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# DECOLONIZING THE PLAN WORKSHOP I 12-16 JUNE 2017

## ORGANIZERS

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**Sarah Blacker**  
MPIWG

**Anindita Nag**  
MPIWG

**Martina Schlünder**  
University of Toronto

**Sarah Van Beurden**  
The Ohio State  
University

**Emily Brownell**  
University of Northern  
Colorado

**Kavita Philip**  
University of  
California, Irvine

**Helen Verran**  
Charles Darwin  
University, Northern  
Institute

## VENUE

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**Main Conference Room**  
**Department III Conference Room**

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science,  
Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195 Berlin

## CONTACT

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**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

## ABSTRACT

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Decolonization is not merely a historical process, but also an epistemological one; *Decolonizing the Plan*'s format of short, empirically-grounded case studies produces a complex, multi-layered picture of how plans in colonial, postcolonial, and settler colonial contexts shape how knowledge is produced. Rather than producing a simplifying or flattening account of decolonization, this research project broadens understanding of decolonizing processes as taking place at a number of different levels simultaneously.

In this workshop, scholars contributing to our book project, *Decolonizing the Plan: Keywords for Rethinking the Histories of Planning*, will present both case studies and primary source material (including archival documents, artefacts, images, field notes, and excerpts from ethnographies). Empirical case studies in the history, politics and lived experience of technoscientific, cultural, and economic planning that probe, question and shift key concepts in the fields of History of Science, History of Technology, Science and Technology Studies, and Anthropology will form the center of workshop discussions as participants consider how particular case studies and primary source material can inform the development of new decolonizing methodologies for scholarship in the histories of planning.

## MORE ABOUT

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<https://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/research/projects/colonial-and-post-colonial-planning-and-counter-planning>

## MONDAY, JUNE 12TH

Main Conference Room

**14:00-15:00** Welcome and general introduction to the *Decolonizing the Plan: Keywords for Rethinking the Histories of Planning* project and its aims. Overview of schedule for the week.

**15:00-15:30** Coffee Break

**15:30-17:00** Group discussion of methodology, regions and periods addressed by contributions, and thematic clusters.

**18:00** Dinner at Fischerhütte am Schlachtensee restaurant, Fischerhüttenstraße 136, 14163 Berlin.  
(Cost not covered by MPIWG)

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## TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH

Main Conference Room

**9:30-11:00** Presentations by *Robert Kett, Sarah Van Beurden, and Benjamin Allen*

**11:00-11:30** Coffee Break

**11:30-13:00** Presentations by *Laura Mitchell, Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach, Tamar Novick and Benjamin Peters*

**13:00-14:00** Lunch Break  
(Lunch provided by MPIWG - for invited participants only)

**14:00-15:30** Presentations by *Gregg Mitman, Anindita Nag, Lilly Irani, and Benjamin Zachariah*

**15:30-16:00** Coffee Break

**16:00-17:30** Discussion

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14TH

Main Conference Room  
Department III Conference Room

**9:30-12:00** Small group work (peer review and revising individual entries) in thematic clusters

Coffee will be available for participants in the main foyer of the MPIWG from 10:30

**12:00-13:00** Lunch at the Harnack-Haus, Ihnstraße 16-20, 14195 Berlin.  
(Lunch not provided by MPIWG)

**13:00-16:00** Small group work in thematic clusters

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH

Main Conference Room  
Department III Conference Room

**9:30-12:00** Small group work (peer review and revising individual entries) in thematic clusters

Coffee will be available for participants in the main foyer of the MPIWG from 10:30

**12:00-13:00** Lunch at the Harnack-Haus, Ihnstraße 16-20, 14195 Berlin.  
(Lunch not provided by MPIWG)

**13:00-17:00** Small group work in thematic clusters

**17:00-17:30** General Discussion in Main Conference Room

\*\*\* Draft papers of 2000-2500 words in length must be submitted by 18:00 today.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16TH

Main Conference Room

**9:30-11:00** Presentations by “Temporalities” and “Nature” clusters.

**11:00-11:30** Coffee Break

**11:30-13:00** Presentations by “Institutions” and “Land/Property” clusters

**13:00-14:00** Lunch break  
(Lunch provided by the MPIWG – for invited participants only)

**14:00-16:00** General discussion of book manuscript: key themes, key questions, areas to expand, envisioning future collaborations, etc.

**19:00** Closing dinner at Literaturhaus restaurant, Fasanenstraße 23, 10719 Berlin.  
(Cost covered by MPIWG – for invited participants only)

## LIST OF PRESENTERS

**Benjamin Allen**  
Stanford University

**Monika Kirloskar-Steinbach**  
Universität Konstanz

**Itty Abraham**  
National University of  
Singapore

**Robert Kett**  
San Francisco Museum  
of Modern Art

**Lilly Irani**  
University of California,  
San Diego

**Gregg Mitman**  
University of Wisconsin-  
Madison

**Benjamin Peters**  
University of Tulsa

**Laura Mitchell**  
University of California, Irvine

**Benjamin Zachariah**  
Universität Heidelberg

**Tamar Novick**  
MPIWG