

Workshop: Risk and Entrepreneurship – Old Discussions, Innovative Questions, New Insights
Leiden University, The Netherlands, 7-8 June 2023

Location: Conference Room Johan Huizinga Building (2.60), Doelensteeg 16, 2311VL, Leiden

Organisation: Gijs Dreijer, Lewis Wade, Mallory Hope, Cátia Antunes & Maria Fusaro

If you would like to attend or have any questions, please contact: Gijs Dreijer,

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Entrepreneurs are often seen as either engines of economic growth or villains exploiting workers to make excessive profits. Yet historically, the role of entrepreneurs in adding value to society has been multifaceted, thus defying this dichotomy. This workshop brings together experts from the University of Exeter and Leiden University, as well as specialists from across the world, to analyse the historical role of the entrepreneur in a comparative and global-historical perspective, particularly in relationship to the management of risk and uncertainty. It compares the historical role of entrepreneurship in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, moving away from a focus on Western firms and instead focusing on individual entrepreneurs, large and small, who through innovative strategies contributed to solving societal challenges.

Provisional programme, still subject to change(s).

Wednesday 7 June 2023

09.00-12.00: Merchants

1. Gijs Dreijer, Leiden University - *Exploiting the Empire of Others: Dutch Entrepreneurs in the Scramble for Africa (1850s-1910s)*
2. Sarina Kuersteiner, Union College - *From Divine Provision to Risk Commodity: Concepts of Future Profit in Geniza papers and Latin contracts, ca. 1000-1550*
3. Rémi Dewièrè, Northumbria University - *Failures and Successes of Canon Technology Transfer in the 18th-century Mediterranean World: Two French Entrepreneurs in North Africa (1771-1775)*
4. Lakshmi Subramanian, Centre for Social Studies Calcutta - *Speculation or Risk Management? Changing Debates around "aunth" in Western India 1750-1920*

12.00: Lunch

13:30-16.30: Producers

1. Lewis Wade, Institute of Historical Research - *Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained? Entrepreneurial Uncertainty in the Languedocian Cloth Industry, 1683–1700*
2. Noelle Richardson, Leiden University - *Entrepreneurship and imperial transitions: Dutch merchants in the intra-Asian trade (1740s-1808)*
3. Sascha Klocke, Lund University - *Rural Capitalists or Entrepreneurs? African Commercial Agriculture and Economic Development under Colonial Rule*
4. Edmond Smith, Manchester University - *Working Between World Systems: The Experience of Globalisation for Akan Entrepreneurs from Eguafò to Bitu*

16.30-17.00: Coffee Break

17:00-19.00: Keynote prof. Anthony Hopkins, Cambridge University

Thursday 8 June

09.00-12.00: Allocation of Labour

1. Maria Fusaro, Exeter – *Title TBC*
2. Audrey Gerrard, Norwegian University of Science and Technology - *Between Private Affair and Government Control: The Queensland Plantation Labour Debate 1880-1890*
3. Matthias Lukkes, Leiden University - *Managing Risk for whom? Bomba Labour in the Dutch Transatlantic Slave Trade*

12.00-13.30: Lunch

13.30-16.30: Investors

1. Mallory Hope, Harvard University - *"To Conserve in their Integrity... The Assets and Rights of their Church": Managing Water and Shared Resources on the Chapter of the Notre Dame's Rural Domaine*
2. Amy Froide, University of Maryland, Baltimore Country - *Women, Risk, and Joint-stock Enterprise in Early Eighteenth-century London*
3. John Kegel, Leiden University - *Risk, Entrepreneurship and Concessionary Companies*
4. William Deringer, MIT - *Hazardous Nature: Coal Mining Engineers, Discounting Calculations, and the Price of Risk circa 1800*

16.30-17.00: Coffee

17.00: Closing Remarks

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