BEFORE THE CITY / BEYOND THE CITY

capitalism in the countryside

HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON
THE HISTORY OF CAPITALISM

OCTOBER 19-20, 2017
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
LEWIS HALL 214A

PROGRAM
Thursday, October 19

PANEL I  RURAL LABOR AND RACE  1:00-3:00 pm

Adrian De Leon, University of Toronto
“Vagrant Accounts: Racial Transplantation and the Financial Production of Sakada in Hawai’i, 1882-1914”  Comment by Justin Jackson, Bard College at Simon’s Rock

Jermaine Thibodeaux, University of Texas, Austin

Bernard Moore, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
“Fenced Out: Labor Reductions and Vermin Definitions in Southern Namibia, 1915-1982”  Comment by Christopher Conz, Tufts University

PANEL II  MORAL ECONOMY  3:30-5:30 pm

Cristina Urias-Espinoza, University of Arizona
“Spatial Legacies in the Borderlands: U.S. Colonization of Northwestern Mexico, 1883-1930s”  Comment by Micol Seigel, Indiana University, Bloomington

Matthew Wormer, Stanford University
“Rethinking Commodity Histories: The Case of Bengal Opium”  Comment by Mou Banerjee, Harvard University

Alyssa Penick, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS  6:00-7:00 pm

Claudio Saunt, University of Georgia
“Financing Dispossessions: Stocks, Bonds, and the Deportation of Native Peoples in the Antebellum United States”
Friday, October 20

PANEL III  DISPOSSESSION AND REPOSSESSION  10:00 am-12:00 noon

Emilie Connolly, New York University
“Money Trails: Indian Trust Funds and the Midwest Transportation Revolution”  
Comment by Claudio Saunt, University of Georgia

Basma Fahoum, Stanford University
“Tobacco Cultivation in Mandatory Palestine: Zionist Farmers, Palestinian Peasants, and Global Capitalism”  
Comment by Samuel Dolbee, Brandeis University

María Cristina Hernández, Universidad de los Andes
“The Dark Side of Colombian Coffee: Manuel Quintin Lame and the Struggle for Land in the Twentieth Century”  
Comment by Charles Maier, Harvard University

PANEL IV  REIMAGINING CAPITALISM FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE  1:00-3:00 pm

Danielle Dumaine, University of Connecticut
“‘Harmonious, Enlightened People’: Capitalism and Communal Projects in the 1960s United States”  
Comment by Lisa McGirr, Harvard University

Amanda Gibson, College of William and Mary
“‘Used to Pay a Debt’: African American Borrowing and Lending in Antebellum Virginia”  
Comment by Mycah Conner, Harvard University

Zhaojin Zeng, University of Texas, Austin
Comment by Victor Seow, Harvard University

CLOSING PLENARY PANEL  3:30-4:30 pm

Walter Johnson, Harvard University
Tania Li, University of Toronto
Sarah Phillips, Boston University
Sven Beckert, Harvard University
MOU BANERJEE recently completed her PhD in History at Harvard University, specializing in modern South Asian history. Her research explores the dialogues and debates of Indian intellectuals with evangelical Protestant Christianity and missionaries in the nineteenth century, especially in the Bengal Presidency in India. Banerjee charts the development of a complex relationship of overt repudiation and covert fascination, where Christianity was perceived as a religion and a philosophy, a discursive and dialectical category, a denominator of racial and social difference, and as a repository of Enlightenment ethos and modernity.

SVEN BECKERT is Laird Bell Professor of History at Harvard University. He researches and teaches the history of the United States in the nineteenth century, with a particular emphasis on the history of capitalism, including its economic, social, political, and transnational dimensions. His most recent book, Empire of Cotton: A Global History, is the first global history of the nineteenth century's most important commodity. His other publications have focused on the nineteenth-century bourgeoisie, labor, democracy, and on the connections between slavery and capitalism. He is co-founder of Harvard’s Program on the Study of Capitalism and co-director of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History.

AARON BEKEMEYER is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University studying the history of American capitalism in the twentieth century. His dissertation examines the police union movement in the United States after World War II, exploring how police officers have organized to shape the labor movement, the carceral state, and American political economy since the 1960s. He is a member of the organizing committee of the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism 2017.

