

DYNAMIZING AND DECENTRING EMPIRES

APH Conference
University of Münster

A Recalibration of
the History of the Political

11 – 13 June
2026



APH Conference

Dynamizing and Decentering Empires:

A Recalibration of the History of the Political

Münster, 11 – 13 June 2026

Association for Political History (APH);
Research School Political History (RSPH/OPG);
University of Münster: Centre for Empire Studies (CES) and ZNS Centre for Dutch Studies;
Utrecht University: Security History Network/History of International Relations (SHN);
Heidelberg University: Chair for Contemporary History.

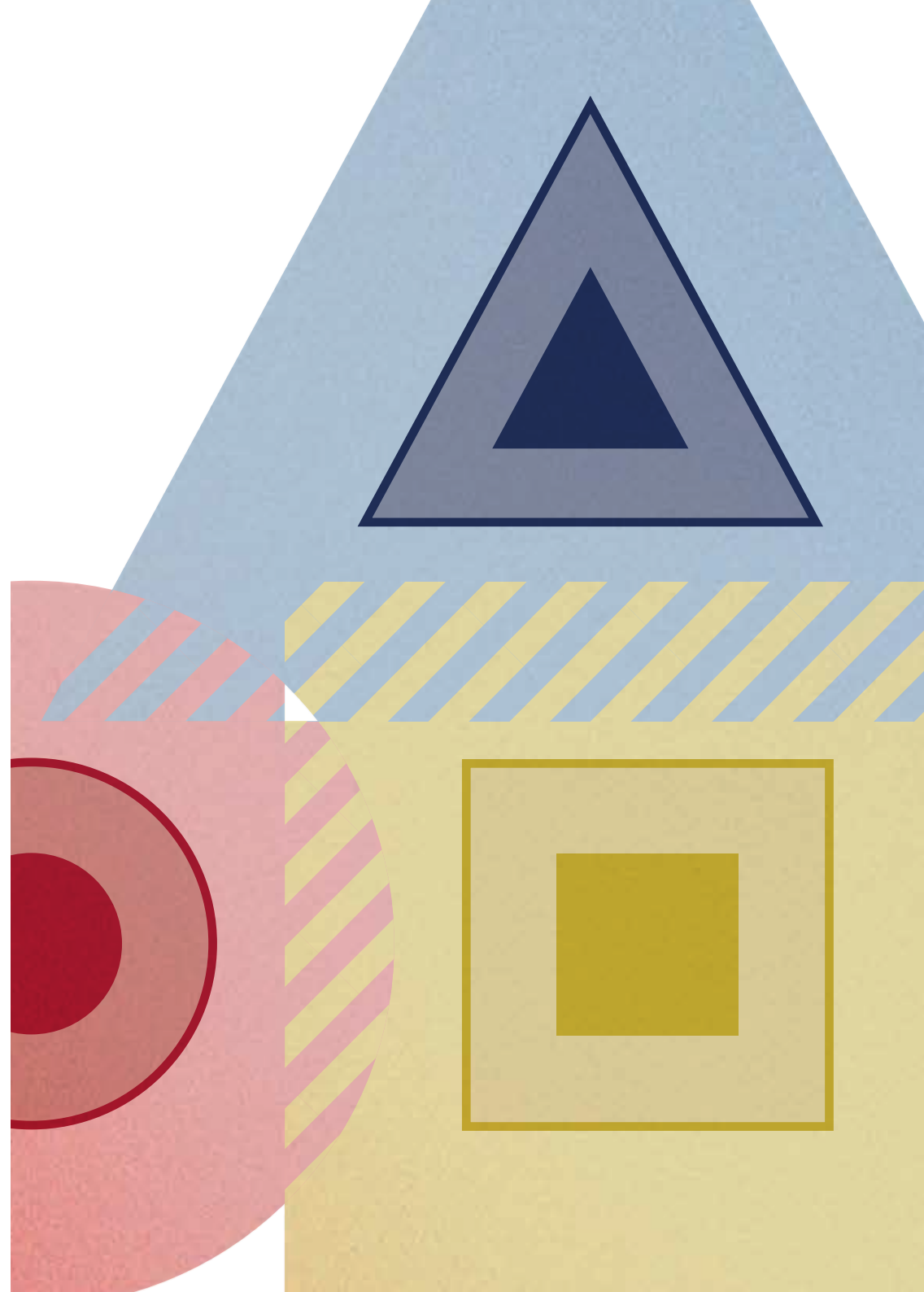
With friendly support of the International Office of the University of Münster.

