

Organisation

Elena Taddei (Innsbruck)
Florian Ambach (Innsbruck)

The conference *(Un)Freedom in Global Perspective. Actors – Perceptions – Agencies* explores individuals and communities characterized as unfree, such as in slavery, captivity, serfdom, and imprisonment. The aim is to challenge static and binary concepts of freedom and unfreedom, analyzing the nuances of agency across local, regional, and global frameworks of the early modern and modern period. How were forms of (un)freedom perceived? What strategies did individuals and communities employ to resist, escape, or redefine unfreedom? How did transitions between freedom and unfreedom shape personal and collective identities?

Bringing together diverse case studies, the conference seeks to identify overarching trends and their manifestations across various spaces and contexts. By examining nuanced experiences of (un)freedom, it aims to foster comparative perspectives and to offer new insights into the historical continuities, transformations, and experiences of (un)freedom.

Contact

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Join Online

<https://webconference.uibk.ac.at/rooms/8eb-st6-yys>



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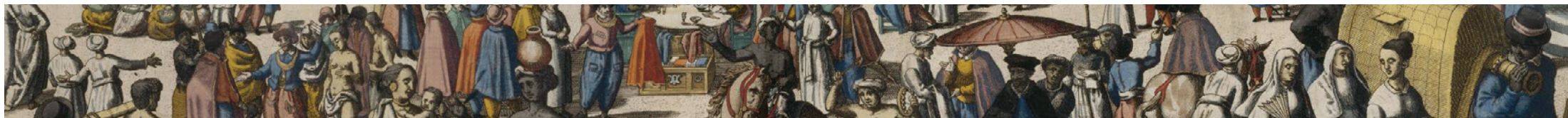
Agostino Brunias, *Linen Market, Dominica*, c. 1780. Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, Acc. No. B1981.25.76.

Engraving by Joannes van Doetecum "Gezicht op de markt van Goa" in Jan Huygen van Linschoten, *Itinerario, Voyage ofte Schipvaert, van Jan Huygen van Linschoten naer Oost ofte Portugaels Indien* [...], Amsterdam 1596. Koninklijke Bibliotheek/Atlas of Mutual Heritage, No. 1702 B 4 deel I, na p. 44.

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(Un)Freedom in Global Perspective

Actors – Perceptions – Agencies



Programme

Monday, 3rd February 2025

- 8.30 Registration
 9.00 Welcome Address (Dirk Rupnow)
 9.10 Opening Remarks (Florian Ambach & Elena Taddei)
- 9.30 – 11.00 Panel 1: Mediterranean (Un)Freedom**
 Chair: Dirk Rupnow (Innsbruck)
- Teresa Peláez-Domínguez (Valencia):** *Coerced labour in the 16th-century galleys: Work, (un)freedom and mobility in the early modern Mediterranean*
A. Jorge Aguilera-López (Helsinki): *Shipwrights in Shackles: Expertise and Captivity on the Early Modern Barbary Coast*
Firdevs Bulut (Izmir): *Dynamics of Slave Labor in the 19th Century in the Hinterland of Izmir*
- 11.00 *Coffee Break*
- 11.30 – 13.00 Panel 2: Imprisonment, Agency, and Escape**
 Chair: Gunda Barth-Scalmani (Innsbruck)
- Samuele Virga (Verona):** *The 'Taifa' of the Turks and the Slave Merchants of Livorno. Agency, Labor, and Self-Ransom (17th–18th Centuries)*
Chechesh Kudachinova (Berlin): *„Like a Caged Bird“: Captivity and „Social Coma“ in 17th-Century Siberia*
Teresa Petrik (St. Pölten): *„Devil, I have to get out!“ Strategies of escaping imprisonment and negotiations of (un)freedom in 18th-century Vienna and Upper Austria*
- 13.00 *Lunch*
- 14.00 – 15.00 Panel 3: Materialities**
 Chair: Elena Taddei (Innsbruck)
- Joseph L. Yannielli (Birmingham, UK):** *The Technology of Captivity: Collars, Chains, and Counterinsurgency*
Susanna Asthon (Clemson): *The Slave Pass: A Cultural History*

- 15.00 *Coffee Break*
- 15.30 – 17.00 Panel 4: (Un)Freedom in the Age of Abolition**
 Chair: Levke Harders (Innsbruck)
- Elyssa Gage (Wilkes-Barre):** *Speaking of Rebellion: Justifying Unfreedom in the Reestablishment of Slavery in Guadeloupe, 1801–1803*
Elena Barattini (Turin): *Diasporic Agencies: „Time-Expired Coolies“, Negotiations and Mobilities in the Caribbean (1860–1882)*
Stephanie E. Jones-Rogers (Berkeley): *She „bought negroes from jail“: White Women and the Afterlives of Slavery*
- 17.00 *Break*
- 17.15 – 18.15 Keynote**
 Moderation: Niels Grüne (Innsbruck)
- Michael Zeuske (Bonn/Cologne):** *Global histories of slavery and the self-representations of slaves*
- 19.00 *Dinner*

Tuesday, 4th February 2025

- 9.00 – 11.00 Panel 5: (Un)Freedom and Labour in Colonial Contexts**
 Chair: Marina Hilber (Innsbruck)
- Martin Gabriel (Klagenfurt):** *Colonial Labor, (Un)Freedom, and Agency in Early Modern Spanish America*
Lara-Marie Frick (Heidelberg/Paris): *Voluntary Unfreedom for Freedom's Sake. German(-speaking) engagés and the French Colonial Projects in Louisiana (1720) and Guiana (1763)*

- Philipp Huber (Amsterdam/Nijmegen):** *The Unfree population of Macau in its Parish Registers*
Julian zur Lage (Hamburg): *Indentured Migration in the Pacific Ocean World: Global Politics and Individual Agency, ca. 1860–1900*

11.00 *Coffee Break*

11.30 – 13.00 Panel 6: (Un)Freedom, Gender, and Family

- Chair: Ellinor Forster (Innsbruck)
- Johannes Gradel (Tübingen):** *Agency and Representation of Enslaved Women in the Capuchin Hospice of Kimbangu, Kingdom of Kongo (1701)*
Turkana Allahverdiyeva (Bonn): *Agents of Change: Slaves in the Family Setting of Early Modern Crimean Khanate*
Kate Ekama/Benjamin Crous (Stellenbosch): *Enslaved women and the body as resistance at the Cape Colony*

13.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 Panel 7: Transatlantic Reflections of (Un)Freedom and Resistance

- Chair: Eric Burton (Innsbruck)
- Florian Ambach (Innsbruck):** *Ports to (Un)Freedom. Capuchin Missionaries in West Central African Hubs of the Slave Trade*
Yevan Terrien (Lafayette): *Black Unfreedom, Marronage, and Customary Rights in the Slave Society of Early New Orleans*
Diego Schibelinski (Bonn): *Maritime bondage: The dual role of slavery and the fighting for freedom on board the slave ships*

15.30 – 16.00 Closing Remarks (Florian Ambach & Elena Taddei)