JOAN CHAKER is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University. Her dissertation describes the social transformation of the Ottoman countryside as it gets drawn into the global market over the nineteenth century through the lens of a collective biography of mule drivers as a social group. She is a member of the organizing committee of the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism 2017.

MYCAH CONNER is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University and a graduate of Columbia University. Her dissertation, “On this Bare Ground: The Ordeal and the Aftermath of the Civil War’s ‘Contraband Camps’,” is a long-view social history that interprets the camps as battlefields in their own right, and which analyzes the particularities and legacies of self-emancipation in the Western theater of the war. In the spring, she will teach an undergraduate seminar, titled “Tell Old Pharaoh: Histories of ‘Contraband Camps’ and Self-Emancipation in the Civil War Era.”

EMILIE CONNOLLY is a PhD candidate in History at New York University, specializing in the history of Indigenous North America, the history of capitalism, and the nineteenth-century U.S. Her dissertation, "Indian Trust Funds and the Routes of American Capitalism, 1795-1865," examines the practice of conferring trust funds to Indigenous peoples as compensation for ceded land. She is a Consortium Fellow at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the John E. Rovensky Fellow in Business and Economic History.

CHRISTOPHER CONZ is a post-doctoral research fellow with the initiative Innovative Methods and Metrics for Agriculture and Nutrition Actions (IMMANA) based out of the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. He recently completed his PhD in History at Boston University, specializing in environmental and agricultural history in southern Africa. His dissertation is titled “Wisdom Does Not Live In One House”: Compiling Environmental Knowledge in Lesotho, Southern Africa, c.1880-1965.”

ADRIAN DE LEON is a PhD Candidate in History at the University of Toronto, and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa and the University of Washington, Seattle. His dissertation, titled “In the Image of Industry: Northern Luzon and the Making of Filipino America,” deconstructs the genealogy of “Filipino” racial identity through the industrialization of the islands’ far north, the production of a rural migrant workforce, and the visual cultures
that made the Philippine “savage.”

CHRISTINE DESAN is Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. Her research explores money as a legal and political project, one that configures the market it sets out to measure. Her book *Making Money: Coin, Currency, and the Coming of Capitalism* is a history of monetary design in which she argues capitalism arrived when the English reinvented money at the end of the seventeenth century. Her approach aims to open economic orthodoxy to question, particularly insofar as it assumes money as a neutral instrument and markets as autonomous phenomena. She is co-founder of Harvard’s Program on the Study of Capitalism.

SAMUEL DOLBEE is a junior research fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University. He received his PhD in History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies from New York University. He is working on a project that explores the meanings of borders in the Jazira region (today divided between Iraq, Syria, and Turkey) by following the mobility of insects, nomads, refugees, and disease between 1860 and 1940.

DANIELLE DUMAINE is a PhD candidate at the University of Connecticut. Her dissertation is titled “Selling Herself: Diane di Prima, Desire, and Commodity in the Postwar United States.” She has presented work at the University of Connecticut, Cornell University, the New England Historical Society, and the Association for the Study of Connecticut History. She currently holds the Aldo Dedominicis Fellowship for the study of Italian American History. Danielle’s research interests include gender, sexuality, creativity, celebrity, and capitalism.

BASMA FAHOUN is a second year PhD student in History at Stanford University, specializing in modern Middle East history. She holds a Master’s degree in culture research from Tel Aviv University. She is currently working on the history of tobacco cultivation in Palestine in the late Ottoman and British Mandatory periods, as well as in Israel. She is also interested in the history of the informal market and illicit economic activities.

AMANDA GIBSON is a PhD candidate in History at the College of William and Mary. She holds an Bachelor’s degree in Economics and History from James Madison University and a graduate degree in Economics and Entrepreneurship for Educators from the University of Delaware. She spent a decade at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond where she worked in economic education and community development. Gibson’s research interests include money and credit, personal finance, and late-eighteenth to mid-twentieth century American history.

BALRAJ GILL is a PhD candidate in American Studies at Harvard University. Her dissertation investigates the history and politics of indigenous confinement and incarceration in the territories and homelands of the Oceti Sakowin Oyate and the territories of Canada and the United States. Her work explores the relationship between processes of dispossession, settler colonialism, imperialism, and the formation of carceral states. She is a member of the organizing committee of the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism 2017.

