Beyond Data
Knowledge Production in Bureaucracies across Science, Commerce, and the State

Workshop
German Historical Institute Washington D.C.

June 1-3, 2017

Program

Thursday, 1 June 2017

15:30-16:00 Welcome and Introduction
Simone Lässig (GHI), Sebastian Felten, Philipp Lehmann, Christine von Oertzen (MPWIG)

16:00-17:45 Panel I: Antagonizing Logics
Chair: Richard Wetzell (GHI)

Beyond Neoliberalism: Bureaucracies, Machines, and People in an Economizing Age
Dan Bouk (Colgate University)

Image and imagination: Selling Saxon mining shares in Amsterdam, c. 1770
Sebastian Felten (MPIWG)

Data-gathering and Performance Monitoring in the British Army on the Western Front, 1916-18
Chris Phillips (Leeds Trinity University, U.K.)

17:45-18:30 Reception
18:30-20:00  

Keynote Lecture

Introduction: Simone Lässig (GHI)  
Moderator: Christine von Oertzen (MPIWG)

Funny Numbers: Unruly Outcomes of Data-Driven Management  
Theodore Porter (University of California, Los Angeles)

Friday, 2 June 2017

9:00-10:45  

Panel II: Laws of the Local

Chair: Sebastian Felten (MPIWG)

The Case against Law: A Historical and Institutional Approach to Local Disputes in the Qing Dynasty  
Maura Dykstra (Caltech)

Know How on the Outskirts. Regional Officers and their Bureaucratic Measures in German New Guinea  
Anna Echterhölter (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Schedule or Scrawl: Techniques and Politics of Ethnographic Documentation in Late 19th-Century New Mexico  
Adam Fulton Johnson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

10:45-11:00  

Coffee Break

11:00-12:45  

Panel III: Promise of the Pattern

Chair: Philipp Lehmann (MPIWG)

From Combating Crime to Analysis of Society? Computerization and Knowledge Production in East and West German (Secret-)Police Authorities, 1960–1990  
Rüdiger Bergien (Zentrum Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam)

Something in the Air Puzzling Health Officials: Knowledge Production and Health Policy during a Global Influenza Epidemic, 1889-1890  
Tom Ewing (Virginia Tech)
Microsoft’s Pivot
Martha Poon (Columbia University/New School)

12:45-14:15    Lunch (on your own)

14:15-16:00    Panel III: Noise and Signal
Chair: Elizabeth Engel (GHI)

Bureaucratic Vision: Images and the Imperial Archive in Modern India
Anindita Nag (University of Calcutta, India; MPIWG)

Knowledge Production by a Propaganda Radio? Radio Free Europe as an
“Epistemic Community” in the Early Cold War
Simon Ottersbach (Universität Gießen)

The Creation of the Qing “Open Archive”
Devin Fitzgerald (Harvard University)

16:00-16:15    Coffee Break

16:15-17:30    Panel IV: Keeping Track of the Field
Chair: Axel Jansen (GHI)

Africa in Narratives and Numbers: Colonial Data Collection Between
Science and the State
Philipp Lehmann (MPIWG)

“The Making of Specimens Eloquent”: Anthropology, Documentation, and
the United States National Museum
Hanna Turner (Simon Fraser University)

19:00          Dinner at Meze Restaurant, 2437 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009
(for Participants)
Saturday, 3 June 2017

9:00-10:45   Panel VI: Answers and Answerability

   Chair: Anna Echterhölter (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

   Cultural Studies: The Rise and Fall of Public Opinion Polling in the Soviet Bloc
   Kyrill Kunakhovich (University of Virginia)

   Managing Mining Across Oceans: Paper Tools and (New) Potosí in the Age of Philip II
   Rennée Raphael (University of California Irvine)

   Seeing Like a State, or Feeling Like a Church? Questioning Thirteenth-Century Questionnaires
   John Sabapathy (University College London)

10:45-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:45  Panel VII: Finding a Common Language

   Chair: Christine von Oertzen (MPIWG)

   Technocracy in Translation: Administering the Russian Enlightenment
   Maria Avxentevskaya (MPIWG)

   The Information Order of the Prussian Frontier: Data Collection and the Remaking of the Polish Partitions, 1772-1806
   Kathryn Olesko (Georgetown University)

   Synchronizing Information in Premodern Bureaucracies: The Case of Imperial China
   Chelsea Zi Wang (Claremont McKenna College)

12:45-13:45  Lunch (at the GHI)

13:45-14:30  General Discussion and Wrap-Up