CfP: GSA Seminar, Colonialism and German Memory Politics: New Approaches to Teaching Colonial Science and German Imperialism

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Call for Seminar Participants:

Colonialism and German Memory Politics: New Approaches to Teaching Colonial Science and German Imperialism

GSA Seminar, Houston, TX, September 15–18, 2022.

Seminar Description:

Scholars have recently pushed the intellectual boundary of German colonialism beyond the bookends of Germany’s formal colonial empire, questioning to what extent Germans were involved in colonial pursuits and what exactly we classify as “colonial” (Brescius, Lahti, Rüger, Schär). Scholars like Blackler, Brusius, Florvil, and Samudzi are placing Germans within the narratives of Europe’s burgeoning colonial enterprise of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and its indolent decolonization in the twentieth century. The resulting works underscore the centrality of Germans in the making of modern settler colonialism, racism, and science.

This seminar interrogates the role of the sciences in this fluctuating narrative of German colonialism. How far have German histories of colonial science developed? Has the teaching of German colonialism evolved in step or at odds with research on the subject? More importantly, what political, scholarly, and pedagogical stakes lie on the horizon of its historical inquiry? Now that colonialism has emerged in daily politics, we seek the best ways to teach the interwoven history of science, colonialism, and Germany in light of the latest scholarship.

Format:

Participants will prepare four pieces of writing, which will be the basis of seminar discussions. Responding to a set of common readings, each piece of writing will focus on a different aspect of the seminar: a 2,000-word group-written position paper; a 1,000-word teaching strategies statement; a 500-word reflection on pedagogical challenges; and a 500-word piece on approaches to research and teaching source materials. Papers will be shared and circulated by August 15, 2022.

Register:

Please apply through the GSA’s conference portal (click here). Applications include an abstract describing the nature of your contribution to the seminar (500 words max), and a short biography (300 words max). The deadline for applications to participate in a seminar is Monday, March 14th at 11:59 p.m. EST.
Questions?

Please email Katherine Arnold, (k.e.arnold@lse.ac.uk) and/or Eriks Bredovskis, (eriks.bredovskis@mail.utoronto.ca).