

International Workshop

**Re-Appropriating World Market Production:
Commodity Chains in the Project of Postcolonial Development
(1920-2000)**

June 18th – 19th 2009

Programme/Timetable

**University of Bern/Switzerland
Historical Institute and Institute for Social Anthropology
Organiser: Patrick Neveling**

Venue:
Main Building, Hochschulstrasse 4
3012 Bern, Room 115

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This workshop has been organised in collaboration with the Commodities of Empire Project, an international research network coordinated by London Metropolitan University's Caribbean Studies Centre and the Open University's Ferguson Centre for African and Asian Studies (<http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/ferguson-centre/commodities-of-empire/index.html>).

A perspective that explicitly focuses on post-colonial nation-states and looks at how commodity chains were established within competing projects of development and modernisation after World War II can shed new light on world economic developments happening from the 1980s onward. This workshop aims to bring together papers which look at the emergence of neo-liberal and structural adjustment policies from a wider perspective and thus question periodisations of globalisation and the often core-centred approaches to macro-scale developments. Because this perspective has the potential to show that events in the so-called peripheries actually triggered the slow-down of the growth of capitalism and the spectacular growth of finance capitalism in the West from the 1980s onward, it is important to take the postcolonial re-appropriation of world market production in the respective nation-states as a first empirical consideration.

The aim of this workshop is thus to compare different projects of postcolonial development, their origins and their trajectories in a comparative perspective that focuses on a single commodity central to the respective nation-state's ideology of development.

Thursday, June 18th

18:15 – 18:30 Welcome/Introduction to the Workshop

Patrick Neveling

Historical Institute and Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Berne, Switzerland

18:30 – 19:30 Keynote

Steve Reyna

Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures, University of Manchester, Great Britain

The Gathering Storm: Commodity Chains, Economic Turbulence, and Global Warring (1973 – 2009)

From 20:00 Dinner

Friday, June 19th

Session I Commodity Chains within Changing Ideologies of Development

Chair:

Daniel Marc Segesser

Historical Institute, University of Berne, Switzerland

10:00 – 10:50

Jan-Frederik Abbeloos

Department of Contemporary History, Ghent University, Belgium

National Development and the Global Copper Commodity Chain: Looking Back at the Limits of the 1960s Nationalisation Agenda

- 10:50 – 11:40 **David Bozzini**
 Institute of Anthropology, University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
Footwear for Liberation, Footwear for the Nation: War, Economic Policy, Plastic Sandals, and Public Discourse in Eritrea
- 11:40 – 13:00 *Lunch break*
- Session II** **Commodity Chains, Entrepreneurship and the State**
- Chair: **Julia Eckert**
 Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Berne, Switzerland
- 13:00 – 13:50 **Daniel Münster**
 Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany
Settler Colonists, Agrarian Entrepreneurs and the Permissive State. Aspects of the Political Economy of Hill Produce in Wayanad, South India, 1920 – 1998
- 13:50 – 14:40 **Patrick Neveling**
 Historical Institute and Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Berne, Switzerland
The (Dis-)Comfort of Global Commodity Chains: Colonial and Postcolonial New Deals for the Mauritian Economy
- 14:40 – 15:20 *Coffee break*
- Session III** **Commodity Chains within "Stable" Ideologies of Development**
- Chair: **Heinzpeter Znoj**
 Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Berne, Switzerland
- 15:20 – 16:10 **Emma Reisz**
 Department of History, Queen's University Belfast, Great Britain
Rubber Commodity Chains, Race and Development Ideologies in Malaya
- 16:10 – 17:00 **Christian Strümpell**
 South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany
Steel to Mould the Nation: Nehru's Vision of Postcolonial Development, India in the World Economy and the Rourkela Steel Plant
- 17:00 – 17:20 *Coffee break*
- 17:20 – 18:00 **Final Discussion**
- From 19:30 *Dinner*