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UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386



THURSDAY

11 June 2026

► **Palace (Schloss),**
University of Münster, Schlossplatz 2

16.00 – 17.00 **APH Board meeting** (closed session) (Room tbc)

► **Foyer**

17.00 – 18.00 **Arrival, registration, coffee/tea**

18.00 – 22.00 Opening Event

► **Aula**

18.00 – 18.30 **Words of Welcome**

speakers:

Dean Eva-Bettina Krems, University of Münster

District President Andreas Bothe, Münster

APH President Pasi Ihalainen, University of Jyväskylä

host:

RSPH Academic Director Jacco Pekelder, University of Münster

18.30 – 19.15 **Keynote 1**

“Empires and Interpolity Regimes”

Lauren Benton, Barton M. Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law,
Yale University

moderator: **Beatrice de Graaf**, Utrecht University

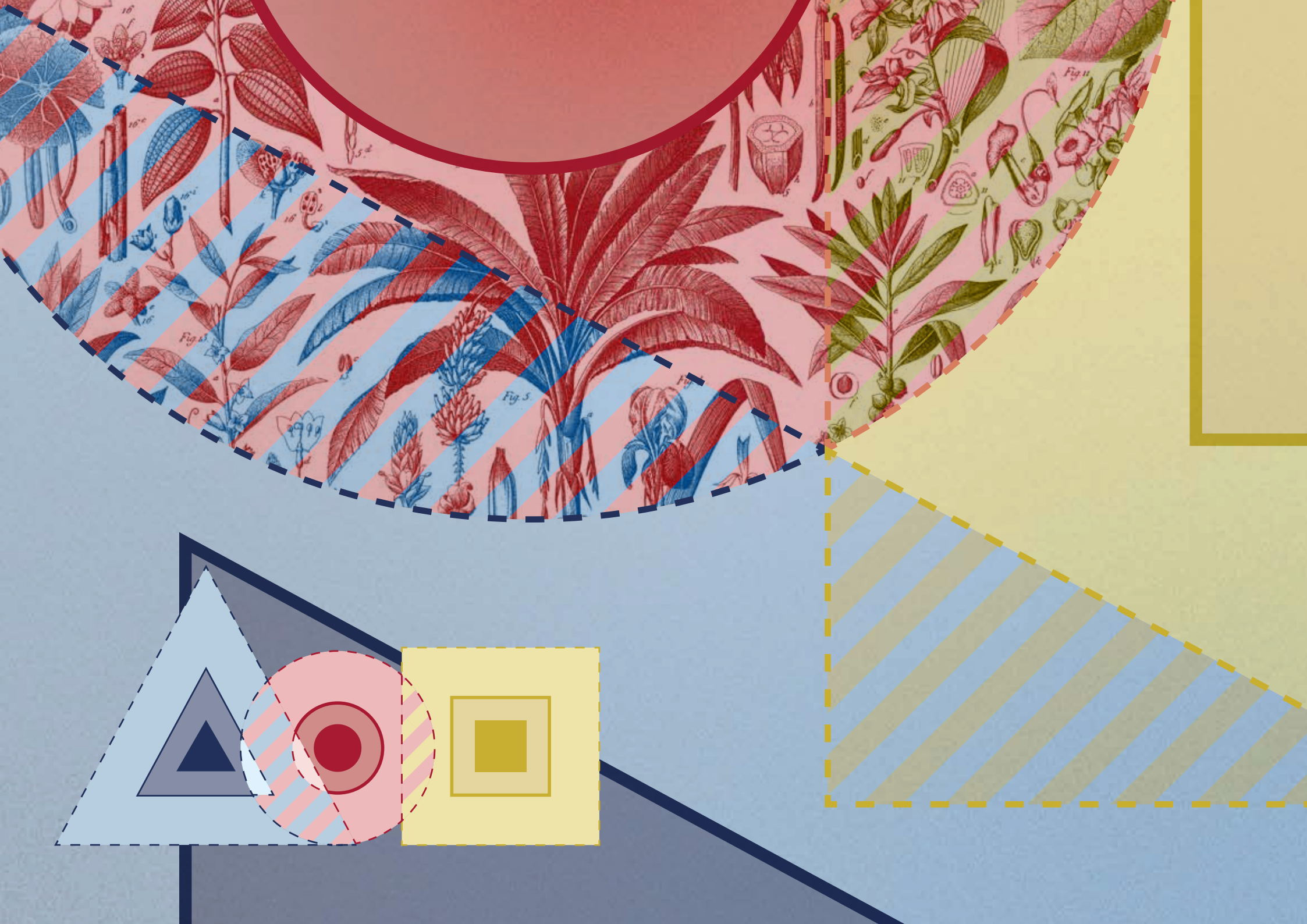
19.15 – 19.45 **Q & A**

► **Foyer**

20.00 – 22.00 **Drinks & Bites**



Lauren Benton is Barton M. Biggs Professor of History and Professor of Law at Yale University. She writes about global legal history and the history of European empires. Benton’s most recent book, *They Called It Peace: Worlds of Imperial Violence*, was shortlisted for the 2024 Cundill History Prize. Previous books include *Rage for Order: The British Empire and the Origins of International Law, 1800 – 1850* (coauthored with Lisa Ford); *A Search for Sovereignty: Law and Geography in European Empires, 1400 – 1900*; and *Law and Colonial Cultures: Legal Regimes in World History, 1400 – 1900*, winner of the Jerry Bentley Book Prize and the James Willard Hurst Book Prize. In 2019, Benton was awarded the Toynbee Prize for significant contributions to global history.



