

Syllabus
Seminar: "The Archaeology of Colonialism"
Masaryk University / Spring 2013

Maria Theresia Starzmann, PhD
Freie Universität Berlin
mstarzmann@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Course Description:

This seminar will look at the archaeology of colonialism in two ways. On the one hand, we will try to understand colonialism as a phenomenon that can be explored through material and other (textual, oral historical) remains in archaeological contexts. We will look at a variety of case studies of past colonial encounters in the Middle East, but also in Europe (the Mediterranean), Africa, Oceania, and North America. The goal will be to understand the processes and contexts of colonialism and its effects on past societies.

The second part of the seminar analyzes colonialism as a concept and discursive practice that has concrete effects for our archaeological work. The goal is to understand how neo/colonialist processes contribute to the production of academic knowledge, historical archives, and archaeological facts. We will also take a critical look at how the legacy of colonialism continues to structure our relationship with descendant communities and other stakeholder groups we encounter during our archaeological fieldwork.

The readings of the course explore theoretical and conceptual approaches toward colonialism in the social sciences as well as responses such as post-colonial theory and de-colonial thinking. In addition, we look at a number of case studies that are grounded in archaeological, ethnographic, and historical sources.

Course Format and Grading:

This course is designed as a combined lecture / class discussion. In each session, I will provide some background material, which will be substituted by reading materials assigned for the course. In the class discussion, we will spend time identifying themes and issues relevant for the topic of the course, with the goal of taking a comparative approach between readings.

The course grade will be based on in-class participation and a written paper (10 pages), which will be organized as a response paper to a discussion question. Papers are due after the end of the class (date TBA). The goal of the paper is to demonstrate that students are able to discuss a complex set of questions in a concise and well-structured manner and that they can draw on a critical mass of papers in developing their conclusions.

Readings:

All class participants will have online access to all course materials, which include the course syllabus, course announcements, and free access to the assigned course readings. Texts for the class will be made available in advance in the form of open access online readings or PDF-formatted texts.

Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings

1. Session: What is the Archaeology of Colonialism? (Feb. 18)

- Thomas, Nicholas. 1994. *Colonialism's Culture: Anthropology, Travel and Government*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Introduction & Chapter 1: "From present to past: The politics of colonial studies," pp. 1-32).
- Silliman, Stephen W. 2005. Culture contact or colonialism? Challenges in the archaeology of Native North America. *American Antiquity* 70(1): 55-74.

2. The Taste of Colonialism: Material Culture Studies (Feb. 19)

- Thomas, Nicholas. 2002. "Colonizing cloth: Interpreting the material culture of nineteenth-century Oceania." In *The Archaeology of Colonialism*, edited by Claire C. Lyons and John K. Papadopoulos, pp. 182-198. Los Angeles: Getty Publications.

3. Complicating Colonialism: Beyond the Colonizer / Colonized Divide (Feb. 20)

- Stoler, Ann Laura. 1989. Rethinking colonial categories: European communities and the boundaries of rule. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31:134-161.
- Mullins, Paul R. and Robert Paynter. 2000. Representing colonizers: An archaeology of creolization, ethnogenesis, and indigenous material culture among the Haida. *Historical Archaeology* 34(3):73-84.

4. Colonialism as Racialized Project (Feb. 21)

- Evans, Andrew D. 2002. "Capturing race: Anthropology and photography in German and Austrian prisoner-of-war camps during World War I." In *Colonialist Photography: Imag(in)ing Race and Place*, edited by Eleanor M. Hight and Gary D. Sampson, pp. 226-256. London: Routledge.
- DeRoo, Rebecca J. 2002. "Colonial collecting: French women and Algerian *cartes postales*." In *Colonialist Photography: Imag(in)ing Race and Place*, edited by Eleanor M. Hight and Gary D. Sampson, pp. 159-171. London: Routledge.

5. Colonialism as Intimate Encounter (Feb. 25)

- Croucher, Sarah. 2011. "'A concubine is still a slave': Sexual relations and Omani colonial identities in nineteenth-century East Africa." In *The Archaeology of Colonialism: Intimate Encounters and Sexual Effects*, edited by Barbara L. Voss and Eleanor Conlin Casella, pp. 67-84. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

6. Remembering (and Forgetting) Colonialism (Feb. 28)

- Hochschild, Adam. 1998. *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. (Chapter 19: "The Great Forgetting," pp. 292-306)
- Pollock, Susan. 2010. "Decolonizing archaeology: Political economy and archaeological practice in the Middle East." In *Controlling the Past, Owning the Future: The Political Uses of Archaeology in the Middle East*, edited by Ran Boytner, Lynn Swartz Dodd, and Bradley Parker, pp. 196-216. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.