GHI West Inaugural Workshop

“Empires of Knowledge: Expertise and Imperial Power Across the Long Twentieth Century”

Liu Institute for Global Issues
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada

15 - 16 September 2017

Co-organized by John Krige (Georgia Tech), Axel Jansen (GHI), and Jessica Wang (UBC)

Sponsored by
GHI WEST – Pacific Regional Office of the German Historical Institute Washington DC
B&B Stern Foundation, Atlanta, GA
Liu Institute for Global Issues
Faculty of Arts, UBC
Department of History, UBC

With a special thanks to Green College for hosting Friday night’s Lecture & reception.
Friday, September 15

History Department Conference Room, Room 1197, Buchanan Tower, 1873 East Mall

8:45 - 9:15 Coffee

9:15 - 9:45 Welcome (Axel Jansen, GHI Washington; and Jessica Wang, UBC); Introductions and opening remarks (John Krige, Georgia Institute of Technology)

9:45 - 10:45 Jessica Wang (UBC): “Development and the Biological Management of Empire: Tropical Agriculture in Early Twentieth - Century Hawai‘i”; Commentator: Andrew Zimmerman


11:45 - 1:00 Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:00 Mari Webel (University of Pittsburgh): “Healing Mongota, Treating Trypanosomiasis: Epidemic Sleeping Sickness and the Emplacement of Re-search on Uganda’s Ssese Islands, 1900 - 1910” Commentator: Bob Brain

2:00 - 3:00 Sarah Ehlers (Technical University Munich): “Disease Control and Colonial Knowledge: Sleeping Sickness Campaigns between Empires and International Development Aid”; Commentator: Heidi Tworek

3:00 - 3:30 Kaffeepause

3:30 - 4:30 Frederik Schulze (University of Münster and GHI Washington DC): “In Search of El Dorado: US Experts and the Promise of Development in Guayana/Venezuela”; Commentator: Steven Lee

5:00 - 6:30 Keynote address at Green College: Andrew Zimmerman (George Washington University): “Colonial Knowledge and Rural Insurgency: From the Self - Emancipation of Slaves and Serfs to Decolonization”

6:30 - 8:00 Reception at Green College
Post-reception: Casual dinner for invited workshop participants at Koerner’s Pub, UBC

Saturday, September 16

Research Unit Room, Liu Institute (1st floor), 6476 NW Marine Drive

9:15 - 9:45 Coffee

9:45 - 10:45 Suman Seth (Cornell University): “Difference and Disease: Medicine, Race, and Locality in the Eighteenth Century British Empire”; Commentator: Aaron Windel

10:45 - 11:45 Ruth Rogaski (Vanderbilt University): “Plagueland: Mapping the Web of Disease Ecology in Manchuria, 1900 - 1945”; Commentator: Helen Tilley

11:45 - 1:00 Lunch Break

1:00 - 2:00 Julia Cummiskey (University of Tennessee, Chattanooga): “An ecological experiment on the grand scale’: Creating an Experimental Field in Bwamba, Uganda, 1942 - 1950”; Commentator: David Morton

2:00 - 3:00 Theresa Ventura (Concordia University): “The Malnourished Tropics: Beriberi Research in Southeast Asia before and after 1945”; Commentator: John Krige

3:00 – 3:30 Kaffeepause

3:30 - 4:30 Prakash Kumar (Penn State University): “Forms of Agrarian Developmentalism in Colonial and Nehruvian India”; Commentator: Jeffrey Byrne

4:30 - 5:30 Concluding discussion (Opening remarks: David Lazar)

Dinner for invited workshop participants: Nuba, 3116 West Broadway, 7:00 p.m.