► **Freiherr-vom-Stein-Haus,**
Münster District Government, Domplatz 1-3

09.00 – 11.00 Parallel Panels 1 (All rooms tbc)

Panel 1: “Networks and Actors”

chair: **Sarah Albiez-Wieck** (Münster)

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Evren Çakıl (Utrecht): The Superior Council of Health in Istanbul as a Site of Trans-imperial Cooperation

Hanco Jürgens (Amsterdam): Wilhelm Solf, a German colonial Governor in-between empires (1862 – 1936)

Thomas Rijntalder (London): Scientific Networks as Transimperial Contact Zones in Pre-WWI Europe

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Panel 2: “Security and Order”

chair: **Kevin Lenk** (Heidelberg)

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Lauren Lauret (Leiden): Colonial Technocrats: the un-expected carriers of tradition in Dutch parliament, 1900 – 1930

Jaroslav Valkoun (Prague): The British Imperial Policy and Dominion Interests at the Paris Peace Conference

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Panel 3: “More-than-human encounters:

Transimperial collaboration in times of ecological crisis”

commentary: **Sandra Maß** (Bochum)

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Florian Neiske (Marburg): Empire and Catastrophe: Cyclonic Storms and the Spaces of Disaster Politics in the Age of Steam

Chelsea Davis (Missouri State): The Politics of Phylloxera–Britain’s Winegrowing Colonies and Transimperial Science in the Late Nineteenth Century

Andrea Wiegeshoff (Marburg/Bonn): Of Rats and Humans: Invasive Species in the British and U.S. Empires around 1900

