ETH Zurich

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Program

Friday, March 13

8.30 Registration

9.00 Welcoming words, Christa Wirth, University of Zurich

Knowledge Cluster I: Science

9.05 – 10.15

Panel 1

5' Chair: Christa Wirth

5'-10' Paper: Robert-Jan Wille, Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany

“The Transnational Network of Tropical Botany in the Dutch Indies: A Pacific Nexus Between German Laboratory Science and American Agriculture”

10' Comment: Sven Trakulhun

45' Discussion

10.15 – 10.45: 30' Break: Coffee and Croissants

10.45 – 11.55

Panel 2

5' Chair: Sujit Sivasundaram

5'-10' Paper: Marieke Bloembergen, KITLV Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies, Leiden University, Holland

“Exchange and the Protection of Java's Antiquities: A Transnational Approach to the Problem of Heritage in Colonial Java”

10' Comment: Bernhard Schär

45' Discussion

11.55 to 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 – 14.40

Panel 3

5' Chair: Bernhard Schär

5'-10' Paper: Christa Wirth, History Department, University of Zurich

“The U.S. Peace Corps as a Science Experiment in the Postcolonial Philippines”

10' Comment: Allan Lumba

45' Discussion

5' Break

14.45 – 15.55

Panel 4

5' Chair: Allan Lumba

5'-10' Paper: Bernhard Schär, ETH Zurich

“The Swiss Pacific: Networks, Knowledge, Practices”

10' Comment: Marieke Bloembergen

45' Discussion

15.55 – 16.25: 30' Break: Coffee

16.25 – 17.35

Panel 5

5' Chair: Sven Trakulhun

5'-10' Paper: Benjamin Zachariah, Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, Heidelberg, Germany

“A Good Time To Be Brown? Postcolonial Studies and Legitimation In and Across Context(s)”

10' Comment: Hilary Howes

45' Discussion

20 Dinner

Saturday, March 14

9.00 – 10.10

Panel 6

5' Chair: Judith Fröhlich

5'-10' Paper: Hilary Howes

“Anthropological Results of a Journey in the South Seas: The Production and Circulation of Knowledge about Pacific Peoples by German-speaking Traveller-Naturalists, 1865-1914”

10' Comment: Lisa Ford (Skype)

45' Discussion

5' Break

Knowledge Cluster II: Law

10.15 – 11.25

Panel 7

5' Chair: Christa Wirth

5'-10' Paper: Konrad Lawson, St Andrews University

“Between Post-occupation and Post-colonial: Framing the Recent Past in the Philippines, 1945–1946”

10' Comment: Monika Dommann

45' Discussion

11.25 – 11.45: 20' Break: Coffee and Croissants

Knowledge Cluster III: Economics

11.45 – 12.55

Panel 8

5' Chair: Konrad Lawson

5'-10' Paper: Allan Lumba, Harvard University

“Racial Anxieties and Economic Knowledge in the Decolonizing Philippines”

10' Comment: Harald Fischer-Tiné

45' Discussion

12.55 to 14.30 Lunch Break

Knowledge Cluster IV: Health and Care

14.30 – 15.40

Panel 9

5' Chair: Robert-Jan Wille

5'-10' Paper: Judith Fröhlich, University of Zurich

“The History of Opiates in Imperial Japan”

10' Comment: Martin Dusingher

45' Discussion

15.40 – 16.00: 20' Break: Coffee

16.00 – 17.10

Panel 10

5' Chair: Martin Dusinger

5'-10' Paper: Holger Drössler, Harvard University (Skype)

“The Education of Miss Pepe: Samoan Nurses and the Politics of Colonial Care, 1900–1924”

10' Comment: Sujit Sivasundaram

45' Discussion

5' Break

17.20 – 18.00 Final Discussion and Closing Statements

18.00 End of Workshop