Uneasy Neighbours: Conflict and Control in the Colonial City, c. 1870-1940 (On Site / Zoom)

Discussion published by Norman Aselmeyer on Tuesday, July 19, 2022

VENUE: Bremen, Germany
ZOOM: https://uni-bremen.zoom.us/my/uneasyneighbours

The conference explores ideas, experiences, and memories of neighbours and neighbourhoods in the colonial city.

It brings together historians, sociologists, and urban scholars of the Mediterranean, sub-Saharan Africa, and South East Asia to discuss new avenues in the research of living together and living apart in colonial cities.

By exploring the neighbourhood as a site of encounter, conflict, and exchange, this conference moves beyond the lingering dichotomies of colonial urban history: fragmentation vs. encounter, agency vs. coercion, coexistence vs. conflict. Instead, we aim to capture the ambivalence of being neighbours in the colonial city: a fragile, at times tense, at times amicable modus vivendi.

Organised by Avner Ofrath, Norman Aselmeyer, and Cornelius Torp.

In co-operation with the University of Bremen, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, and Haus der Wissenschaft Bremen.

Please join us on site or online via https://uni-bremen.zoom.us/my/uneasyneighbours.

PROGRAM

Day 1: 21 July 2022
Venue: Haus der Wissenschaft, Bremen, Olbers-Saal

10.00–10.30 am (CET)
Welcome and Registration
(Haus der Wissenschaft, 2nd Floor)
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OPENING LECTURE
10.30–11.00 am (CET)
Avner Ofrath (University of Bremen)
Urban Violence and Coexistence at the Twilight of Empire
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PANEL 1: GOVERNING URBAN SPACES
11.00 am - 12.30 pm (CET)
Jennifer Hart (Wayne State University)
Ideal Housing: The Politics of Building and Living in 20th Century Accra

Javed Iqbal Wani (Ambedkar University Delhi)
Regulating ‘Hooligans’ and ‘Mawaalis’ in the City: Communalism, Collective Action and the Politics of Public Order in Late Colonial India

Geert Castryck (Leipzig University)
From “Ethnic” to Spatial: Overcoming Inter-Community Conflict through the Reorganization of Neighbourhood Administration in Colonial Ujiji (1930s–1940s)

Chair: Norman Aselmeyer (University of Bremen)
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12.30–1.30 pm (CET)
Lunch Break
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**PANEL 2: PLACES OF ENCOUNTER**
1.30–3.00 pm (CET)

Yasmina El Chami (Anglia Ruskin University)
‘Collective’ Colonialism: Missionary Competition as Sectarian Project in Nineteenth-Century Beirut

Michael Yeo (Nanyang Technological University)
Colonial Towns in the Periphery: The Social Worlds of Sandakan and Jesselton, c. 1900s–1930s

Robert Pascoe and Chris McConville (Victoria University)
Bazaar Lives: Communities, Commodities and Urban Reform in Calcutta

Chair: Julia Hauser (University of Kassel)
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3.00–3.30 pm (CET)
Coffee Break
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**PANEL 3: CONFLICT, PROTEST, AND CONTROL**
3.30–5.00 pm (CET)

Halimat Titilola Somotan (Carnegie Mellon University)
Property Disputes and Everyday Histories in Epetedo, Colonial Lagos, 1927–1946

Sugata Nandi (West Bengal State University)
From Unity to Conflict: Nationalism and Communalism in Neighbourhoods of Colonial Calcutta, 1919–1926

Norman Aselmeyer (University of Bremen)
Mau Mau in Nairobi: Urban Networks of Unrest

Chair: Cornelius Torp (University of Bremen)
Day 2: 22 July 2022
Venue: Haus der Wissenschaft, Bremen, Olbers-Saal

**PANEL 4: CITIES AND CITIZENS**
9.30–11.00 am (CET)

Madhu (University of Delhi)
Empowered or Exploited: Migrant Women and Mechanisms of Control in Colonial Cities

Mikko Toivanen (University of Warsaw)
Staging a Colonial Capital: Managing Ethnic Diversity through Urban Culture and Public Spectacle in Singapore and Batavia, 1860–1900

Larissa Kopytoff (University of South Florida)
Of Boundaries and Banlieues: Citizens, Subjects, and Neighbours in Senegal’s Four Communes

Chair: Julia Lossau (University of Bremen)

**PANEL 5: OLD NEIGHBOURHOODS, NEW NEIGHBOURHOODS**
11.30 am – 1.00 pm (CET)

Elia Etkin (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
Neighbours Living Together and Apart: Intercommunal Dynamics in a Jewish Neighbourhood in Mandatory Palestine

Tim Livsey (Northumbria University)
Nigerians and the Ikoyi ‘European Reservation’ in the 1920s and 1930s

Monia Bousnina (Université Sétif I)
Coexistence in the Colonial City of Algeria: The Case of the Harat in Sétif

Chair: Nora Lafi (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)
1.00–2.00 pm (CET)
Lunch Break

PANEL 6: LOST IN TRANSITION?
2.00–3.30 pm (CET)

Rila Mukherjee (University of Hyderabad)
Re-Orienting the Bengal Delta (ca. 1690–1990)

Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
Rage Against the Machine in the Mellah of Fes

Nora Lafi (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)
Traumatic Transitions and Forms of Popular Resilience in a Neighbourhood of Tunis from Colonisation to the Aftermaths of WWII

Chair: Avner Ofrath (University of Bremen)

3.30-4.00 pm (CET)
Closing Discussion: Colonial Cities and Neighbour Relations

Contact Info:

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