

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL DESTRUCTION IN IMPERIAL SPACES:

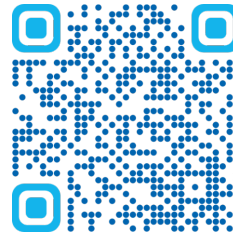
This conference explores the intricate relationship between empires and the destruction of environments and cultures. Drawing upon a broad understanding of destruction, the conference envelops a wide array of phenomena of damage and harm that unfolded within imperial contexts, examining not only the initial impact but also the enduring consequences. The conference aims to address two primary questions: (1) the specific connection between destruction and imperialism, and (2) the interconnected yet distinct nature of environmental and cultural destruction. Our speakers will discuss various imperial spaces across the world spanning all major continents, including maritime domains. They will explore topics such as the exploitation of natural resources, the forced assimilation of local cultures, landscape reconfigurations without regard for unique ethnic lines, and the imposition of new ideologies. Additionally, the conference will investigate how these imperial legacies continue to shape and resonate in the social, political, and economic life of cultures and environments in (post-) imperial spaces to this day.

## Organisation

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## Contact

DFG Research Training Group 2571  
“Empires: Dynamic Change, Temporality  
and Post-Imperial Orders”

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**DFG**  
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**EMPIRES**  
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Dynamic Transformation  
Temporality and  
Postimperial Orders

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# ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL DESTRUCTION IN IMPERIAL SPACES

Second Annual conference of the Research Group “Empires”  
30 November – 2 December 2023, Freiburg, Germany

Thursday, 30.11.2023: "Destruction in (Post-)Imperial Frontier/Contact Zones"

14:00  
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14:30 Introduction

14:30  
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15:30 Keynote 1: "Cultural Destruction after Empire: Minoritization, Territorialisation, and State Violence on an Ethnocultural Frontier of Modern China" – **Benno Weiner**



15:30  
-  
15:45 Coffee Break

15:45  
-  
16:45 "Negotiation or Elimination? Environmental and Cultural Dimensions of the Australian Maritime Contact Zone, 1790-1850" – **Eva Bischoff**



16:45  
-  
17:00 "Deforestation, Forest protection Laws and Famine in Colonial Chotanagpur, 1850-1910" – **Vinita Rav**

17:00  
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17:00 Coffee Break

17:00  
-  
18:00 "Violent Migrations: Charting the Colonial Journey of Parrots in Art" – **Margaryta Golovchenko**



18:00  
-  
18:00 "The Hell of Boryslav: Representations of Environmental Destruction and Imperial Neglect in Early Galician Petrofiction" – **Anna Seidel**

Friday, 01.12.2023: "Conquest, War & Resistance in (Inter-)Imperial Spaces"

10:30  
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10:45 Introduction

10:45  
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11:45 Keynote 2: "Violence Fast and Slow: Environment, Resistance and the End of Empire in Russian Central Asia" – **Jennifer Keating**



11:45  
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12:00 Coffee Break

12:00  
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13:00 "The Iranian Conquest and Despoilment of Mughal India: The Destruction of an Imperial Order as the Basis for the Construction of Another" – **Mohammad A. H. Parsa**



13:00  
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13:00 "Environmental and Cultural Destruction in Imperial Spaces: The Benin Kingdom Perspective" – **Lucky Ighosa Ugbudian**

13:00  
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14:00 Lunch Break ☺

14:00  
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15:00 "A Tiger Attacks. Hunting, Fighting, and Military Culture in the Indonesian Independence War, 1945-1949" – **Azarja Harmanny**



15:00  
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15:30 "In/Visible Destruction. Visual Memories of Fascist Colonialism in Ethiopia, 1935-1941" – **Markus Wurzer** (online)

15:30  
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15:30 Coffee Break

15:30  
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17:00 **Round-Table Discussion:** "Environmental and Cultural Destruction in Imperial Spaces: An Interdisciplinary Discussion" – **Discussants: Benno Weiner, Jennifer Keating, Aondover Gyegwe and Sitta von Reden, Moderator: Elisabeth Pilller**

Saturday, 02.12.2023: "Imperial Continuities and Vestiges of Empire"

10:00  
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10:15 Introduction

10:15  
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11:15 Keynote 3: "Imperial Vestiges and Hallmarks of Cultural Destruction in the 'Niger-Area' Space" – **Aondover Gyegwe**



11:15  
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11:30 Coffee Break

11:30  
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13:00 "Moi Lagi Baganiya: Colonial (Agri)Cultures in the Post colony" – **Priyam Goswami Choudhury**



13:00  
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13:00 "The Paradox of China's Sustainable Destruction" – **Christopher K. Tong**

13:00  
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13:00 "Reconstructing (the Identity of) a 'Subjugated African Artist' as Visualised in Jacob Jari's Conceptual Paintings" – **Anaso Kenechi & Giles Gambo Duniya**

13:00  
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14:00 Lunch Break ☺

14:00  
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16:00 Literary Reading & Talk with the Author

16:00  
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16:00 "Nuclear Destruction in Ismailov's Novel Wunderkind Erjan" – **Hamid Ismailov**  
**Moderator: Verena Zabel**

