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GLOBAL DIASPORAS IN THE AGE OF HIGH IMPERIALISM

10/11 September 2014

University of Kassel, Mönchebergstr. 3, Senatssaal, 34127 Kassel

The age of high imperialism was characterised by a high degree of mobility and long-distance migration, and, at the same time, by nationalism and a growing interest to define ethnic and racial identities on a global scale. In this context, “diasporic attachments” (E. Rosenberg) gained in significance. However, what kind of global communities can be described as “diasporas” and what role they played in the context of imperial expansion, is far from clear. By defining the term broadly, integrating migrants’ communities of many different ethnic origins and types, the conference intends to revisit questions concerning the formation of colonial empires and global communities. We want to provide a forum in which research on different ethnic diasporas in the decades between 1870 and 1914 can be related with each other. By comparing their inner coherences and structures, we will explore differences and parallels, but also connections and processes of transfer between them.

First of all, the conference aims to analyse, in comparative perspective, the role diasporas played in the context of the imperial politics of powers such as Japan, Great Britain, Germany, Italy and the USA. In the age of high imperialism, when it became increasingly important to demonstrate a strong global presence, these governments took an unprecedented interest in their overseas emigrants. They made various more or less successful efforts to direct migrants to the colonies and protectorates of their countries of origin. At the same time, those migrants who had moved to non-colonial world regions were reconceptualised as members of an imaginary “greater empire” with persisting cultural, political and economic ties. We will examine in how far overseas diasporas were instrumentalised by the imperial politics of their home countries, and, the other way round, in how far developments in the

diasporas influenced the politics in the countries of origin. Here, a central question will be in how far ideas of “imagined communities” could be produced in overseas diasporas and then transferred back to the home country. We aim to challenge the paradigm that imperialist ideologies always originated in the mother countries of colonial empires.

The diasporas which developed against the background of the colonial aspirations of their countries of origin are then to be contextualised with diasporas of migrants whose motherlands had no colonies of their own. Chinese and South Asian diasporas, for example, formed large and influential minorities in the colonies of different imperial powers. A third diasporic type, which will be dealt with at the conference, is that of the diaspora without homeland, such as the Jewish and African diasporas. As the age of high imperialism was also the age of pan-Africanism and Zionism, we want to investigate whether the construction of global communities by nationalist ideologies, which had an impact on all three diasporic types, can be compared with each other and what role existing and imaginary homelands played in that context. Overall, the conference aims to shed new light on the dynamics of colonialism and of global integration in the age of high imperialism.

The conference is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. Those interested in participating, please register with Berit L. Gerling (BL.Gerling@student.uni-kassel.de)

Programme

10 September 2014

9.00-9.30:

Welcome and Introduction

Ulrike Kirchberger

9.30-11.00:

Diasporas and Colonial Politics: Italy and Germany

Chair: Ulrike Kirchberger

Mark I. Choate, Brigham Young University:

Italy's emigrant colonialism at the apex of mass migration and imperialism

Stefan Manz, Aston University, Birmingham:

Germans Abroad and the 'Greater German Empire', 1871-1914

11.00-11.30: Coffee

11.30-13.00

Diasporas without Homelands

Chair: Tanja Bueltmann

Gregor Pelger, LMU München:

The Diversity of Diaspora. Varying Agendas of the Galut (Jewish Exile) in the Time of Jewish Emancipation

David Killingray, University of London:

The Demand for Rights: Pan-Africanism in the Black Atlantic World, 1890-1913

13.00-13.45: Lunch

13.45-15.15:

Diasporas and Colonial Politics: Japan and Germany

Chair: Steven Ivings

Wolfram Manzenreiter, University of Vienna, Dept. of East Asian Studies:

Late developmentalism and imperial aspirations behind the emergence of the Japanese emigration state

Frederik Schulze, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster:

German emigration and imperialism. The case of Brazil

15.15-15.45: Coffee

15.45-17.15:

Typologies and Terminologies

Chair: David Killingray

Steven Ivings, London School of Economics, Department of Economic History:

Settler Colony or Labour Destination: Karafuto as a Japanese Colony 1905-1914

Tanja Bueltmann, Northumbria University:

What makes a diaspora? A comparative exploration of the Scottish, English and German diasporas, c. 1730 to 1914

Dinner

11 September 2014

9.00-10.30:

Religion and Class in Diaspora Formation

Chair: Mark I. Choate

Iqbal Akhtar, Florida International University:

Exploring the Ethno-Linguistic Evolution of Religious Identities among the Khōjā of Dar es Salaam

Shubha Parmar, University of Delhi:

Global Dalits and Their Local Lives

10.30-11.00: Coffee

11.00-12.30:

Same Ethnicities in Different Continents

Chair: Michael Williams

Isabelle Rispler, University of Texas at Arlington/Université Paris Diderot:

The German Colony of Buenos Aires and German South West Africa: Contemporary Comparison and Entanglement in the South Atlantic

Ida Chingman Yip, Hong Kong Institute of Education:

Chinese diasporas in Germany and Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

12.30-13.15: Lunch

13.15-14.45:

Beyond the Binary: Transcontinental Linkages between Families and Homelands

Chair: Iqbal Akhtar

Reinhard Wendt, FernUniversität Hagen:

From bipolar migration to transcontinental diaspora formation: Germans in the Pacific world in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

Michael Williams, Sydney:

Return Migration: Chinese and Italian migration to the US and Australia - a comparative historical view

14.45-15.15: Coffee

15.15-16.45:

Contact Zones

Chair: Wolfram Manzenreiter

Klaus Dittrich, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea:

Attraction and Rejection within a Translocal Community: Europeans and Americans in Korea, 1882-1910

Victorya Romanova, I. M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Russia:

The Russian Jews of Harbin

16.45-17-00: Coffee

17.00-17.45:

Final Discussion/Round Table