Agriculture and the Production of the Global South 1900s–1960s

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

The importance of agriculture and extractive industries to the making of the Global South in the 20th century has been obfuscated by the resonance of modernisation theory, dependency theory and development economics since the Second World War. With this workshop we seek to move beyond the rigid dualism of postwar models of growth and development by excavating processes and trajectories in the Global South and Global North that reveal the importance of agriculture and extractive production to the making of our contemporary world.

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photgraphic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity.

Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.







Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

Agriculture and the Production of the Global South, 1900s-1960s

Concept and organisation:

Judd Kinzley and Paula Vedoveli



Please register by 28 March 2024: https://www.globaldisconnect.org/registration/ A link will be sent for remote participation upon registration. 4-5 April 2024

Käte Hamburger Research Centre global disconnect LMU Munich

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Thursday, 04 April 2024

09:00 Welcome coffee Opening remarks 09:30 09:45 The business of agriculture Amalia R. Forclaz, Fields of progress: the International Labour Organization and the problem of agriculture, 1920-1950

Clemens Six, The making of agriculture nations in decolonising rural spaces: India, British-Malaya, and the FAO, 1947-1960

Judd Kinzley, International loans and Chinese agricultural products, 1935–1950

Chair: Paula Vedoveli

11:00 Coffee break

11:15 Expertise and agriculture (I)

Emily Osborn, 'Alive to the needs of the people': nation-building and the Land Grant University in Sierra Leone, West Africa

Ayala Levin, The global project of rurality: American planning in Africa, 1950s-1980s

Paula Vedoveli, Plainly visible: the making of agricultural economies through visual economic data in Argentina and Brazil, 1900-1940

Chair: Peter Becker

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Pathways to specialisation

Perdana Roswaldy, Profiting off the future loss: land speculation and brokering in Indonesia's palm oil

Seun Williams, 'When the flock and herds can make their full contribution to the ... development of the country': the livestock industry and socio-economic development in colonial Nigeria

Chair: Ayala Levin

15:15 Coffee break

Agriculture and empire 15:45

Michelle Sollai, Droughtscapes of Modernity: A Global Environmental History of Drylands in the Long Green Revolution

Geoffrey Traugh, Protected people: race, rurality and the origins of anticolonial agrarianism in British Africa

Simon Jackson, From Khouribga to the world: contemporary possibilities and methodological problems for a global history of Moroccan phosphate in the era of decolonisation

Chair: Matthias Leanza

19:00 Dinner

Friday, 05 April 2024

08:30 Welcome coffee

09:00 Expertise and agriculture (II)

Hannah Tyler, Land grab united? The USDA, Cornell and the transnational emergence of South African agricultural economics (1920-1950)

Carolina Hormaza, Forecasting agriculture: German geography on agrarian colonization in Latin America from 1940 to 1970

Claiton da Silva, The forgotten green revolution: the work of the IRI Research Institute (IRI) in global south countries (1950s-1960s)

Chair: Judd Kinzley

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 Nature and nation

John Gamett, The environment as enemy of the state: wheat rust and the green legend in Mexico, 1899-1943

Tinakrit Sireerat, Nature for the nation? Siam's Royal Forest Department at the turn of the 20th Century, 1900s-1930s

Tomás Bartoletti, Insect pest control and the gospel of modern agriculture: economic entomolgy in the Global South, ca. 1880-1940

Chair: Lachlan Fleetwood

12:00 Lunch

Roads to modernisation 13:45

Georg Fischer, Converging frontiers: Bolivian-Brazilian cooperation in agriculture and Infrastructure, 1950s

Elisa Grandi, International credit, trade regulations and land reforms in Colombia: from the bonanza cafetera to the rural development programs under the Alliance for Progress (1925-1961)

Chair: Tom Menger

Coffee break 14:45

Concluding remarks