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Image from naturalist and artist Maria Sibylla Merian's *Insects of Surinam*, Plate 18. Watercolor. 1705.

Linnæan Worlds:

Global Scientific Practice during
the Great Divergence, 1750-1850



First Annual Conference in the
World History of Science
May 4 - 5, 2012

Proceedings to be held in the Jackson Library of the
Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Avenue

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Linnaean Worlds: Global Scientific
Practice during the Great Divergence

May 4-5, 2012

FRIDAY, MAY 4

9 AM–10:45 AM

Panel 1: Climatology and the Colonial Experience

Katharine Anderson, York University, *“Charting The Forces of Nature: The Surveying Voyages of HMS Beagle.”*

Franz Mauelshagen, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Climate and Culture, Essen, Germany, *“Colonial History and the Revolution of Climatology, 1750–1850.”*

Eleonora Rohland, Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Climate and Culture, Essen, Germany, *“Hurricanes on the Gulf Coast: Environmental Knowledge and Science in French Louisiana.”*

Commentator: James Fleming, Colby College



11:15 AM–1 PM

Panel 2: Sciences of Commodity Production in Global Context

Leida Fernandez, Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, *“Globalizing Knowledge and Scientific Practices in Tropical Agriculture: the Spanish Caribbean during the “Great Divergence.”*

Stuart McCook, University of Guelph, *“Directed Diasporas?: The Plant Sciences and the Neo-Columbian Exchanges.”*

Mina Ishizu, London School of Economics, *“A Missing Chapter in the Great Divergence Debate? The Production and Diffusion of Useful and Reliable Knowledge in Western Europe and Tokugawa Japan, 1750-1850.”*

Commentator: Eric Vanhaute, University of Gent, Belgium

3 PM–4:45 PM

Panel 3: Information-Processing and Empire

Matthew Crawford, Kent State University, *“Between Bureaucrats and Bark Collectors: Botany and Empire in the Spanish Atlantic world, 1750-1800.”*

Devyani Gupta, St. John's College, Cambridge UK, *“Scientific and Economic Concerns in the Growth and Development of the British Indian Postal Network, 1750–1850.”*

Jessica Ratcliff, University of Illinois, *“Travancore in the Business of Science: Data, Publishing and Patronage between a Princely State and Europe, Circa 1850.”*

Commentator: Sujit Sivasundaram, Cambridge University, UK



SATURDAY, MAY 5

9 AM–11 AM

Panel 4: Trading Names: Zoological Exploration in Iberian America

Iris Montero Sobrevilla, University of Cambridge/UNAM Mexico, *“The Missionary, the Merchant, and the Artist: Ornithological Illustration in New Spain, 1762-1803.”*

María Eugenia Constantino, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados, Mexico City, and Antonio Lafuente, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid, *“The Ark of José Longinos: Conservation Practices and Bonds of Value in New Spain Animalia.”*

Marcelo Fabián Figueroa, National University of Tucumán, CONICET-Argentina, *“Félix de Azara and the Birds of Paraguay: Making Inventories and Taxonomies in the Boundaries of the Spanish Empire (1784-1802).”*

Irina Podgorny, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, *“Scraps of Information and the Affinities of South American Mammals in the 19th Century.”*

Commentator: Staffan Müller-Wille, University of Exeter, UK

11:30 AM–1 PM

Panel 5: Translating Textual and Visual Knowledge

Kay Etheridge, Department of Biology, Gettysburg College, *“The History and Influence of Maria Merian’s Bird-Eating Tarantula: Circulating Images in the Production of Natural Knowledge.”*

Ann Jannetta, University of Pittsburgh, *“Texts and Contexts: Translating Western Scientific Knowledge in Early Modern Japan.”*

Commentator: Neil Safier, University of British Columbia

2:30 PM–4:15 PM

Panel 6: Diffusion, Divergence, and Change – Linnaean Thinking at Home and Abroad

Hanna Hodacs, Warwick University, UK, *“Between Metropolitan and Colonial Natural History: Swedish Naturalists in London.”*

Kenneth Nyberg, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, *“Linnaeus’s Apostles and the Globalization of Knowledge.”*

Göran Rydén, Uppsala University, *“From an Integrated Utilitarian Economic Thinking to Views of Progress: How ‘Travelers in Trade’ Changed Swedish Perceptions of Economic Systems.”*

Commentator: Joyce Chaplin, Harvard University

4:30 PM–5:45 PM, Concluding Remarks

Dan Rood, University of Pittsburgh, *“Global History of Science/History of Global Capitalism: The State of the Field and Future Directions.”*

Commentator: Diego Holstein, University of Pittsburgh, World History Center Associate Director

