Events and Announcements

Claudia Bernardi

This section aims to improve communications between initiatives, artists, activists, scholars, and research groups engaged in the study and politics of commodity frontiers. Here you will find the latest news recommended by people from the Commodity Frontiers Initiative.

This is a first selection, and we would be happy to add further events on our website, in social media, and in future volumes of Commodity Frontiers. Please send your announcements to Claudia Bernardi (clod.zeta@gmail.com), or contact us through the website, Twitter, or Facebook.

Upcoming Workshops, Webinars, and Conferences

Conference: Sixth European Congress of The European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH)
15-19/06/2021
Addressing the exposure to and challenge of historical and contemporary mechanisms and policies of marginalization and exclusion in their relation to past and present cultures of integration, we hope to stimulate a reflection on the normative underpinnings of societies. With the Sixth ENIUGH Congress, we will also continue to explore the relations, transfers, and entanglements between states, peoples, communities, and individuals, situated in or spanning different regions of the world in a comparative and a longue durée perspective. The common emphasis is again a commitment to transcending the confines of national and Eurocentric historiographies.
https://www.meetturku.fi/en/meet-turku-en/references/eniugh-2021

https://research.uni-leipzig.de/~eniugh/

Symposium: Latex. Critical Inflections on (Neo)Extractivism in Latin America
27-28/09/2021
ICI Berlin
The symposium seeks to examine and question the different modes of extractivism that have marred and marked the histories of Latin America and the Caribbean. The distinctive qualities of rubber (plasticity, isolation, expansivity, erasure) are the starting point for a contemporary inquiry of (neo)extractivism. Its political, environmental, cultural and social facets are to be analyzed, in particular as they are critically undertaken by literature and the visual arts. Artists and scholars will explore this mode of accumulation in its intimate relationship to the production and circulation of theory and cultural capital; to epistemicide and necropolitics; and to a restrictive worldview of ‘nature’ as an inert reservoir for economic exploitation.

https://www.ici-berlin.org/events/latex/

Conference: Rural History Conference 2021
23-26/08/2021
European Rural History Organisation (EURHO)

The aim of the conference is to promote a dialogue between rural history researchers which aims to surpass national frontiers, cross chronological barriers and break down disciplinary boundaries. Previous conferences have dealt with such diverse topics as food markets and food security; agricultural landscapes then and now; rural politics; agricultural innovation; plant and animal improvement; garden
history; peasant economies; poverty and social relations in the countryside; gender and work in agriculture; enclosures, property rights and the commons; rural textile industries; urban agriculture; climate change and agricultural production; and the agricultural transformation.

https://www.ruralhistory2021.se/
Conference: "Universo Canavieiro e Realidade Alagoana: terra, trabalho, poder e meio ambiente” (The world of sugarcane and Alagoas' Reality: land, labour, power and environment)
25-27/05/2021

The event will feature researchers and professors from Brazil and abroad to discuss the sugarcane universe from multiple themes and analytical approaches. There will be an opportunity to present research in the following Working Groups: 1) labour, migration and class conflicts; 2) modernisation, crisis and technological innovation; 3) environment, territory and agrarian question. The seminar will accept abstracts and articles from researchers, postgraduate students, undergraduate students and professors. The conference will be live broadcast on Youtube.

Deadline for abstracts submission: May 1st.
Abstracts should be sent to seminariouniversocanavieiro@gmail.com
Event website: www.seminariocanavieiroufal.com
Facebook event: https://www.facebook.com/events/208767001006157/

Calls for Papers

CfP: Dossier on Frontiers, Companies of Colonization, and Indigenous Peoples, 19th-20th Centuries
15/04/2021
Historia Critica

In recent decades, frontier studies have allowed rethinking the creation of interstate delimitations as processes where local, national, and transnational actors intervene. In this dossier, we seek to highlight these interactions in different frontier spaces in Latin America in the 19th and 20th centuries, especially accounting for the role played by colonization enterprises in the attainment of the sovereignty of states and their incidence on the indigenous peoples who, until then, had remained at the margins of, or enjoyed relative liberty regarding, the organizational rules established under the colonial order and the nascent republics.

https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/callforpapers/histcirt

CfP: Conflict in Rural Society
31/07/2021
Historia Agraria de América Latina

By bringing together research on rural conflicts in different regions and historical periods, this issue seeks to generate comparative reflections on the nature of conflict in rural Latin America and how it has evolved over time. Recognising that “rural society” is not a fixed object of study, the editors are also interested in articles that examine the role of conflict in creating and maintaining divisions between the urban and the rural. Work that promotes dialogue on different theoretical and methodological perspectives is especially welcome.

