

“Habitability and Empire”

*A two-day conference examining ideas of ‘habitability’ and ‘uninhabitability’
in the context of empire and the changing limits of life on Earth*

University College Dublin, 23-24 June 2022

Organiser: Lachlan Fleetwood (UCD)

Day 1 – 23 June 2022

10.45-11.00 Opening Remarks

11.00-12.30 *Differential Habitability*

Mark Dizon (Ateneo de Manila University), “The Uninhabitable Tropics: The Spanish Conquest of the Philippine Uplands”

Oluwadara Abiodun Fakunle (Osun State University, Ikire), “Making Sense of the Habitable and Uninhabitable Homeland of the Orile-Owu People (Southwest Nigeria)”

Maria Gago (European University Institute/IHC, Nova University of Lisbon), “Coffee, Race and Deep Time: Negotiating human and nonhuman habitability in the making of colonial Angola (1898-1961)”

12.30-13.30 Lunch Break

13.30-15.00 *Habitability, Colonisation and Labour*

***Patrick Anthony** (LMU/Cambridge), “Inhabiting the Dead House: Exile and Empire in Siberia”

***Erica Mukherjee** (NYU Shanghai), “Salt Water and Waste-Land in the Sundarbans”

***Olivia Durand** (Freie Universität Berlin), “Inhospitable or cosmopolitan cities? Comparing the port cities of New Orleans and Odessa as expressions of American and Russian settler colonialism”

15.00-15.30 Coffee Break

15.30-17.00 *Habitability and Imperial Imaginaries*

***Anuparna Mukherjee** (IISER Bhopal), “Nostalgia’s Maps: Habitability and its Limits in the Imperial Narratives of Colonial India”

***Toby Harper** (Arizona State University), “Trout Acclimatization and Habitability in the British Empire”

***Sandrine Uwase Ndahiro** (University of Limerick), “Re-defining uninhabitability in Niger Delta using a postcolonial lens”

19.00 Dinner

Day 2 – 24 June 2022

9.30-11.00 *Habitability and Changing Limits*

***Melissa Charenko** (Michigan State University), “Changing Climate and Overcoming Inhabitable Environments”

***Róbert Balogh** (University of Public Service, Budapest), “Habitability - for whom? Goats, subalterns and foresters in times of floods: the Danube frontier of the Habsburg Empire before World War I and post-war fears of uninhabitability”

***Mike Heffernan** (University of Nottingham), “Debating Habitability Between the Wars”

11.00-11.30 Coffee Break

11.30-13.00 *Human and Nonhuman Habitability*

***Phoebe Springstubb** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), “The Bone House and Architecture’s Animal Energy”

***Jules Skotnes-Brown** (University of St Andrews), “Scurrying Seafarers: Human and Rat Co-Habitability in British and North American Maritime Spaces, 1850s-1950s”

***Peter Braden** (University of Michigan), “Collateral Killing: Humans, Rodents, and Plague in China, 1931-1971”

13.00-14.00 Lunch Break

14.00-15.30 *Terraqueous Habitability*

***Kelly Presutti** (Cornell University), “(In)Visibility and (Un)Inhabitability in the Nineteenth-Century French Landes”

***David Stradling** (University of Cincinnati), “Dredging at the Edge of the American Empire”

***Rachel Thompson** (Harvard University), “Dutch Designs on Jakarta: Refiguring the (Un)Inhabitable on Aqueous Ground

15.30-16.00 Discussion and Close

[*] Indicates in person All times are listed in Irish Standard Time

If you would like follow the conference online, please register in advance at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sB6HEjojT2aiVYjt-CIEsg

Contact: habitabilityandempire@gmail.com (or lachlan.fleetwood@ucd.ie)

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Image Credit: ‘Geographical Recreation, or A Voyage Round the Habitable Globe,’ John Harris (London, 1809).
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