



FRONTIERS OF HUMANITY AND BEYOND

TOWARDS NEW CRITICAL
UNDERSTANDINGS OF BORDERS

P11 - TRANS-IMPERIAL CIRCULATION OF MODERN POLITICS

ORGANISER

François Godicheau (France)

University of Toulouse

ABSTRACT

Knowledge of the transition from the imperial scenarios to the post-imperial constellations has progressed greatly as a result of the Atlantic perspectives, especially for the period at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century. On the one hand, the debates on whether to speak of the imperial monarchies of the modern age as composite, polycentric, federative or aggregative have called into question the hitherto unconventional separation between "central" national histories and "peripheral" colonial histories. On the other hand, global history approaches and connected histories have provided a critique of the Eurocentric character of some historiographical traditions, raising the relevance of off-centre approaches and pointing to unexpected or hitherto neglected circuits.

The proposal of this panel aims to go one step further and puts the focus on the inter- or trans-imperial circulations that affected the political field in a broad sense. To this end, it invites participation with reflections and proposals that address processes of transfer and appropriation of political languages, discourses and practices, as well as institutional models in the period of the Enlightenment, revolutions and independence. The perspective prioritizes the Hispanic and Portuguese empires, which demand a treatment, not comparative but joint, that is unprecedented until now - although in their complex interactions with the contributions of the British and especially the French imperial cultures.

The aim is to generate a truly interdisciplinary cross-border space between political history, historical anthropology, history of law, history of concepts and history of thought, which will make it possible to move towards the definition of appropriate categories and to question not only the usual spaces and flows of production and reception, but also the established periodizations, and with them deep-rooted dichotomies such as break/continuity, traditional/modern or enlightened/liberal.

François Godicheau is University professor since 2005, first in Bordeaux and then in Toulouse, director of french research team FRAMESPA (Toulouse) since 2018, I defended a thesis on the Spanish War at the EHESS in 2001 and published several books on this conflict, before reorienting my research on the question of public order in the 18th and 19th centuries in the Catholic monarchy, with two privileged fields, peninsular Spain and Cuba. I have incorporated into my approach the contributions of the history of concepts (with a book co-edited on the metaphors and concepts of the social bond) and the cultural history of law (editing of a book to be published in January 2021 on administrative reason and imperial logics), while working on the history of institutions at the crossroads of practices and normativities (co-publication of a book to be published in 2021 by Fondo de Cultura Económica on public order in Cuba and the Rio de la Plata in the late 18th and early 19th centuries).