

M28 MASHUP METROPOLIS: THE BRITISH IMPERIAL CITY IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

Organisers: Ass. Prof. Andrew J. May (University of Melbourne, Australia)
Dr. John Griffiths (Massey University, NZ)
Dr. Brad Beaven (Portsmouth University, UK)

Period: Modern

Date: Friday, 31 August 2012

Time: 14:00-17:30

Room: 326

Description

Recent scholarship on the networked British world (e.g. G.B. Magee and A.S. Thompson, *Empire and globalisation* Cambridge, 2010) and transnational municipal connections (such as P.-Y. Saunier and S. Ewen, eds, *Another global city*, New York, 2008) has challenged the urban historian to observe the ways in which the form and character of British empire cities derived not only from the ties that bound them to the mother country, but were also influenced by ideologies and technologies of urbanism from continental Europe and Asia. British empire cities may have been the offspring of the mother country (Edinburgh and Dublin as much as London or Liverpool), but they learned to crawl and walk under the influence of more global flows of people, ideas, information, texts and designs. Put simply, where did these civic and cosmopolitan ideas come from? How did both the pull of Britishness, as well as the distinctive and local contingencies of everyday city life—for example in Melbourne, Calcutta, Singapore, Dunedin, Shanghai, Cape Town or Montreal—affect the ways in which British empire cities operationalised a suite of ideas derived from non-British sources? How British was Bombay; how European was Sydney?

Papers are invited which explore characteristic patterns of thought, debates, ruptures, contests, regulatory frameworks, and other sets of ideas about urban life that highlight the differing and at times competing global vectors of influence. How did ideas circulate from the inter-continental peregrinations of city officials, or the plans they circulated and the journals and books they read? To what extent were model by-laws and ordinances circulated far beyond the British world? Al fresco eating, keeping to the left or right on footpaths, enamel street name plates, the management of abattoirs, asphalt technologies, the design of fish markets, public rituals, attitudes to spitting—British imperial cities could take their cue from Milan, Switzerland, Morocco or Paris. What were the key features of this type of more broadly derivative and ultimately recombinant municipalism? And how did it come to influence the mannerisms of citizens in the public sphere?

Scientific Programme

- 1194 CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE DAY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF URBAN ELITES AND EMPIRE DAY, 1904-1939**
John Griffiths (University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, New Zealand), *Brad Beaven* (Massey University New Zealand, School of History Philosophy and Classics, Palmerston North, New Zealand)
- 713 HOW BRITISH WAS CAPE TOWN BY THE TIME OF SOUTH AFRICAN UNION (1910)?**
Vivian Bickford-Smith (University of Cape Town and Centre for Metropolitan History, IHR, University of London, Historical Studies/CMH, Cambridge, U.K.)
- 994 MASHUP METROPOLIS: INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND URBAN IDENTITIES IN AN AUSTRALIAN CITY**
Andrew May (University of Melbourne, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, Parkville, Australia)
- 760 VICTORIAN FOOD MARKETS: DESIGNING THE CITY FROM THE INSIDE OUT**
Robyn Metcalfe (University of Texas/Austin, History, Austin, TX, USA)
- 1606 EMPIRE DAY IN THE ANTIPODES: LOCAL AND GLOBAL DIMENSIONS**
Brad Beaven (Massey University New Zealand, School of History Philosophy and Classics, Palmerston North, New Zealand)
- 396 TALE OF TWO CITIES: BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA IN THE EYES OF SATYENDRANATH TAGORE (1844-1923)**
Urvi Mukhopadhyay (West Bengal State University, History, Kolkata, India)
- 1578 TEMPERATE TOWNS AND HYBRID HILLS: HOW 'EUROPEAN' WAS KALIMPONG, HOW 'ASIAN' WAS DARJEELING?**
Jayeeta Sharma (University of Toronto, Department of Humanities, Toronto, Canada)