Verena Steller (Frankfurt am Main): Empire of Water. Water, Law and Colonialism: Trans-imperial Knowledge and Politics, ca. 1850 – 2025

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Panel 4: “Managing imperial interface regions in Europe during the ‘long nineteenth century’”

chair: **Ricarda Vulpius**

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Adam Dargiewicz (Münster/Nijmegen): The Barrier Metaphor and the Management of the Napoleonic Eastern Borderlands, 1807 – 1815

Wiktor Marzec (Warsaw): Pocket Assemblies: In Search of a Transnational Parliamentary History of Post-Vienna Europe

Piotr Kuligowski (Warsaw): What was National Representation? Answers from Belgium and Poland, 1815 – 1848

Irina Marin (Utrecht): Through the Looking Glass of Empire: Land Reforms in the Borderlands between the Habsburg, Russian and Ottoman Empire in the Second Half of the 19th Century

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee/tea**

► **Plenary Room**

11.30 – 12.30 Roundtable

“Ordering Empires across imperial borders”

Erik de Lange (Utrecht)

Lauren Benton (Yale)

Markus Koller (CES/Bochum)

Christoph Lorke (CES/LWL Münster)

moderator:

Ricarda Vulpius (CES/Münster)

12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch**

14.00 – 16.00 Parallel Panels 2 (All rooms tbc)

Panel 5: “Legitimacy”

chair: **Norbert Götz** (Södertörn, Stockholm)

14:00 – 15:00 **Papers**

Jonas Anderson (Munich): “United We Stand for Civilization and Peace”:
Racial Ideology, Colonial Violence, and the Making of an Anglo-
American Imperial Partnership

Christian Damm Pedersen (Odense): Imperial pasts and imagined futures
in political history

Maximilian Klose (Freiburg): The Boxer Rebellion and the Gendered
Construction of Imperial Legitimacy

15:00 – 16:00 **Discussion**

Panel 6: “Orders of Knowledge”

chair: **Marnix Beyen** (Antwerp)

14:00 – 15:00 **Papers**

Ninja Bumann (Giessen): A Transimperial Model of Religious Governance:
Reorganizing the Islamic Hierarchy in Habsburg Bosnia and Herzegovina

Lourens Crielaard (Utrecht): Paths of Faith, Routes of Empire: German
Missionaries and their Transimperial Entanglements with the Ottoman
Empire and Beyond

Babak Rahimi (San Diego): Empire of Ritual: Islam, Imperial Archives, and
the Making of “Ritual” as a Scientific Category, 1820 – 1910

15:00 – 16:00 **Discussion**

**Panel 7: "India In-Between Empires:
Jewish History and transimperial knowledge"**

chair: **Daniel Hedinger** (Leipzig)

14:00 – 15:00 **Papers**

Shaul Marmari (Leipzig): Trans-Imperial Print Modernities: Jewish Press between Baghdad and Bombay

Zarin Aschrafi (Leipzig): Beyond Time, Beyond Space: Founding a Minerva Universalis in Santiniketan

Hanan Harif (Tel Hai): Trans-Imperial Revivals: Religion, Secularism and Cultural Nationalisms between Hyderabad and Jerusalem

15:00 – 16:00 **Discussion**

Panel 8: "Re-examining the role of missions and religion in the 19th and 20th centuries transimperial world"

chair: **Felicity Jensz** (Münster)

