

International Conference on Knowledge and Colonial Science

Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, Pavilhão C6
Lisbon, 27th – 29th November 2013

The International Conference Knowledge and Colonial Science results from the collaboration between the Centro de Filosofia das Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa and the Centro de História of the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (IICT), and aims to reflect and discuss the nature of science's role in the colonial context as well as its relevance in a post-colonial perspective. The meeting intends to join researchers, teachers and specialists from the fields of natural, social and human sciences in order to stimulate the debate on an issue that has gained considerable visibility over the last few decades.

The relations between post-Enlightenment science and the notions of human progress, development and modernization have become part of an increasingly intense debate on concepts, values, actions and consequences of scientific practice in a colonial setting which explores the reciprocity and proximity between the modern Nation State, scientific knowledge and their respective institutions. In addition, the existence of a purported colonial science with its own specific characteristics, innovative and adapted to the colonial environment, and distinct from its metropolitan origins gained its proper place in the ongoing exchange of ideas over the last decades. The debate focused the understanding and assessment of the relations between 'modern' science produced in the metropolis and their colonial possessions, and traditional 'folk' wisdom in a great diversity of aspects such as the management of natural resources, human settlement, nutrition and diets, medicine, architecture, weaponry and the arts. The exchange and circulation of different sets of knowledge, within and beyond colonial spaces presented to the academic agenda the hypothesis of hybrid forms and interactive knowledge systems with non-linear trajectories, emphasizing the necessity to analyze these exchanges in a pluralist, trans-cultural e interdisciplinary framework. Thus, the theme of 'colonial' science raises a number of questions in what regards the complex relations between colonies and empires which the conference will no doubt address and analyze. Did anything like a colonial science ever exist? What is the relation between colonial science and scientific knowledge in general? How did colonial science contribute to discourse on the image of 'the other', the colonized, and on the colonizer itself? In what way did science assist in and benefit from the formation and consolidation of the colonial state? To what extent were science and scientists subjected to political authority and power and serve colonialism? In what measure did colonies constitute laboratories for science and within which limits did science have to operate within the colonial project and how did its role change over time? Which epistemological exercises did science undertake in what regards colonialism? To what extent did science create its own roots and networks in colonial spaces and how did scientific knowledge circulate? How was it transmitted by means of educational systems? What was the contribution of scientists born in the colonies? Is there a break or continuity with regard to the role of science between the colonial and post-colonial period?

The transversal nature of these questions is inscribed in transnational and transdisciplinary approaches which present a challenge to academic research and debate in terms of its capacity to build bridges between different geographical and social spaces on the one hand and between different forms of knowledge on the other, while putting them into a meaningful context. The international conference welcomes thought provoking and innovative approaches which will contribute to a lively debate and exchange of ideas and experiences on these issues, with a view to increasing their visibility in academia and beyond.

Conference Themes:

Archives and museums – documents e collections
Botanical and zoological gardens, and agricultural laboratories – the collection of data concerning nature, its study and display
Architecture, public Works and the organization of space
Bio-medicine, public health and indigenous medicine
Exploration of territories, cartography and borders
Colonial knowledge and imperial contexts
Science, academia and education
Culture, media and colonial science
Political power, colonial administration and science
Colonial exhibitions, science and propaganda
Colonial e post-colonial science

Organizing Committee

Ana Cristina Roque (Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical)
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José Carlos Tiago Oliveira (Centro de Filosofia das Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa e Universidade de Évora)
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Scientific Committee

Comissão Científica

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Isabel Castro Henriques (Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa)
Jacint Creus (Universidade de Barcelona)
João Paulo Borges Coelho (Universidade Eduardo Mondlane, Moçambique)
Joaquim Pais de Brito (Museu de Etnologia)
Jorge Sousa Brito (Universidade Jean Piaget de Cabo Verde; Academia das Ciências e Humanidades de Cabo Verde)
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Secretariat

Teresa Vilela (Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical)
Márcia Belchior (Centro de Filosofia das Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa)

Submission of abstracts

The International Conference is open to all interested researchers as well as the general public. Proposals in the form of abstracts should be submitted to coloquio.i.3c@gmail.com. by 5th July 2013 and authors will be notified by e-mail until 16th de September 2013 whether their proposal has been accepted.

Abstracts with a maximum length of 300 – 500 words (Text Word, style Calibri 11 1,5 line spacing, double spacing between paragraphs) should be presented in one of the official languages of the International Conference and include a maximum of five keywords. Abstract authors should include name(s), affiliation(s) as well as their e-mail address(es). The maximum duration for paper presentations is fifteen minutes. Please indicate preference for method of presentation, i.e. oral or poster. Simultaneous translation of the official languages of the international conference will not be available.

Registration is required. The organization cannot provide funding for participants' travel and accommodation expenses.

Registration costs:

Participants with paper presentation - free

Participants without paper presentation – 20 Euros

Official languages: Portuguese, English, French and Spanish

Timetable

Call for papers – 15th April

Abstract submission– 15th April / 5th July 2013

Acceptance notification: 16th September

Registration: between 16th September / 20th November

Provisional Program: 8th November

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