



Society for the Study of Continental America  
and the Caribbean (FGKK), KonaK Vienna

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### **Nomadism and Mobile Ways of Life in the Americas**

International Conference, Vienna (Austria)  
February 15-17, 2012

Dear colleagues,

as organizer of the conference “Nomadism and Mobile Ways of Life in the Americas”, which will take place at the Vienna Urania from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2012, the Forschungsgesellschaft für den kontinentalamerikanischen und karibischen Raum [Society for the Study of Continental America and the Caribbean] – KonaK Vienna, in cooperation with the Asociación de Historiadores Latinoamericanos y del Caribe [Association of Latin American and Caribbean Historians] invites scholars to submit contributions in this context. The conference aims at serving as a platform for the international exchange between scholars with a regional focus on North/Central/South America, Caribbean and/or the Atlantic World concerned with the phenomena of nomads, nomadism and mobile ways of life in a broader sense. Considering recent global developments (e.g. flows of refugees from zones of uprising and war in Northern Africa and the Middle East, or the expulsion of Rom by the French government), we think that a thorough reflection on the historical and current situation in the Americas and the Atlantic area is urgently necessary.

The term nomadism shall be interpreted in a broad sense and includes its various forms, taking into account the historical changes. We especially see ties to research on autochthonous, religious and ethnic minorities, gauchos/cowboys/vaque(i)ros/huasos/chinas, merchants, smugglers, pirates, bandits, ship crews, fugitive slave catchers, slave hunters, bandeirantes, vagabonds, squatters, landless, soldiers, guerilleros (combatants), rebels, slaves, forced laborers, maroons, scientists, explorers, diplomats, missionaries, gold prospectors (pork knockers), prostitutes, families, children, women, frontier, proto-states, military dictatorships and seas. In doing so, different perspectives should be chosen. In all reflections the role of seas and oceans should be taken into account, for they have shaped specific forms of nomadism. How broadly the term nomadism has to be defined with regard to the Americas and the Atlantic World – we think about the fluent transition to refugees and migrants – will be pointed out in the course of the conference as well the impact of the Neolithic Revolution. Further core themes will include the analysis of interactions between nomads and resident populations, of experiments of social disciplining of (allegedly) nomadic autochthonous peoples that went as far as intentional genocide, as well as nomadism as a consequence of colonial power, slavery and/or ecological catastrophes. This will ask for a discussion about the motives and “voluntariness” or “involuntariness” of mobile ways of life in an area of tension between state and capitalism and shall bring new insights for the research on nomadism.

The conference is interdisciplinary and without restriction concerning epochs. We invite presentations of ongoing or completed research works from the disciplines of anthropology, archeology,

ethnology, history, literature, political science, law, linguistics, economy, geography and sociology in colonial and postcolonial contexts and especially encourage junior researchers to participate. On the basis of case studies from different areas of the Americas and the Atlantic, regional comparisons should be made possible. We will favor proposals that will treat lesser known regions and countries.

Each presentation should consist of a 20-minutes talk and ten minutes for questions and discussion. The conference languages are English and Spanish. Interested scholars submit their proposals in the form of an abstract (max. 300 words) and a CV including publication list either in English or Spanish until **October 30, 2011** via e-mail to Christian Cwik. It is also possible to propose a whole panel (2-4 presentations). If you have problems with meeting this deadline, please contact us.

The attendance fee is EUR 80 for lecturers, USD 80 for lecturers and participants from countries of the South and EUR 40 for students and KonaK members and includes conference materials, admission to all lectures and presentations (including coffee breaks), to the exhibitions and opening ceremony, as well as a certificate of attendance. The conference website will be online by November 2011 and will provide information concerning program, venue, travel information and accommodation. Participants will be informed about changes and updates after subscribing to a mailing list.

We are trying hard to cover the costs of those lecturers not aided financially by their home institutions via third party funds. The basis is the submission of all required data and material within the deadline. If your participation depends on financial aid, please inform us at the time of your application. Please keep in mind that our funds are limited and that we only accept funding applications from participants of countries of the South and female junior researchers who live outside of Vienna. For all other participants we unfortunately cannot cover the costs of travel, accommodation and meals. Alternatively, participation via poster (format A0 or A1) should be considered.

The conference program is framed by keynote lectures by outstanding scholars from the Americas and Europe. Poster and book presentations, sessions in which persons concerned speak about their lives as nomads, book and photo exhibitions as well as the opening ceremony with a cultural program complete the conference program. All participants (and their guests) have the possibility to participate in organized excursions (field trips) through Vienna and its surroundings before and/or after the conference.

Contact:

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