https://haal.cl/index.php/haal/coloquio-historia-agraria

CfP: The Raw and the Refined: Commodities, Processing, and Power in Global Perspective
31/03/2021
Commodities of Empire International Workshop
There has long been a tendency to suppose that commodities exported from the Global South have been ‘raw’ and destined for manufacture in the Global North. They have certainly been labelled as such. The assumptions underlying this stated division of labour derived from theories of colonial pact, underdevelopment, dependency, and unequal exchange. In this two-day workshop, we aim to explore, through case studies, how and why the history of commodity processing unfolded so unevenly. We are interested in all geographical regions and approaches from various disciplines.

Calls for Proposals

EXTRACTION: Art on the Edge of the Abyss
CODEX Foundation

Extraction is a multimedia, multi-venue, cross-border art intervention which seeks to provoke societal change by exposing and interrogating the negative social and environmental consequences of industrialized natural resource extraction. A global coalition of artists and creators committed to shining a light on all forms of extractive industry—from mining and drilling to the reckless plundering and exploitation of fresh water, fertile soil, timber, marine life, and innumerable other resources across the globe—the Extraction Project will culminate in a constellation of nearly fifty overlapping exhibitions, performances, installations, site-specific work, land art, street art, publications, poetry readings, and cross-media events throughout 2021 and beyond.

https://www.extractionart.org/home

Agroforestry with Perennial Crops, and the Contradictions between Commodity Production and Local Benefits
Frontiers

Agroforestry systems (AFS) as part of the practice, science, and movement of agroecology, are forms of land-use that combine wild and domesticated plants, crops and/or animals with trees, shrubs or other arborescent forms of life. These types of land-use mimic, to some degree, the structure, composition, and functions of natural ecosystems, allowing them to offer a range of environmental services. This is particularly the case for AFS with perennial crops, which are mainly valued as producers of commodities. We welcome original research, reviews, and perspective papers. We encourage submissions focused on the contributions of AFS with perennial crops and which emphasize the tensions, trade-offs and mutual benefits between AFS ability to produce commodities

https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/13664/agroforestry-with-perennial-crops-and-the-contradictions-between-commodity-production-and-local-bene

Vacancies and Residencies

Exhibitions

“Commodities of Consumption and Sites of Extraction in the Global South
Alliance Francaise De Lagos

A multi-faceted and ongoing artistic research project by the Nigerian artist Ndidi Dike who deals with the political dimensions of commodities—their consumption, circulation, manufacture, as well as geopolitical policies that underwrite the control and extractive industries that govern natural resources and appropriation in Africa. This installation takes up consumer products connected with the transatlantic slave trade (along with current day global commodity markets), and highlights their materiality as potent metaphors.
Other Announcements

Transition Minerals Tracker
Business and Human Rights Resource Centre

The updated and expanded tracker now monitors companies that produce a majority of six key commodities vital to the clean energy transition. The data demonstrates too often the production of these minerals is coming at the cost of frontline communities. Companies producing these minerals need to put in place stronger human rights policies and, more importantly, put these company commitments into practice on the ground.

https://trackers.business-humanrights.org/transition-minerals/

Prize: Walter Markov Prize 2021 and calls for applications.
15/04/2021
European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH)

The prize honours an outstanding PhD- or MA-thesis that contributes to the research fields of Walter Markov, especially the comparative exploration of revolutions; social movements and decolonisation processes in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; historiographical traditions in various national contexts, and academic internationalisation in the course of the 20th century. Papers that are submitted for the Walter-Markov-Prize are expected to take a global perspective on its subject, either by addressing it from a comparative point of view, by examining processes of cultural transfers, or by seeking to understand the entanglements of various spatial frameworks.

https://research.uni-leipzig.de/~eniugh/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Markovpreis_ENG_201201.pdf

Book release: Mapping water in Dominica. Enslavement and Environment under Colonialism
by Mark W. Hauser

Mark Hauser draws on archaeological and archival history from Dominica to reconstruct the changing ways that enslaved people interacted with water and exposes crucial pieces of Dominica's colonial history that have been omitted from official documents. The archaeological record—which preserves traces of slave households, waterways, boiling houses, mills, and vessels for storing water—reveals changes in political authority and in how social relations were mediated through the environment.

https://uw.manifoldapp.org/projects/mapping-water-in-dominica

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