MARÍA CRISTINA HERNÁNDEZ is a PhD student in Geography at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. As a research assistant for the Universidad Javeriana’s Legal Clinic on Rights and Territory, she is currently guiding land claims for peasant and Afrocolombian communities. Her research interests are in rural uprisings and land tenure systems at the beginning of the twentieth century in Colombia.

ELIZABETH HINTON is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Her current scholarship considers the transformation of domestic social programs and urban policing after the Civil Rights Movement. In her award-winning recent book, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*, Hinton examines the implementation of federal law enforcement programs beginning in the mid-1960s that laid the groundwork for the mass incarceration of American citizens, revealing the links between the rise of the American carceral state and earlier
anti-poverty programs.

JUSTIN JACKSON is Assistant Professor of History at Bard College at Simon’s Rock and currently a visiting fellow at the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History at Harvard University. He teaches courses introducing students to historical thought and methods and American and global history, and has taught previously at New York University. He is currently working on his book, *The Work of Empire: The U.S. Army and the Making of American Colonialisms in Cuba and the Philippines.*

WALTER JOHNSON is Winthrop Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. In his most recent book, *River of Dark Dreams: Slavery and Empire in the Cotton Kingdom*, Johnson traces the connections between planters’ pro-slavery ideology, Atlantic commodity markets, and Southern schemes for global ascendency. He is currently writing a book about the central role of St. Louis in the imperialist and racial capitalist history of the United States, from Lewis and Clark to Michael Brown. He is director of The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History.

TANIA LI is Professor of Anthropology and director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. Her early research concerned urban cultural politics in Singapore. Since then she has focused on culture, economy, environment, and development in Indonesia’s upland regions. She has written about the rise of Indonesia’s indigenous peoples’ movement, land reform, rural class formation, struggles over the forests and conservation, community resource management, and state-organized resettlement. Her most recent book, *Land’s End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier*, tracks the emergence of capitalist relations among indigenous highlanders when they enclosed their common land.

CHARLES MAIER is Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University. He is co-director of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History. In his recent book, *Once within Borders: Territories of Power, Wealth, and Belonging since 1500*, Maier tracks the epochal changes that have defined territories over five centuries and draws attention to ideas and technologies that contribute to the resilience of territoriality. Turning to the geopolitical crises of the twentieth century, Maier pays close attention to the present moment, asking in what ways modern nations and economies still live within borders and to what degree societies have moved toward a post-territorial world.

LISA MCGIRR is Professor of History at Harvard University. Her research and teaching interests bridge the fields of social and political history and focus, in particular, on collective action, state building, reform movements, and politics. She has researched the American penal state, transnational social movements, and the intersection of religion and politics in the twentieth-century United States. In her recent book, *The War on Alcohol: Prohibition and the Rise of the American State*, she traces how Prohibition laid the foundation for the expansion of the U.S. federal state. McGirr is also author of *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right.*

BERNARD MOORE is a PhD candidate in African History at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He holds a Master’s degree in African American and African Studies from Michigan State University. He is currently writing about the confluence between agricultural technology, labor relations, and environmental impacts on karakul sheep farms in Southern Namibia during colonialism and apartheid.

SAMANTHA PAYNE is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University. Her research interests include the comparative history of slavery and emancipation, race, and the history of capitalism. She graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2014, with a Bachelor’s degree in History and English. Before coming to Harvard, she worked as a museum educator at the Nantucket Historical Association and as a research assistant at the National Archives in Washington, DC. She is a member of the organizing committee of the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism 2017.

ALYSSA PENICK is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor focusing on
religion and law in early America. Her dissertation marries religious, legal, and social history as she follows the Anglican parish in the Chesapeake and its fate after disestablishment. She highlights the colonial parish's extensive civic power, as well as the immense resources that parishes raised through taxation. Her work revises the narrative of religious disestablishment by focusing on the significant transfer of power and property from church to state.

SARAH PHILLIPS is Associate Professor of History at Harvard University. She is the author of This Land, This Nation: Conservation, Rural America, and the New Deal, and, with co-author Shane Hamilton, The Kitchen Debate and Cold War Consumer Politics. Her current book project, The Price of Plenty: From Farm to Food Politics in Postwar America, examines the domestic politics sustaining the massive farm surpluses of the post-World War II era that established the United States as the predominant and most problematic of the state actors in the international food regime.