14:00 – 15:00 **Papers**

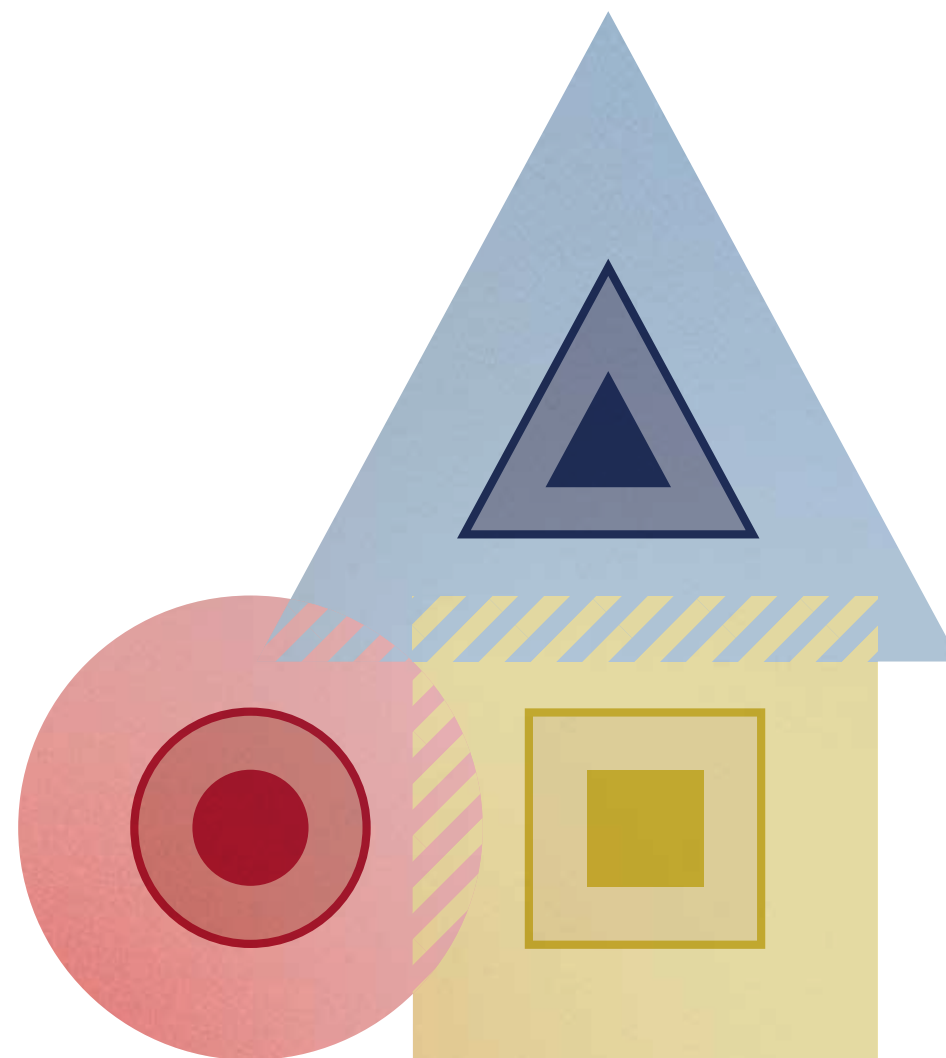
Christiane Hoth (Bern) & **Ignacio Helmke** (Münster): Missionary Contact Zones as Trans-Imperial Spaces: Catholic and Anglican Networks in Araucanía, 19th to Early 20th Century

Bernhard C. Schär (Brig): Interrupting the gospel. How panafricanist clerics challenged the transimperial missionary-government partnership in Southern Africa around 1900

Florian Balbiani (Erfurt): Between Cooperation and Competition: Missionary Language Studies in East Africa, 1880s – 1930s

Michael Philipp Brunner (Münster): In the Shadow of Empires: International Missionary Cooperation, Politics, and World Christianity, 1920s – 1940s

15:00 – 16:00 **Discussion**



Public Keynote and Conference Dinner

► Fürstenberghaus, Faculty of History/Philosophy,
Domplatz 20 – 22, F2 und Foyer

► Foyer

16.00 – 17.00 Coffee/tea

► F2 Lecture Hall

17.00 – 18.00 Keynote 2

“Transimperial History: The New Global?”

