

## Beyond Data Knowledge Production in Bureaucracies across Science, Commerce, and the State

Workshop  
German Historical Institute Washington D.C.

June 1-3, 2017

### Program

Thursday, 1 June 2017

- 15:30-16:00 Welcome and Introduction  
*Simone Lässig (GHI), Sebastian Felten, Philipp Lehmann, Christine von Oertzen (MPWIG)*
- 16:00-17:45 Panel I: Antagonizing Logics  
Chair: *Richard Wetzell (GHI)*
- Beyond Neoliberalism: Bureaucracies, Machines, and People in an Economizing Age  
*Dan Bouk (Colgate University)*
- Mining in Early Modern Europe (working title)  
*Sebastian Felten (MPIWG)*
- Data-gathering and Performance Monitoring in the British Army on the Western Front, 1916-18  
*Chris Phillips (Leeds Trinity University, U.K.)*
- 17:45-18:30 *Reception*

18:30-20:00

Keynote Lecture

Introduction: *Simone Lässig (GHI)*

Moderator: *Christine von Oertzen (MPIWG)*

Funny Numbers: Unruly Outcomes of Data-Driven Management  
*Theodore Porter (University of California, Los Angeles)*

**Friday, 2 June 2017**

9:00-10:45

Panel II: Laws of the Local

Chair: *Sebastian Felten (MPIWG)*

The Case against Law: A Historical and Institutional Approach to Local Disputes in the Qing Dynasty  
*Maura Dykstra (New York University)*

Know How on the Outskirts. Regional Officers and their Bureaucratic Measures in German New Guinea  
*Anna Echterhölter (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)*

Schedule or Scrawl: Techniques and Politics of Ethnographic Documentation in Late 19th-Century New Mexico  
*Adam Fulton Johnson (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)*

10:45-11:00

*Coffee Break*

11:00-12:45

Panel III: Promise of the Pattern

Chair: *Philipp Lehmann (MPIWG)*

From Combating Crime to Analysis of Society? Computerization and Knowledge Production in East and West German (Secret-)Police Authorities, 1960–1990  
*Rüdiger Bergien (Zentrum Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam)*

Knowledge Production and Health Policy during a Global Influenza Epidemic, 1889-1890  
*Tom Ewing (Virginia Tech)*

Microsoft's Pivot  
*Martha Poon (Columbia University/New School)*

12:45-14:15      *Lunch (on your own)*

14:15-16:00      *Panel III: Noise and Signal*

Chair: *Elizabeth Engel (GHI)*

Bureaucratic Vision: Images and the Imperial Archive in Modern India  
*Anindita Nag (University of Calcutta, India; MPIWG)*

Knowledge Production by a Propaganda Radio? Radio Free Europe as an  
 "Epistemic Community" in the Early Cold War  
*Simon Ottersbach (Universität Gießen)*

The Creation of the Qing "Open Archive"  
*Devin Fitzgerald (Harvard University)*

16:00-16:15      *Coffee Break*

16:15-17:30      *Panel IV: Keeping Track of the Field*

Chair: *Axel Jansen (GHI)*

Africa in Narratives and Numbers: Colonial Data Collection Between  
 Science and the State  
*Philipp Lehmann (MPIWG)*

"The Making of Specimens Eloquent": Anthropology, Documentation, and  
 the United States National Museum  
*Hanna Turner (Simon Fraser University)*

19:00              *Dinner at Meze Restaurant, 2437 18th St NW, Washington, DC 20009  
 (for Participants)*

**Saturday, 3 June 2017**

9:00-10:45

*Panel VI: Answers and Answerability*

Chair: *Anna Echtermöller (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)*

Cultural Studies: The Rise and Fall of Public Opinion Polling in the Soviet Bloc

*Kyrill Kunakhovich (University of Virginia)*

Managing Mining Across Oceans: Paper Tools and (New) Potosí in the Age of Philip II

*Rennée Raphael (University of California Irvine)*

Seeing Like a State, or Feeling Like a Church? Questioning Thirteenth-Century Questionnaires

*John Sabapathy (University College London)*

10:45-11:00

*Coffee Break*

11:00-12:45

*Panel VII: Finding a Common Language*

Chair: *Christine von Oertzen (MPIWG)*

Technocracy in Translation: Administering the Russian Enlightenment  
*Maria Avxentevskaya (MPIWG)*

The Information Order of the Prussian Frontier: Data Collection and the Remaking of the Polish Partitions, 1772-1806

*Kathryn Olesko (Georgetown University)*

Synchronizing Information in Premodern Bureaucracies: The Case of Imperial China

*Chelsea Zi Wang (Claremont McKenna College)*

12:45-13:45

*Lunch (at the GHI)*

13:45-14:30

General Discussion and Wrap-Up