

The Masculine Worlds of Race and Power: Objects, Practices and Emotions in Colonial and Post-Colonial Societies in the Long Nineteenth Century

Keynote Speaker: Pieter Spierenburg, Erasmus University

Plenary Lecture Delivered by: TBC

Date: 5th May 2018

Location: University of Warwick

Funded by the Humanities Research Centre & Global History Centre

This conference will bring together doctoral students and early career researchers from the fields of History, Gender Studies, English Literature, and History of Art who are interested in the study of elite white masculine identities in nineteenth century Colonial and Post-Colonial societies.

The gender identities of white men have chiefly been explored through a focus on the representation of various hegemonic masculinities, overlooking the lived experience of these men. Although historical narratives have traditionally foregrounded white men as the 'subject' of colonial histories, this conference aims to investigate these figures as multidimensional 'subjects'. The objective of the event is to establish a dialogue that will facilitate the development of an understanding of the relationship between prevalent cultural ideals and representations of masculinity, and each individual's subjective experiences of them. A commitment to interdisciplinary discussion will be at the heart of this conference, which will also bring various sub-disciplines of history into conversation.

Topics of potential conference papers could include (but are not limited to):

Masculine consumption practices; material culture; dress and fashion; fear, honour and pride; physicality and sport; homosociality; men and families; elite white men's presentation in literature, poetry and the arts; violence and physical oppression; the political use of emotions.

The conference will engage with the material and emotional worlds of elite white men in Colonial and Post-colonial societies to ask:

- How were elite white men represented in various forms of contemporary literature?
- How were the ideals and social expectations of the region translated, negotiated and enacted in everyday life?
- How did hegemonic masculine identities impact the emotional world of men?
- How did the behaviour of other historical actors, such as women, slaves and colonised peoples contribute to performances of white masculinity?
- How were items of material culture and clothing used to express or disrupt ideal masculine identities?

We invite individual proposals for fifteen-minute papers. Please send an abstract of no more than 300 words to masculineworlds@gmail.com by 28th February 2018, along with a short biography.