

Writing German Colonial History Today. Renewed Issues and Perspectives

22–24 May 2024



Organisation:

Delphine Froment (Univ. Lorraine), Mathias Hack (Univ. Leipzig),
Robert Heinze (DHIP) and Tobias Wagemann (ENS-PSL-IHMC)



In recent years the engagement with Germany's colonial past has become one of the most active fields in the historiography, both in and outside Germany as well as its former colonial territories. Historians have extended the scope of research to include the agency of indigenous and local actors, revisit the economic histories of German imperialism and draw transimperial connections. Equally the chronological and geographical limits of German colonialism are readressed and the postcoloniality of both Germany and the former colonies is debated in an ever-increasing range from museum exhibitions, to tourism and foreign politics. We are glad to continue and extend discussions about many of these current research strands with presenters and participants at this conference.

Registration:

For online participation please register here:

[Zoomlink for the opening keynote, 22 May 2024](#)

[Zoomlink for 23 May 2024](#)

[Zoomlink for the roundtable discussion, 23 May 2024](#)

[Zoomlink for 24 May 2024](#)

No registration is required for on-site participation.

Information: german.colonialism@gmail.com

Further information on the cover image

The illustration on the cover is from the graphic novel »Widerstand« (Resistance) by Initiative Perspektivwechsel, which was created with the two Cameroonian illustrators Franky Mindja and Daniel Assako.

Colonial rule was characterized by the violent restructuring of virtually all areas of life, be it the economy, education, culture or language. The graphic novel »Widerstand« outlines three generations of anti-colonial protest in Cameroon: that of King Douala Manga Bell, the Anlu rebellion of the Kom women and the activist André Blaise Essama. Here, the colonized write history and defend themselves against the system of oppression, violence and exploitation. They enable history education from an anti-racist and anti-colonial perspective and offer starting points for discussing the colonial legacy

Image credits: Drawing from the comic »Widerstand« © Initiative Perspektivwechsel e.V., Franky Mindja

■ Wednesday, 22 May 2024

18.00 Word of welcome, **Klaus Oschema** (DHIP)

Opening Keynote

Joël Glasman (Univ. Bayreuth), The Production of Indifference. Colonialism and the Origins of European Apathy

19.00 Dinner

■ Thursday, 23 May 2024

9.00 Welcome and Introduction

Delphine Froment (CRULH), **Mathias Hack** (Univ. Leipzig), **Robert Heinze** (DHIP), **Tobias Wagemann** (ENS)

9.30 Panel 1

The Transimperial Dimensions of German Colonialism

Chair: **Christine de Gemeaux** (Univ. Tours)

Benedict Oldfield (Uppsala Univ.), Indians and German Colonialism in East Africa

Willeke Sandler (Loyola Univ. Maryland), »The War Was a Great Link«. Interwar Tanganyika as Transimperial Space

12.00 Lunch

13.30 Panel 2

The Agency of Indigenous Actors and German Colonial Rule

Chair: **Antje Dietze** (Univ. Leipzig)

Sabine Hanke (Univ. Tübingen), Feathers from Paradise. Indigenous Perspectives on Hunting Birds of Paradise in German New Guinea, c. 1880s–1920s

Jourdain Tiendjo Nouwezem (Univ. Douala), Indigenous People in the Process of Urbanisation in Cameroon During the German Period. The Case of Douala

Kodzo Abotsi (Univ. Lomé), Writing German Colonial History in Togo Based on the Writings of the Colonized. The Case of Petitions and Newspaper Articles (1902–1914)

15.30 Coffee Break

18.00 Roundtable

German Colonialism from Both Sides of the Rhine – Historical Transfers, Historiographical Dialogue

Discussants: **Nina Kleinöder** (Univ. Bamberg), **Christine de Gemeaux** (Univ. Tours), **Catherine Repussard** (Univ. Strasbourg) and **Matthew Fitzpatrick** (Flinders univ., Adelaide)

Chair: **Jakob Vogel** (Science Po Paris)

French & German with simultaneous translation

20.00 Dinner

■ **Friday, 24 May 2024**

9.30 Panel 3

The Chronological and Geographical Limits of the German Empire

Chair: **Nina Kleinöder** (Univ. Bamberg)

Katherine Arnold (LMU Munich), Natural History Collecting as a Tool for Interpreting German Pre-Colonial Entanglements

Paul Csillag (EUI Florence), Crusade Romanticism – Friedrich III's Orientreise as an Indicator of Imperial Intentions

Clara Torrão Busin (EHESS), From a Line on the Map to a Border Corridor to the Front. Spatial and Social Impacts of Border Drawing in the Kionga Region (Northern Mozambique)

12.00 Lunch

13.30 Panel 4

Economy and Labour

Chair: **Henry Kah** (Univ. Buea)

Esther Joselyne Tonye (Univ. Douala) and **Léopold Sédar Edong** (Univ. Dschang), Heritage, Memory, and German Colonial History in Cameroon. Between Appropriation and Rejection? The Example of the German Bridge over the Sanaga and the Njock Railways Tunnels in the Collective Memory of the Bassa People

Edith Nadège Tchuemogne (Univ. Dschang), German Postcolonial Period in the Southern Cameroons. The Impact of the Return of the Germans to Economic Life

Tomas Bartoletti (ETH Zürich), Colonial Beetles in German Samoa. Economic Entomology and the Ecological Crisis in the Coconut Plantations

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Panel 5

Postcolonial Germany and Postcolonial Worlds

Chair: **Jakob Vogel** (Science Po Paris)

Clémence Andreys (Univ. Franche-Comté), Building a New Culture of Remembrance of German Colonization. The Works of Museums and Citizen Groups

Jana Otto (Univ. Hannover), Exhibiting or Concealing the Colonial Past? – The Family Archive, Postcolonial Memory, and Material Culture in Germany

Derrick Dang (Univ. Ebolowa), Germany in the Cameroonian Tourist Space from 1896 to 1987. Construction of Tourism Infrastructure, Tourist Germanophobia and Promotion of the Cameroon Destination

18.00 Ending Keynote

Matthew Fitzpatrick (Flinders University), Liberal Imperialism in German Samoa. Exception, Exemplar or Empire as Usual?

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