CLAUDIO SAUNT is Robert B. Russell Professor in American History at the University of Georgia. He is the co-director of the Center for Virtual History and associate director of the Institute of Native American Studies. He is currently working on a book on Indian Removal in the 1830s. His most recent book is West of the Revolution: An Uncommon History of 1776. He is also the author of Black, White, and Indian: Race and the Unmaking of an American Family and A New Order of Things: Property, Power, and the Transformation of the Creek Indians.

MICOL SEIGEL is Associate Professor of American Studies and History at Indiana University, Bloomington, where she teaches and studies policing, prisons, and race in the Americas. She is working on her book on the nature of police work and the assumptions that underlie its legitimacy in a democracy, titled Violence Work: State Power and the Limits of Police. Seigel is involved in the Critical Prison Studies caucus of the American Studies Association and the Tepoztlán Institute for the Transnational History of the Americas. She is currently a visiting scholar at The Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University.

VICTOR SEOW is Assistant Professor of the History of Science at Harvard University. He is a historian of technology, industry, and the environment who specializes in China and Japan in the long twentieth century. His work is primarily concerned with the social and economic dimensions of technological development and environmental management in the rise and recession of East Asian industrial orders. Seow is currently finishing his first book, Carbon Technocracy: Energy Regimes in the Making of Modern East Asia, an exploration of how coal resources and mining technologies shaped Chinese and Japanese experiences with global industrial modernity.

RACHEL STEELY is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University. Her dissertation examines the history of soy as a global commodity and tool of imperial territorial occupation, state development, and biopolitical influence across the long twentieth century. She is a member of the organizing committee of the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on the History of Capitalism 2017.

JERMAINE THIBODEAUX is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Texas, Austin. He has a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University, where he was selected as a Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Research Fellow. His dissertation interrogates the role of the Texas sugar industry in the development and expansion of the state's prison system. His work will also examine the phenomenon of black male incarcerations in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and how it affected Black Texans and their communities. He also broadly considers notions of masculinity, criminality, slavery, and racial capitalism.

CRISTINA URIAS-ESPINOZA is PhD candidate in Latin American History at the University of Arizona. She received a Bachelor's in Architecture and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation in Mexico. Her dissertation focuses on the architecture and urbanism of the U.S. colonies established in northwestern Mexico during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is particularly interested in the study of
historic urban environments at the U.S.-Mexico borderlands and northwestern Mexico.

MATTHEW WORMER is a PhD student in British history at Stanford University. His research focuses on the British East India Company’s trade in opium and its relationship to the formation of liberal political economy during the age of revolutions. He previously received a Master’s degree from Yale University and a Bachelor’s degree in History from Fordham University in New York.

ZHAOJIN ZENG is a PhD candidate in the history of modern East Asia at the University of Texas, Austin with research and teaching interests in the histories of economy and business, technology and industry, and capitalism. His dissertation, titled “Nourishing Shanxi: Indigenous Entrepreneurship, Modern Industry, and the Transformation of a Chinese Hinterland Economy, 1907-2004,” examines the one-hundred-year rise and fall of China’s indigenous entrepreneurship and industrial economy in the northern hinterland from the late Qing, through war, evolution, and reform, to the post-Mao era.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
AARON BEKEMEYER
JOAN CHAKER
BALRAJ GILL
SAMANTHA PAYNE
RACHEL STEELY

FACULTY SPONSORS
SVEN BECKERT
CHRISTINE DESAN

FUNDING SPONSORS
CHARLES WARREN CENTER FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY
DAVID ROCKEFELLER CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
WEATHERHEAD INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL HISTORY
WEATHERHEAD CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
FAIRBANK CENTER FOR CHINESE STUDIES
PROFESSOR CHRISTINE DESAN

PROFOUND THANKS
TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS, CENTERS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WHO SUPPORTED THIS CONFERENCE WITH THEIR TIME, EFFORT, AND FUNDS.
SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT CHUNG, ASHLEY DAVIS, SYLVIE PAPAZIAN, ARTHUR PATTON-HOCK, AND CORY PAULSEN.

CONTACT
capcon@fas.harvard.edu