

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Development and Empire, 1929–1962

July 1-2, 2011, University of York

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Supported by the Economic History Society, the Wellcome Trust, and the British Society of for the History of Science, this conference worked to extend literatures on colonialism and development by drawing together scholars working on the construction, meaning, and implementation of British aid policy. As well as acknowledging the multiple forms that aid could take—from technical assistance and education to health, welfare, and finance—participants were sensitive to geographical specificity, frequently pointing to the need to acknowledge the diverse contexts of different colonies. Although some colonies received more attention than others, the geographical range discussed was impressive. Papers grappled with actors and factors across the British Empire, weighing the importance of individual agency against the influence of overarching structures, attending to such factors as the Great Depression, Britain's post-war economic recovery, the pressures of the Cold War, and the developing interests of the United States.

Indigenous Visions: Rediscovering the World of Franz Boas

September 15–17, 2011, Yale University

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This conference was organized to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the publication of Boas's *The Mind of Primitive Man*, a landmark treatise that drew upon Boas' studies of American Indians and immigrants to reject the idea that race determines ability and present a new theory of culture for a global age. Co-sponsored by the Howard R. Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders, the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition and a dozen Yale departments and organizations, its speakers also included: Elizabeth Alexander, the inaugural poet for Barack Obama, who examined Boas's relationship with Zora Neale Hurston; Berkeley historian David Hollinger, who gave a talk entitled, "Print the Legend Not the Fact? Anthropologists, Missionaries, and the Man Who Shot Liberty Valance"; and Michael Silverstein, University of Chicago language theorist, who discussed 1911 as an "annus mirabilis" in thought. The keynote address was delivered by political philosopher James Tully, Distinguished Professor of Political Science, Law, Indigenous Governance and Philosophy at the University of Victoria. Other participants were: Jay Giltin, Yale University; Lee D. Baker, Duke University; Matthew Frye Jacobson, Yale University; Regna Darnell, University of Western Ontario; Kathryn Marie Dudley, Yale University; Audra Simpson, Columbia University; Ryan Nicolson, University of Victoria; Maria Eugenia Cotera, University of Michigan; Michael Warner, Yale University; John Stauffer, Harvard University; Kerwin Lee Klein, University of California, Berkeley; David W. Blight, Yale University; Martha Hodes, New York University; Harry Liebersohn, University of Illinois; Elijah Anderson, Yale University; and Isaiah Wilner, Yale University.