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## COLONIAL KNOWLEDGE

### History of Medicine 140.463/150.718

Our seminar explores the various forms of knowledge production, consumption, and circulation that characterize Europe's colonial expansion. As Steve Shapin says, "solutions to the problem of knowledge are solutions to the problem of social order" and so colonial knowledge bears the marks of its imperial circumstances. However, colonial knowledge is not solely about the imposition of imperial power; it is also produced at the intersection of different knowledges and epistemologies. The seminar will examine various forms of knowledge production and use within European colonial settings in different parts of the globe. Among the topics covered will be: the interplay between local knowledges and global or imperial ones; museums and botanical gardens as expressions of imperial power; the connections between imperial power and ideas and practices of the body; the role of colonial science in the formulation of ideas about race and difference; the concept of the subaltern and its use for historians; how natural objects get re-framed in changing cultural contexts; the development of global networks of scientific knowledge and expertise; and finally, more recent forms of colonial knowledge production, including the collection and commoditization of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK)

The course is a research seminar. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings in class every week. Shorter writing assignments build towards writing a substantial research paper. Grades are based upon class participation and written work. Readings can be accessed online at <http://reserves.library.jhu.edu/access/reserves/findit/articles/index.php>. The password is FIS436.

#### Jan. 29 Introduction

#### I. STRUCTURES OF KNOWLEDGE

#### Feb. 5 Making Others

Edward Said, *Orientalism*, (New York, Vintage Books, 1979), 1-72, 92-110.

Christopher Miller, *Blank Discourses, Africanist Discourse in French*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1985), 3-65.

Kathleen Wilson, *The Island Race, Englishness, Empire, and Gender in the 18<sup>th</sup> century*, (London, Routledge, 2003), Chapter 2 54-91; notes 227-36.

#### Feb. 12 Cross Currents

Daniela Bleichmar, "Books, Bodies, and Fields: Sixteenth-Century Transatlantic Encounters with New World *Materia Medica*" in *Colonial Botany: Science, Commerce, and Politics in the Early Modern World*, Londa L Schiebinger & Claudia Swan, eds., (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), 83-99; notes 297-99.

Richard Grove, *Green Imperialism*. (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2003), 73-94

Peter Mancall, "Tales Tobacco Told In Sixteenth-Century Europe" *Environmental History* 2004 9(4): 648-678

Ross W. Jamieson, "The Essence of Commodification: Caffeine Dependencies in the Early Modern World", *Journal of Social History* 35 (2001), 269-294.

Nicolas Monardes, *Ioyfull newes out of the new-found vvorlde Wherein are declared, the rare and singular vertues of diuers herbs, trees, plants, oyles & stones, with their applications, aswell to the vse of phisicke, as of chirurgery*: (London: Printed by E. Allde, by the assigne of Bonham Norton, 1596), from title page through sig. B2v (first 10 frames on Adobe).

Assignment: summarize the argument of one of the articles assigned this week; limit yourself to a single page (double-spaced).

### **Feb. 19 Imperial Representations**

Sadiya Qureshi, "Displaying Sara Bartman, the Hottentot Venus" *History of Science*, 42 (2004), 233-257.

Tim Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*, (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1988), 1-33.

Barbara Kirshblatt-Gimblett, "Objects of Ethnography," in Steve D. Lavine and Ivan Karp, eds., *Exhibiting Cultures, The Poetics and Politics of Museum Display*, (Washington, D. C., Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), 386-443.

Assignment: Write a two page summary of the research question you are pursuing for your paper.

## **II. KNOWLEDGE AS POSSESSION: INSCRIBING ON COLONIAL SITES**

### **Feb. 26 Conquering and Measuring (or, Appropriating)**

Bernard Cohn, *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1996), 3-25, 76-105

Nicholas Dirks, *Castes of Mind, Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2001), 125-228.

Radhika Singha, "Settle, Mobilize, Verify: Identification Practices In Colonial India", *Studies in History* 2000 16(2): 153-198.

### **Mar. 4 Research Reports**

#### **Mar. 11 Re-Making Landscapes**

J. Stephen Lansing, *Priests & Programmers*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1991), 37-72; notes 169-172.

