

"Transfer of Knowledge in the Iberian Colonial World"
September 5–6, 2013
Max Planck Institute for the History of Knowledge, Berlin

September 5, 2013

9:30 Opening and Introduction

Jürgen Renn, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

10:00—13:00

Internal Organization and External Contacts

Sonja Brentjes, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science:

Spanish and Portuguese Encounters with Muslim Powers in the Early Modern Period and Their Impact on the Flow of Knowledge and Commodities

Antonio Barrera, Colgate University:

European and American Hubs in the Making of the New (sixteenth-century) Science

Coffee Break (11:20-11:40)

Nuria Valverde, Universidad Autónoma de México:

Moving Layers: Transferring and Arranging Knowledge from Time to Position in the 18th-century Spanish Empire

Helge Wendt, Max Planck Institute of the History of Science:

Cuban Coal and the Perspective of New Energy Resources in Late Spanish Colonialism

Lunch (13:00-14:00)

14:00—17:00

Knowledge in Dispute: Indigenous and European Knowledges

Timothy D. Walker, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth:

Global Cross-Cultural Dissemination of Indigenous Medical Practices through the Portuguese Colonial System: Evidence from 16th-18th Century Ethno-Botanical Manuscripts

Stefanie Gänger, Universität Konstanz:

World Trade in Medicinal Plants from Spanish America, 1700—1815

Coffee Break (15:20-15:40)

Angélica Morales Sarabia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México:

The Reconstruction of Women's Treatments in XVI and XVII Centuries: Novohispanic Medical Culture

Lars Kirkhusmo Pharo, Harvard / Oslo:

Transfer of Moral Knowledge in Early Colonial Latin America

September 6, 2013

9:30—12.30

Visual Testimonies and Vehicles of Transfer of Knowledge

Florike Egmond, Rome:

Plant Knowledge in Portuguese Asia and Brazil and Its Visual Contributions to a European Notion of Tropical Botany (16th and Early 17th Centuries)

Peter Mason, Rome:

Reading a New World Façade: The Decorative Program of the Church of Nuestra Señora de Regla, Pájara, Fuerteventura (ESP)

Coffee Break (10:50-11:10)

Mauricio Sánchez Menchero, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México:

Sheets of Paper, Tobacco Leaves: The Circulation of Knowledge about New World Plants Through Printed Books (16th and 17th Centuries)

José Pardo-Tomás, IMF-CSIC, Barcelona:

Making Natural History in New Spain, 1535-1618

Lunch 12:30

This conference focuses on concepts of knowledge transfer in the history of (scientific) knowledge in the Iberian world. In the Iberian colonial world, traditions of knowledge from all over Europe, Africa, Asia, and America converged. Consequently, new bodies of knowledge emerged and were circulated. The expansion of knowledge in the era of globalization in the Iberian world can no longer be understood as a process originating from Europe, nor can the transfer of knowledge and the evolution of new knowledge in the colonial situation continue to be studied as an exclusive relationship between Europeans and non-Europeans. Instead, it may be stated that contacts, and possibilities for establishing contacts, increased with the colonization of the Iberian world for all political, cultural and religious entities, as well as between any system of knowledge existing during that period. As much as they were under pressure or even disappeared under colonial rule, such knowledge systems contributed to a newly established global space of knowledge in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.