

Thursday, Oct 21, 2021

3pm (CEST)

Welcome

HEIKE PAUL (BAA)

Greetings

KATRIN HORN & KARIN HOEPKER

Opening Remarks

3:30pm - 5pm

Panel I (Chair: Sylvia Mayer)

Dealing with Uncertainty: Rumor & Speculation

SEBASTIAN JOBS (BERLIN)

Slave Uprisings: Rumors and Compensation

CARRIE TIRADO BRAMEN (BUFFALO)

A Star Market: Astrological Speculation on Wall Street

ATIBA PERTILLA (WASHINGTON, DC)

Immigrants, Remittances, and the Courts, 1904–1929

BREAK

5:30pm - 7pm

Keynote Address I

PETER KNIGHT (MANCHESTER)

Vernacular Epistemologies of the Market

INTRODUCED BY **KARIN HOEPKER**

Friday, Oct 22, 2021

3pm - 4:30pm

Panel II (Chair: Regina Schober)

Making it Official: Disenfranchised Knowledge & Institutions

TRAVIS ROSS (YALE)

History, Inc. The California Startup that Disrupted History Writing in the Gilded Age

ALEXANDER STARRE (BERLIN)

Fringe Knowledge and the Poetics of Urban Sociology in W.E.B. Du Bois and Jane Addams

ANDREW ERLANDSON (PHILADELPHIA)

Precarious Publishing: Financial Anxieties in the Colored Press Conventions and Pauline E. Hopkins's Communal Editorship

BREAK

5pm - 6:30pm

Keynote Address II

LORI MERISH (GEORGETOWN)

Fugitive Knowledge: Poverty as Specular, Poverty as Speculation

INTRODUCED BY **KATRIN HORN**

Saturday, Oct 23, 2021

3pm - 4pm

Panel III (Chair: Birte Christ)

Trading Private Knowledges

SELINA FOLTINEK & KATRIN HORN (BAYREUTH)

'Interesting to the Ladies': How Foreign Correspondents Made Gossip a Profession

KAREN ADKINS (DENVER)

Sometimes It Is Worse to be Talked About: The Role of Shame in Public Gossip About the Marginalized

BREAK

4:30pm - 6pm

Panel IV (Chair: Jana Keck)

Knowledge Production in the Private Sphere

CAROLA BEBERMEIER (VIENNA)

A World Within A Room? Genteel Performance, Embodied Knowledge and the Quest of Status in American Parlors

JACLYN N. SCHULTZ (SANTA CRUZ)

Children's Culture and the Market: Economic Knowledge and Belonging in the US, 1820–1900

SERENITY SUTHERLAND (OSWEGO)

Speculative Knowledge and Home Economics: How Principles of 'Common Sense' and 'Right Living' Informed Early-Twentieth Century Home Experts

6pm - 6:45pm

Closing Remarks

This conference investigates the ways in which cultures of knowledge and forms of capital intersect in the US during the long nineteenth century. Epistemological and economic concerns complexly intertwine in the US, which by 1900 had emerged as “the land of speculation” (Stäheli). Influential publications such as Thorstein Veblen’s *A Theory of the Leisure Class* (1899) and Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Women and Economics* (1898) bear witness to the culmination of a growing interest in the commodification of the supposedly private sphere, in which personal information and confidential communication are intricately tied to economic concerns. At the same time, the rise of Wall Street, boom markets and financial panics, and the increasing incorporation of America leads to an experience of widespread economic volatility which pushes people to seek potential “insider knowledge” about the machinations of markets.

Different knowledges, as Peter Burke contends, “may coexist, compete and conflict within a given culture.” Responding to the recent interest in histories of scientific, scholarly, legal, and otherwise official knowledges in this era, this conference instead seeks to address a variety of illicit, tacit, oral, unofficial, or subjugated knowledges. These might be marginalized by their association with racial and gendered minorities. Or they may find expression as libel, slander, innuendo, rumors, gossip, and any number of other speculative or supposedly baseless modes of transaction and information. Often these knowledges result from “connected knowing” (Adkins) and contain multiple “small, shared truths” rather than one “generalizable truth” (Spacks). Yet despite their tenuous relationship to facts or publicly available evidence, these forms of knowledge are inextricably linked to economic concerns and contribute to covert informational labor. Mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion closely regulate access to and speculative value of such information, as when in 1890 E.L. Godkin commented on how “a particular class of newspapers [...] has converted curiosity into what economists call an effectual demand, and gossip into a marketable commodity.” To understand these intersections and tensions, the conference aims to facilitate a discussion of how these modes of knowledge relate to new forms of economic transactions and economic thinking (e.g. speculation). The conference furthermore seeks to discern how this connection influences and depends on innovations in cultural productions such as new literary techniques, new publishing formats, or new media

ORGANIZED BY

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WiN
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Digital Conference

SPECU LATIVE

Cultures of Knowledge & Capital
in the Long Nineteenth Century

ENDEA VORS

October 21 – 23, 2021