Daniel Hedinger, Leipzig Research Centre Global Dynamics,
Leipzig University
moderator: **Silke Mende**, Heidelberg University

18:00 – 18.45 Q & A

► Foyer

19.00 – 22.00 Standing Dinner & Drinks



At Leipzig University **Daniel Hedinger** leads the Centre for Transimperial History together with Nadin Heé. With her, in 2018, he published the pathbreaking article “Transimperial History. Connectivity, Cooperation, and Competition”, *Journal of Modern European History*. Hedinger is a research associate at ReCentGlobe and teaches at the Institute of East Asian Studies. After studying and working in Paris, Zurich, Berlin, Munich, Rome, and Kyoto, he came 2024 to Leipzig University. He specializes in modern East Asian and European history. His research focuses on global fascism, the history of the Second World War, and colonial violence in the 20th century from a transimperial perspective. His publications include: *Die Achse. Berlin–Rom–Tokio, 1919 – 1946* (2021), “The Spectacle of Global Fascism. The Italian Blackshirt Mission to Japan’s Asian Empire”, *Modern Asian Studies* (2017), and “The Imperial Nexus. The Second World War and the Axis in Global Perspective”, *Journal of Global History* (2017).



► **Freiherr-vom-Stein-Haus,**
Münster District Government, Domplatz 1-3

(All rooms tbc, coffee/tea during sessions)

09.00 – 11.00 **Parallel Panels 3** (All rooms tbc)

Panel 9: "Mobility"

chair: **Yulia Gradskova** (Södertörn, Stockholm)

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

İlkay Kirişcioğlu (Rome): The Dialectic of Internal Surveillance, Transnational Mobility, and Imperial Solidarity (Ottoman Balkans)

Evgeniya Prusskaya (Marburg): Transimperial Mobility and Imperial Entanglements in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Caucasus

Bastiaan Nugteren (Groningen): Facing British standards in the international "coolie trade": Transimperial cooperation and competition between the British, Dutch, and German empires in the formation of a regional Southeast Asian indentured labor market, 1870 - 1914

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Panel 10: "Transimperiality"

chair: **Jacco Pekelder** (Münster)

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Richard van Berkel (Utrecht/Münster): The case for Informal Empire: Holland and early modern Germany

Lisa-Marie Dodou (Yale): Salonika's transition from Ottoman to Greek rule: a moment of imperial cooperation

Ivo van Donselaar (Münster/Nijmegen): An empire of brothers. Pan-movements in the Netherlands and Germany

Qingrou Zhao (Edinburgh): Emulation, Cooperation, and Friction: Census-making in the Shanghai Trinity, 1920s - 1937

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

Panel 11: "Imperial Contact Zones: Transience, Transfer, Transformation"

chair: **Erik de Lange**

09:00 – 10:00 **Papers**

Niek Engelhart (Utrecht) 'Contempt for all of Christian faith': Dutch neutrality and imperial encroachments on the reign of Yusuf Qaramanli Pasha of Tripoli, 1827 - 1832

Dorian Hagedoorn (Utrecht): Staging spectacles, staging imperial relations: the nineteenth century opera house as a locus of (in)formal diplomatic activity

Stefano Lissi (Utrecht): Of empires, old and new: conflicting visions of empire in the negotiations between Italian revolutionaries and the Frankfurt National Assembly (1848 - 49)

Jossie van Til-Duijsters (Utrecht): The Sumatra Treaty of 1824: finding ways to deal with imperial and colonial rivalries

10:00 – 11:00 **Discussion**

► **Plenary Room**

11.15 – 12.30 **Concluding Roundtable:**

"How Does Empire Studies Impact the History of the Political?"

Kevin Lenk (Heidelberg)

Marnix Beyen (Antwerp)

Daniel Hedinger (Leipzig)

Silke Mende (Heidelberg)

moderator:

Beatrice de Graaf (Utrecht)

12.30 – 13.00 Farewell

