



Of Human Bondage, Slavery from Antiquity until today

Crayenborgh Honours Class 2008/2009

Organizers: Prof. Dr. J.L. Blussé and Prof. Dr. P.C. Emmer.

Has the West grown rich on the backs of slaves? The answer to this question has occupied historians for centuries. In a series of lectures, given by some of the most outstanding specialists in the field, various aspects of slavery and unfree labour such as slavery and the slave trade in classical antiquity and medieval Europe, but also in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia will be discussed. A second topic that will come to the fore is the forced ending of the slave trade and of slavery in the New World. In the final session the victory of free labour over coerced labour will be evaluated as well as the effects of abolitionism and the moral implications of slavery. In view of the multi-disciplinary character of this year's Crayenborg lecture series, we also welcome applications from students outside the historical discipline.

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Preliminary list of Speakers:

- 1) *Slavery and Bondage in the Roman Empire*, Luuk de Ligt (Leiden University)
- 2) *Slaves and Serfs in Medieval Europe*, Steven A. Epstein (The University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas)
- 3) *Bondage in South and Southeast Asia*, Anthony Reid (ARI University of Singapore)
- 4) *Slavery in Africa*, A.P. Thornton (Boston University)
- 5) *Rise and Fall of Atlantic Slave Trade*, David Eltis (Emory University, Atlanta)
- 6) *Slave Trade and Slavery in Comparative Perspective*, Olivier Pétré-Grenouilleau (Université de Paris).
- 7) *Serfdom in Russia and its aftermath*, Peter Kolchin (University of Delaware)
- 8) *Slavery and Bondage in China*, James Watson (Harvard University)
- 9) *The Abolition Movement in Great Britain*, Jim Walvin (University of York)
- 10) *The Netherlands and the Colonial Labour Market, 1500-1900*, Pieter Emmer (Leiden University)
- 11) *Slavery and Race Relations in the United States*, Chris Quispel (Leiden University)
- 12) *Free and Coerced Labour*, Stanley Engerman (University of Rochester), and Seymour Drescher (University of Pittsburgh)