

[Conference: Colonial Cities in Global Perspective](#)

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Conference Dates: December 10-12, 2018

Conference Location: Saint-Louis, Senegal

Deadline for proposals: August 1, 2018

Description

The Global History Network, the Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, the Foundation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme in Paris, and the Institute of Advanced Study in Saint-Louis, seek papers for a conference on "Colonial Cities in Global Perspective," to be held in Saint-Louis, Senegal, December 10-12, 2018.

For over four centuries, the colonial city served as interface between the imperial powers and the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. It functioned as fortified outpost, administrative center, trading portal, and in some cases as collection point for the overseas shipment of slaves, and always as a site of cross-cultural learning and experience. Coastal colonial cities exhibited tremendous diversity and common traits, shaped by the interaction among imperial governors and merchants, colonial capitalists and peasant laborers in their agrarian hinterlands, indigenous and immigrant populations, and highly diverse and challenging physical environments. In many ways their global role anticipated the role that urban theory has established for the contemporary global city - both as the market and industrial pole for a rural hinterland, and a site in an archipelago of cosmopolitan entrepôts linked with their metropolises and developing a unique fusion of services and clientele.

We seek papers that will examine coastal colonial cities in a comparative framework. Appropriate topics include patterns of settlement and spatial organization; administration, policing, sanitation and evolving economic profiles; labor and workers' collective action; colonial cities' position in global trade networks and their importance to the expansion of capitalism; trade links between urban and rural domains of production and consumption; formal and informal relations between ethnic communities; patterns of leadership and urban organization; distinctive cultural production; and historical legacies for post-colonial states.

We invite papers addressing the above themes from all periods of colonial history. Advanced research students as well as senior scholars are invited to apply. We will be able to cover travel costs for all invited participants.

Submission Guidelines

- Please submit a single combined doc or pdf file including an abstract of no more than 500 words, along with a brief CV, to wigh@fas.harvard.edu with the subject line "ColonialCities2018" by **August 1, 2018**. The abstract can be in French or English, though we prefer English.
- We recommend including a header with your name on every page of your submission.
- In the body of the email, please include your name, affiliation, and the title of your project.
- In the case of papers with multiple contributors, we are only able to cover transportation costs for one person.

- Scholars chosen to participate in the conference will have to submit the final version of their unpublished and original paper (of no more than 7,000 words) no later than November 1, 2018.

We are particularly interested in and encourage applications from the Global South. The conference languages will be French and English.

We will inform applicants by September 15, 2018 if they will be invited to Dakar.

Coordination

Department of History and Geography, FASTEf, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar

Institute of Advanced Study in Saint-Louis, Senegal

Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, Harvard University, USA

The Foundation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France

The Conference is funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the Foundation Maison des sciences de l'Homme in Paris and the Department of History and Geography, FASTEf of Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. It is part of a series of academic initiatives of the Global History Network, a network of global history institutions including East China Normal University, Shanghai; the International Institute of Social History, the Netherlands; Lab Mundi at University of Sao Paulo, Brazil; Department of History, University of Delhi; the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History, Harvard University, USA; Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal; and the University of Göttingen, Germany.