

Environmental Histories of Commodities 1800-2000
One-day conference organised by Commodities of Empire project,
Ferguson Centre (Open University) and the Institute of the Americas (UCL)
Friday, 11th September 2015, Institute of the Americas UCL
51 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PN

Each session will follow the format of a 15-minute presentation by each of the paper-givers, followed by a 15-minute critique by the discussant bringing out the issues raised, before opening up to the floor for general discussion.

0930 Arrival and coffee

1000 Welcome (Sandip Hazareesingh, Open University, and Paulo Drinot, UCL)

1015 Session 1. Discussant: David Washbrook (Cambridge)

- Sandip Hazareesingh (Open University), 'Political ecology and the colonial archives: history from below revisited'
- Paul Richards et al. (University of Wageningen), 'Rice in coastal West Africa: tracking the environmental history of an anti-commodity'
- Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul (University of Delhi), 'The making of a bread basket for the Empire: Greater Punjab and eroding self-governing customs for natural-resource use'

1145 Break

1200 Session 2. Discussant: Matthew Paskins (Open University)

- Simon Jackson (University of Birmingham), 'Farming phosphates: post-war agriculture and French Empire in Morocco, 1916-1933'
- Colin Cahill (University of California, Irvine), 'Excremental agents: civets in the history of Indonesian coffee'

1315 Lunch

1415 Session 3. Discussant: Paulo Drinot (Institute of the Americas, UCL)

- Marc W. Herold (University of New Hampshire), 'Value distribution in the modern cocaine commodity chain, 1970-2013 (Colombia-US)'
- Helen Cowie (University of York), 'From the Andes to the Outback: Alpaca smuggling in nineteenth century Peru'

1530 Break

1545 Session 4. Discussant: Kaori O'Connor (UCL)

- Emma Reisz (Queens University Belfast), 'Controlling wild rubber extraction in the forests of northeast India, 1850-1900'
- Jonathan Robins (Michigan Technological University), 'Food and drink; transforming the palm oil industry, 1850-1950'

1700 Closing remarks