Kavita Philip, "English Mud: Towards a Critical Cultural Studies of Colonial Science" *Cultural Studies* v. 12, (July 1998), 300-31.

Kate Showers, "Soil Erosion in the Kingdom of Lesotho: Origins and Colonial Response, 1830-1950s" *Journal of Southern African Studies*, 15, 2 (1986), 263-286.

Assignment: Write a 5 page paper summarizing the secondary literature that you are addressing for your research paper.

## **Mar. 18 NO MEETING SPRING BREAK**

### **Mar. 25 Re-Making Bodies**

David Arnold, *Colonizing the Body*, (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993), 1-60.

Randall M. Packard, "The Invention of the 'Tropical Worker': Medical Research and the Quest for Central

African Labor on the South African Gold Mines, 1903-1936," *Journal of African History* 34 (1993), 271-292.

Megan Vaughan, *Curing their Ills, Colonial Power and African Illness*, (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1991), 100-154.

Julie Livingston, *Debility and the Moral Imagination in Botswana*, (Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 2005), 107-141.

Assignment: Write a 2 page source criticism of a significant primary source for your research paper.

## **III MEDIATION, APPROPRIATION AND RESISTANCE**

### **Apr. 1 Appropriation**

Gyan Prakash, *Another Reason, Science and the Imagination of Modern India*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1999).

Assignment: Re-write the 5 page secondary source paper, based upon comments received and subsequent research.

### **Apr. 8 Go-Betweens & Mediators**

Kapil Raj, "Colonial Encounters and the Forging of New Knowledge and National Identities: Great Britain and India, 1760-1850," *Osiris*, 15 (2001) 119-134.

Lauren Nauta Minsky, "Struggles for Immunity: The making of smallpox practice in colonial Punjab," (forthcoming, *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*)

Judith Carney, "The African Antecedents Of Uncle Ben In U.S. Rice History", *Journal of Historical Geography* 2003 29(1): 1-21.

Nancy J Jacobs , "The Intimate Politics of Ornithology in Colonial Africa", *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 48 (2006): 564-603 .

David Eltis, Philip Morgan, David Richardson, "Agency and Diaspora in Atlantic History: Reassessing the African Contributions to Rice Cultivation in the Americas," *American Historical Review*, 112, 5 (Dec 2007), 1329-1358.

Lynn Zastoupil, "Intimacy and Colonial Knowledge", *Journal of Colonialism & Colonial History* 2002 3(2) [on-line only; access via Project Muse].

William Hillary, *Observations on the Air... Barbadoes* (1766) available on ECCO; Gale # CW107176227; [pp TBA].

### **Apr. 15 Cultural Production**

Luise White, "They Could Make Their Victims Dull": Genders and Genres, Fantasies and Cures in Colonial Southern Uganda" *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 100, No. 5. (Dec., 1995), 1379-1402.

Cecilia van Hollen, *Birth on the Threshold. Childbirth and Modernity in South India*, (Berkeley, University of California Press, 2003), Chapter 4, 112-140.

John and Jean Comoroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, volume 2, (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1997), 218-273.

Luise White, "The Traffic in Heads: Bodies, Borders and the Articulation of Regional Histories," *Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 2, Special Issue for Terry Ranger. (Jun., 1997), 325-338.

Assignment: Write a detailed outline of your research paper.

#### **Apr. 22 The Post-Colonial Reversal: ITK**

A. Agrawal, "Dismantling the divide between indigenous and scientific knowledge" *Development and change*, 26 (1995), 413-39.

C. Ferradas, "Comment" *Current Anthropology* 39(2), (1998), 240

Paul Sillitoe, "The development of indigenous knowledge: a new applied anthropology", *Current Anthropology* 39(2), (1998), 223-252.

Michael R. Dove, "Hybrid Histories and Indigenous Knowledge among Asian Rubber Smallholders", *International Social Science Journal* 54 (2002), 349-359.

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, "Potatoes and Knowledge", *An Anthropological Critique of Development*, ed. Mark Hobart, (London: Routledge, 1993), 209-227.

Stacy Pigg, "Acronyms and Effacement: Traditional Medicine Practitioners (TMP) in International Health Development." *Social Science and Medicine*, 41, 1 (1995), 47-68.

#### **Apr. 29 Research Presentations**