

# Provisioning Conflicts: Food Commodities & War

12-13 September, 2024

Commodities of Empire International Workshop, University of Birmingham  
Room 2025 - Frankland Building

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

9h00-9h30 WELCOME/COFFEE

9h30-11h00 RESISTANCE, ADAPTIVE & HYBRID PRACTICES IN CONTEXTS OF EXPLOITATION & FAMINE

- Dr Christopher S. Rose, (Our Lady of the Lake University, Texas), "Disease, Famine, and Death in Egypt 1914-1919."
- Lara Wijesuriya, (Independent Researcher, Sri Lanka), "Rice on the Ceylonese Home Front, 1939-42." (via Zoom)
- Dr Tylor Brand, (Trinity College Dublin), "Smuggling, Hoarding, and the Immoral Economy of the Lebanese Famine of World War I."

Chair: Dr Jon Curry-Machado (School of Advanced Study, University of London) / Discussant: Dr Simon Jackson (Birmingham)

11h00-11h30 COFFEE

11h30-13h00 ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC & LEGAL CONCEPTS

- Soumyadeep Guha, (SUNY Binghamton), "War, Science and Survival Technologies: The Politics of Nutrition and Agriculture in Late Colonial India."
- Dr John Garnett, (George Mason University), "Enemy of the State: Wheat Rust, Wartime Food Security, and the Birth of Plant Pathology, 1916-1943."
- Dr Ingrid de Zwart, (Wageningen University), with Helmi Moret & Pim de Zwart, "The Value of Rice: Food Prices and Hunger during the Indonesian War of Independence."

Chair: Dr Simon Jackson / Discussant: Prof David Pretel (UA Madrid)

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14h00-15h30 SPATIAL ARRANGEMENTS & TEMPORAL FRAMEWORKS

- John Peter Antonacci, (SUNY Binghamton), "Agriculture and Environment in North America's Seven Years' War."
- Narusa Yamato, (Stanford University), "The Global Making of a Japanese "Holstein Island": War, Dairy Cows, and Hachijō in Imperial Japan."
- Omri Polatsek, (Max Planck Berlin), "Fertilizer, Crisis, and War in 20th Century Egypt."

Chair: Dr Jelmer Vos / Discussant: Prof Helen Cowie (York)

15:30-16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00-18:30 FREE TIME

18:30-20:45 CONFERENCE DINNER (PARTICIPANTS ONLY)

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

9:00-09:30: COFFEE

09:30-11:00: EMERGENT INFRASTRUCTURAL ARRANGMENTS

- Şeun Sedę Williams, (Graduate Institute, Geneva) & (via Zoom) Dr Waliu A. Ismaila, "Of 'Military Cattle': World War II, Nutritional Welfare and Meat Production in Colonial Nigeria."
- Dr Somo M. L. Seimu, (Moshi Co-operative University, Tanzania), "Bulk coffee purchases during and after World War II in Tanganyika."
- Dr Satarupa Lahiri, (UPES, India), "Feeding the Empire: Logistical Challenges and Cultural Negotiations in the Indian Army during World War I."

Chair: Prof Helen Cowie (York) / Discussant: Dr Samuël Coghe (Gent)

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:00 BOOK LAUNCH

*Handbook of Commodity History*. Presented by Prof. Jean Stubbs, Dr Jelmer Vos and Dr Jonathan Curry-Machado.

13:00-14:00 LUNCH

14:00-15:00 FINAL DISCUSSION & NEXT STEPS

Organised by Simon Jackson (University of Birmingham)

Commodities of Empire is a British Academy Research Network <https://commoditiesofempire.org.uk/>

Zoom link: please contact [S.Jackson.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:S.Jackson.1@bham.ac.uk)



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