

## The Conference "Comparative Perspectives on Taxation and the Colonial State"

How did European colonialism work? What long-term effects did it have on Europe and the world? And who had to pay for European domination, both literally and figuratively?

Although these questions have been debated for decades, they have recently received renewed scholarly and public attention. What is still lacking, however, is a comparative perspective that would allow us to analyze the similarities and differences in the methods employed by the various colonial powers.

The conference aims to build such a comparative framework with regard to the area of colonial finance by fostering discussion among scholars who have focused primarily on individual colonial powers or colonies.

Funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, the conference is organized by Marc Buggeln and Jan Kreutz (both Forschungsstelle für regionale Zeitgeschichte und Public History) as part of their DFG-funded research project "Die Konturen des Kolonialstaats. Steuer- und Haushaltspolitik in den deutschen Kolonien 1884-1914".

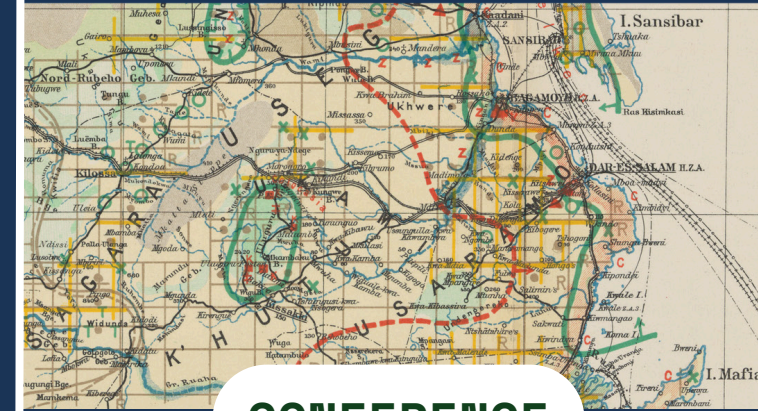
## Contact and Venue

Organizers:  
Prof. Dr. Marc Buggeln  
Dr. Jan Kreutz  
Forschungsstelle für regionale  
Zeitgeschichte und Public History

Further Information:  
<https://www.uni-flensburg.de/en/frzph/forschung/konferenzen/taxation-and-the-colonial-state#c201217>

Contact and registration:  
[colonial-taxation@frzph.de](mailto:colonial-taxation@frzph.de)

Conference Venue:  
Europa-Universität Flensburg,  
Building Tallinn, TAL 007



CONFERENCE

# COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON TAXATION AND THE COLONIAL STATE

September 25-27, 2025

Europa-Universität Flensburg,  
Building Tallinn, TAL 007

# Conference Program: Comparative Perspectives on Taxation and the Colonial State

## September 25, 2025

**14:00 Arrival and Registration**

**15:00 - 15:30 Introduction**

Marc Buggeln and Jan Kreutz,  
both Europa-Universität Flensburg

**15:30 - 16:45 Keynote-Lecture:** Comparative Research on Colonial Finance: Achievements, Unanswered Questions, and Future Directions

- Anne Booth, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

**16:45 - 17:15 Coffee-Break**

**17:15 - 18:30 Panel 1:**

Imperial Rule and the Categorization of Taxpayers

Chair: Magnus Ressel, Universität Heidelberg

- Sarah Albiez-Wieck, Universität Münster: Taxes and Hair – Controlling the Chinese in the Spanish Philippines, 17th-19th century
- Naz Yucel, Independent Scholar: Debating Taxation in the Ottoman Empire after the Second Constitutional Revolution

## September 26, 2025

**9:30 - 11:00 Panel 2:** Case Studies on Colonial Taxation, part 1

Chair: Korinna Schönhärl, Universität Trier

- Laura Channing, Durham University: Colonial Taxation and Local Government in British West Africa
- Jan Kreutz, Europa-Universität Flensburg: Exercising Power and Balancing Budgets. The Construction of a Colonial Fiscal State in German East Africa.
- Maarten Manse, Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden: Promise and Pragmatism: Taxation and Governance in Colonial Indonesia, c 1870-1940

**11:00 - 11:15 Break**

**11:15 - 12:45 Panel 3:** Case Studies on Colonial Taxation, part 2

Chair: Jan Kreutz, Europa-Universität Flensburg

- Madeline Woker, Princeton University: A Taxing Empire: Power and Taxation in the French Colonial Empire, 1850s-1950s
- Kleoniki Alexopoulou, Princeton University: Colonial State Formation and Fiscal Regimes in the Portuguese Colonies of Mozambique and Angola
- Danladi Abah, University of Ghana, Legon: Indigenous Heritage, Empire and Taxation in Central Nigeria 1900-1960

**12:45 - 14:00 Conference Lunch**

**14:00 - 15:30 Panel 4:** Self-Assertion and Resistance to Taxation

Chair: Inken Carstensen-Egwuom, Europa-Universität Flensburg

- Uzoamaka Nwachukwu, Indiana University: Negotiating Citizenship through Taxation: Non-Violent Tax Resistance in Colonial Eastern Nigeria (1930-1960)
- Mads Yding, University of Copenhagen: A Share in Ruling the Waves. Taxation and Evasion in Colonial Turkana
- Yaruipam Muivah, École des hautes études en sciences sociales: From Tax Avoidance to Tax Revolt. Examples from Colonial India

**15:30 - 17:00 Panel 5:** Colonial Taxation and the (Infra-)Structures of Governance and Business

Chair: Mona Rudolph, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

- Kim Todzi, Universität Hamburg: Counting the Cost. Taxes, Business and the Colonial Economy of Cameroon, 1884-1914
- Nina Kleinöder, Universität Bamberg: Colonial Tracks. Building Railways between Private Enterprise and State Intervention
- Matthew Sterling Benson-Strohmayer, London School of Economics and Political Science: Of Rule, Not Revenue: Fiscal Authority and its Afterlives in Sudan, 1899-2023

**17:00 - 17:30 Coffee-Break**

**17:30 - 19:15 Panel Discussion:** Long-Term-Effects of Colonial Taxation and Fiscal Extraction on Economic Development

Chair: Marc Buggeln, Europa-Universität Flensburg

- Gurminder K. Bhambra, University of Sussex
- Leigh Gardner, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Lukas Hakelberg, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
- Marlous van Waijenburg, Harvard Business School

**20:00 Conference Dinner**

## September, 27 2025

**9:00 - 10:15 Keynote-Lecture:** Colonial Taxation and Public Finance in the Age of Globalized Capitalism

- Martin Daunton, University of Cambridge

**10:15 - 10:30 Break**

**10:30 - 11:30 General Discussion**

