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NOT EVEN PAST



IHS Book Roundtable: Enlightenment and Geopolitics of Knowledge

The Institute for Historical Studies presents

Enlightenment and Geopolitics of Knowledge

A roundtable inspired by
*The Invention of Humboldt: On the Geopolitics
of Knowledge* (Routledge, December 2022)

Featuring
Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra (Co-Editor & Moderator)
 Alice Drysdale Shell, Paul Professor of History,
 Director of the Institute for Historical Studies,
 The University of Texas at Austin

Cocooners:
Miruna Achim
 Associate Professor of Humanities,
 Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Cuajimalpa,
 Mexico City

Amara Camelas
 Faculty of the Graduate College,
 University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Kopli Roy
 Directeur d'études (Research Professor),
 Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales,
 Paris, France

Simon Schaffer
 Professor of History of Science,
 University of Cambridge

This book, *The Invention of Humboldt: On the Geopolitics of Knowledge* (Routledge, December 2022) celebrates the life and legacy of the German polymath Alexander von Humboldt (1769–1859), who revolutionized the way we think about the world. It is a landmark work in the history of science and geography.

Monday, Feb 6th
 12 PM CST [6 PM GMT]
 GAR 4.100 6 Zoom Livestream

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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The University of Texas at Austin
 Institute for Historical Studies
 College of Liberal Arts

A Roundtable Inspired by

The Invention of Humboldt: On the Geopolitics of Knowledge

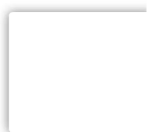
(Routledge, December 2022)

Co-Edited by Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra (University of Texas at Austin) & Mark Thurner (University of London)

Simon Schaffer, Kapil Raj, Miruna Achim, and Jimena Canales will engage with the argument of *The Invention of Humboldt: On the Geopolitics of Knowledge*, an edited collection just published in December 2022. *The Invention of Humboldt* makes a number of arguments about the history of knowledge and science and modernity. It goes beyond Kapil Raj's, Sebastian Conrad's, and James Poskett's models of a global co-creation of the Enlightenment and modern science in general.

Behind the invention of Humboldt lies a world of knowledge making that challenges our models of the origins of modern science. In the book, some essays offer a critique of Latour's immutable mobiles by showing that mobiles are far from immutable. Objects, manuscripts, images are repurposed, misfiled, mis-attributed, as they move to emphasize both north Atlantic originality and empirical prowess. Some essays offer an archeology of how "local" ideas and collections are incorporated without citation while acknowledging "locals" and praising their support. Some simply explore the painstaking work that goes into the creation of ignorance as much as knowledge. Some essays show how local geopolitics explain why "locals" often promote their own silencing in north Atlantic print culture.

Cañizares-Esguerra's explores Humboldt's four volume history of geography as an artifice on transforming Columbus as a Humboldt avant la lettre. This exercise on self-fashioning and the history of global physics, however, drew extensively on massive archival and interpretative work by "others" whose work Humboldt renders totally invisible.



History, University of Texas at Austin, and Director of the Institute for Historical Studies. He is the author of *Nature, Empire, and Nation: Explorations of the History of Science in the Iberian World* (Stanford University Press, 2006) amongst numerous other publications. He is editor of *Entangled Empires: The Anglo-Iberian Atlantic, 1500-1830* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).

Discussants:

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