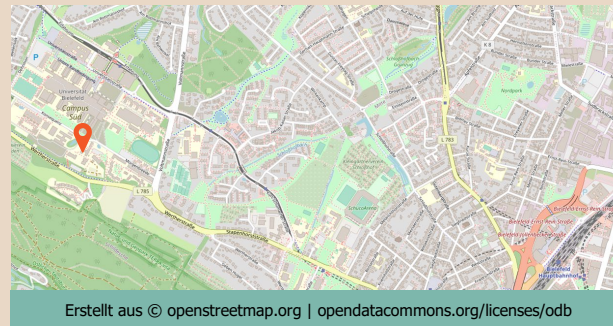


Change. Momentum of its own in pre-modern Latin America

On October 19-20th, 2023, the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology together with the Center for InterAmerican Studies (CIAS), will organize a conference. With this, we would like to explore two theses:

- First, we assume that pre-modern societies share common structural elements that continued to represent drivers of change. To capture this, we adapt the theoretical concept of 'momentum of its own' ('Eigendynamik') or 'inherent dynamism' for our period of investigation.
- Second, we postulate that such a momentum was inherent in many pre-modern societies. In this way, we question the wide-spread and politically relevant view that, in the pre-modern period, there were fundamental differences in the affinity for change in one region of the world or another.

Further on, we would like to stimulate research towards a change of perspective: It is less a development converging over centuries culminating in the present that emerges then. Rather, in pre-modern societies similar impulses for change seem to be detectable, which first of all further shaped the structures of these societies themselves.



Organizers:

Franz-Josef Arlinghaus, Eleonora Rohland and
Andreas R  ther



Up-to-date
information at:



Our YouTube
Channel:



Abb.: Codex Mendoza (1542), Bodleian Library
Oxford

Change Momentum of its own in pre-modern Latin America

Conference at Bielefeld University
Thursday/Friday, 19-20th October 2023
in room X A2-103 and via Zoom

Organizers: Franz-Josef Arlinghaus,
Eleonora Rohland and Andreas R  ther



Change. Momentum of its own in pre-modern Latin America

Thursday, 19th October 2023

17:00 – 18:00 Come together

18:15 – 18:45 Franz-Josef Arlinghaus, Eleonora Rohland, Andreas Rüther (Bielefeld):
Introduction

18:45 – 20:00 Richard Herzog (Marburg):
Merits in motion – The Tlaxcalan campaigns for privileges and influence in colonial Mexico

20:30 Dinner

Friday, 20th October 2023

09:00 – 10:15 Sarah Albiez-Wieck (Münster):
Calidad – Evolution and Negotiation of social difference in colonial Spanish America and the Philippines

10:15 – 11:30 Thomas Weller (Mainz): Agents of change and go-betweens: transatlantic mobility and social change in colonial Latin America

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee

12:00 – 13:15 Valeria López Fadul (Middletown, Con): Words Unraveled. Lexical Objects as Historical Sources in Early Latin America (1492-1600)

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 15:30 Rosa H. Yáñez Rosales (Guadalajara): Writing, reading, and paper in Mesoamerica

15:30 – 16:45 Jorun Poettering (Hamburg): Explaining the (Astonishing) Transition from Slavery to Citizenship

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee

17:15 – 18:30 Eleonora Rohland (Bielefeld):
Entanglement versus Momentum of its own in Hispaniola during the 16th Century

19:30 Dinner

Guests are very welcome, for mandatory registration please contact: premodern-latin-america-23@uni-bielefeld.de

If you want to participate via Zoom, use the following login details:

Meeting-ID: 630 8531 2136

Password: 058441

The concept of the conference is essentially based on the cooperation of eight scholars who have been discussing these theses for Ethiopia, Europe, and East Asia and have already held two conferences. The explicit aim of this conference is now to trace the meaning of 'momentum of its own' in pre-modern Latin America. The Americas are of particular interest because this region of the world has to reckon with special historical constellations, both, before and after European conquest and its forced inclusion in the economic and cultural exchange with Africa and Europe.

With "momentum of its own" the conference mobilizes a widely discussed theoretical concept (initially developed in the context of 'Western modernity'), which, however, has experienced little application in the pre-modern era in or outside of Europe so far. The basic idea of this approach is that processes drive change out of themselves, without however, affecting the underlying structures of society. So, the question arises whether the concept of 'momentum of its own' applies here as well. Where would adjustments have to be made?