

**Extraction, Sovereignty and Resources in the Long Great Acceleration: Writing
Global Economic and Environmental Histories, 1800-2000**

August 28-29, Bern

Organizer: Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard)

Day 1, Monday, August 28, 2023
Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 120

9:00–9:10 **Welcome and Introduction: Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard) & Christof
Dejung (Bern)**

9:10–10:30 **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

Corey Ross (Birmingham/Basel): Water Resources, Empire, and After: Reflections
from the Water Faucet and Irrigation Canal
Chair: *Sebastian de Pretto* (Bern)

10:30–10:45 **Coffee Break**

10:45–12:15 **SCIENCE, MARKETING AND THE CONSUMPTION OF “NATURAL” RESOURCES**

Chair: *Henrique Gasperin* (Geneva)
Moritz von Brescius (Bern/Harvard): “Invading the World: Commodity ‘Research &
Propaganda’ and the Global Expansion of Rubber Consumption, 1900–1980”
Robrecht Declercq (Ghent): “Material Worlds. Resource Institutes and the Making
of Consumer Markets for Metals (1920-1970)”
Commentary: *Heinzpeter Znoj* (Bern)

12:15–13:30 **LUNCH (Ali Baba, Lerchenweg 35, 3012 Bern)**

13:30–15:00 **MINING AND MINERALS**

Chair: *Lukas Becker* (Geneva)
Iva Pesa (Groningen): “Resource Extraction, Commodity Cycles, and
Environmentalism in Africa”
Florence Hachez-Leroy (Université d’Artois): A Material History of Aluminum
Commentator: *Martin Dusinberre* (Zurich)

15:00–15:20 Coffee Break

15:20–16:50 LAND REGULATIONS AND TRADING INSURANCES

Chair: Michele Sollai (Paris)

Martin Lengwiler (Basel): “Global and Local Cultures of Risk: Non-Life Insurance and Natural Resources in a Global and Transepochal Perspective”

Tobias Haller (Bern): “Colonial Legacies of the Sustainable Development Goals: Why the SDGs could become the abbreviation of Sanctioning Disciplined Grabs”

Commentary: *Judith Vitale* (Zurich)

17:00 Mid-Conference Commentary & Discussion

Richard Drayton (King’s College)

18:30 Conference Dinner for Speakers

Casa d’Italia, Bühlsstrasse 57, 3012 Bern, joint walk from Hotel

Day 2, Tuesday, August 29, 2023
Mittelstrasse 43, Seminar Room 324

9:00-10:25: ECONOMIC BOTANY

Chair: *Rea Vogt* (Bern)

Marine Bellégo (Paris): “Economic Botany in the Late-Nineteenth Century British Empire”

Arupjyoti Saikia (Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati): “Hardwoods and the British Empire in Assam: The Imperial Life of Sal and Teak, 1850s–1940s”

Commentator: *Tomas Bartoletti* (Zurich)

10:25-10:35 COFFEE BREAK

10:35-12:00 MARKETS AND COMMODITIES

Chair: *David Rentsch*

Marc Palen (Exeter): “Free Markets, Natural Resources, National Sovereignty, and Supranational Regulation: The Left-Wing Anti-Imperial Imagination and its Contradictions”

David Bell (HU Berlin): “Ralli Brothers – ‘The Golden Fibre,’ Portrait of a Specialist Commodity Trader”

Commentary: *Christian Büschges* (Bern)

12:00-13:15 LUNCH (Taj Restaurant Bern, Länggassstrasse 43, 3012 Bern)

13:15-14:30 FRONTIERS

Chair: Marius Fellingner (Bern)

Gunnel Cederlöf (Linnaeus University): "Exceptional, Pragmatic and Provisional: Formation of British Imperial Governance in Asian Frontier Tracts"

Gareth Austin (Cambridge): "Two Concepts of Extraction and the Case of Ghanaian Cocoa Production, 1880s-Present"

Commentator: *Christian Gerlach* (Bern)

14:30-14:45 Coffee Break

14:45-16:00: LABOUR

Chair: *Agnes Gehbald* (Bern)

Anna Sailer (Göttingen): "Mapping the Forests' Value – Forest Regulation and Timber Production in late 19th century India"

Jelmer Vos (Glasgow): "The Labour of Coffee: Angolan Forced Labour in Comparative Perspective"

Commentary: *Julia Tischler* (Basel)

16:00-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-17:30 COMMODITY FRONTIERS

Chair: *Andreas Zeman* (Geneva)

David Rentsch (Bern): "Afterlives of a Colonial Concession: Cash Crops and Agronomic Research in Yangambi, DRC"

Ernst Langthaler (Linz): "Soy Frontier Expansions: Regional Arenas of Agro-Food Globalization in the Long Twentieth Century"

Commentator: *Antoine Acker* (Geneva)

17:30 Concluding Roundtable & Discussion

Sebastian Haumann (Salzburg) & *Friedrich Lenger* (Gießen)

Moderation: *Christof Dejung*

END OF CONFERENCE

19:00

Dinner for Speakers

Haus der Universität, Schösslistrasse 5, 3008 Bern; joint walk from Hotel at 19:00
