

**International Conference**  
*The Discourse of British and German Colonialism: Convergence and  
Competition*

**Date: September 22-23, 2018**

**Conference organizers:**

Professor Felicity Rash (Queen Mary University, London), Dr Geraldine Horan (University College London), Professor Andreas Musolff (University of East Anglia)

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*Please send abstracts on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.*

**Key-note speakers**

Dr Stefan Manz, University of Aston will speak on “Colonialism and Diaspora in Imperial Germany”.

Dr Angus Nicholls, Queen Mary, University of London, will speak on “Max Müller and the ‘Aryan’ Discourse in the Context of British Colonialism”

Professor Albert Gouaffo, University of Dschang, Cameroon, will speak on scientific and cultural transfer.

This conference will explore the various connections and synergies between British and German colonialist discourses from the seventeenth century onwards. While it is known that similarities and differences exist in the British and German discourse traditions expressing colonialist ideology, this is an under-researched area in respect of historical texts. A discipline of historical discourse analysis is well-established for German political discourse, but is not well-represented for similar English-language discourse and analysis of the primary texts of colonialist discourse tends to rely upon non-linguistic methods. Papers are invited from scholars working in the fields of historical discourse using the methods of Critical Linguistics, Historical Discourse Analysis, Conceptual History (German “*Begriffsgeschichte*”) and Critical Metaphor Analysis. Source texts could include political, scientific and philosophical tracts, travel literature, autobiography and fiction. The study of images and of the modes of display of historical artefacts are also considered relevant constituents of discourse.

**Conference Papers are invited which cover some of the following topics:**

I) Mainstream Colonialism and Resistance to it

- Early German discourse on colonization and its sources in British colonialist discourse
- British and German anti-colonialist discourse
- British and German anti-slavery discourse
- British and German anti-Islamic discourse pertaining to the colonies
- British and German attitudes towards the punishment and internment of native “malefactors”
- British and German attitudes towards the treatment of colonized subjects

II) Discourses of Imperialism and Early Globalization

- Industrialisation, imperialism and *lebensraum* politics
- “Made in Germany” as a British problem. The respective versions of an imperialist myth of multiculturalism
- Racial and bio-political theory in relation to colonialist discourse
- Contact and competition between British and German archaeologists and ethnologists

III) Travel Literature in the Age of Colonialism

- In the footsteps of Livingstone and Stanley: British and German travel writing and colonialism
- The German reception of the Robinson Crusoe stories
- The perspectives and writings of Christian missionaries

IV) Representations of Colonialism as Acculturation in both British and German Discourses

- A comparative study of the metaphorical representation of colonies in terms of FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, HUMANBODY, FLOWING/OVERFLOWING and PLANTING/PLANT GROWTH in British and German discourse, and of mutual cross-fertilization between both discourse traditions
- Comparison and contrast of feminist and anti-feminist discourse in both British and German colonies
- British and German claims to leadership of Western, “civilized” culture

#### V) Colonialism and War

- Colonialist discourse during the First and Second World Wars
- British and German discourse on the planning and aftermath of the Treaty of Versailles in relation to former German colonies
- Imprisonment and internment policies in the colonies and during war-time

#### VI) Discourses on the Medium- and Long-term Effects of Colonialism

- Similarities and differences between historical discourses on European overseas migration and modern discourses on migratory movement into and within Europe
- The impact of medical and other scientific research undertaken in the colonies
- The lasting effects of colonialism upon modern-day former colonies
- *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* of colonial pasts: nostalgia and/or apologies

#### VII) Memorialization and Opportunities for Tourism and Development in former Colonies

- Museums and open-air sites – Namibia as a specific example
- Artistic representations of colonial activity
- Architectural monuments and their place in the modern world

### **Publication Plans**

Following peer review, papers will be published in *Angermion*, the organ of the Centre for Anglo-German Relations, Queen Mary, University of London.

### **Photographic Exhibition: “Germany’s Colonial Footprint in Africa”**

Between 1884 and 1918, Germany possessed four colonies in sub-Saharan Africa: Togo, Cameroon, German South West Africa (now Namibia) and German East Africa (now Tanzania). Many signs of their occupancy survive in all four countries, in the form of buildings, cemeteries, monuments, museum exhibits and documents in libraries and state archives. Having visited these four countries, Professor Felicity Rash will present photographic evidence of their German colonial past and its imprint upon contemporary Africa material and intellectual culture.