



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities

DIVISION OF RESEARCH PROGRAMS

## **Narrative Section of a Successful Application**

The attached document contains the grant narrative and selected portions of a previously funded grant application. It is not intended to serve as a model, but to give you a sense of how a successful application may be crafted. Every successful application is different, and each applicant is urged to prepare a proposal that reflects its unique project and aspirations. Prospective applicants should consult the Research Programs application guidelines at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/collaborative-research-grants> for instructions. Applicants are also strongly encouraged to consult with the NEH Division of Research Programs staff well before a grant deadline.

Note: The attachment only contains the grant narrative and selected portions, not the entire funded application. In addition, certain portions may have been redacted to protect the privacy interests of an individual and/or to protect confidential commercial and financial information and/or to protect copyrighted materials.

Project Title:           British Asia and the British Atlantic, 1500-1820:  
                                  Two Worlds or One?

Institution:            University of Akron

Project Director:    Elizabeth Mancke

Grant Program:       Collaborative Research

## **British Asia and the British Atlantic, 1500-1820: Two Worlds or One?**

### **Statement of Significance**

The study of early modern British imperialism, ca. 1500-1820, is bedeviled by narrow subject and geographical specialization, which has led to historiographical fragmentation. Historians of Asia seldom, if ever, talk to historians of early modern North America; and historians of the Atlantic world do not often engage with historians of the Indian Ocean world. Ironically, historians of both areas – British Asia and the British Atlantic world – are more comfortable suggesting the implications of their work for world history and/or globalization than they are for other parts of the British world. This situation reflects the inherent difficulties of developing research agendas that cross historiographical and spatial boundaries, and to date only a few scholars have constructed analytical frameworks that allow them to place their work within broader terms of reference. While there are signs that horizons are now being broadened, it seems clear that much can be gained by establishing a conversation among scholars studying different, though simultaneous, manifestations of British power and influence in the wider world.

“British Asia and the British Atlantic, 1500-1820: Two Worlds or One” proposes to facilitate such a conversation among a team of scholars who will address core themes that relate to both the Atlantic world and the Indian Ocean world. The three principal collaborators have identified seven themes that lend themselves to comparative analysis and have invited scholars with specialties in those areas to write on the themes and participate in a conference planned for 2007. As well, four prominent scholars have been invited to serve as commentators. The conference papers and commentaries will be revised and edited for publication as a book, which we hope will be one of the first, but not the last, publications to bridge the scholarly divide between British Asia and the British Atlantic. This grant proposal is for money to help fund that conference.

## Table of Contents

<b>Statement of Significance,</b>	1
<b>Table of Contents,</b>	2
<b>List of Participants,</b>	3
<b>Project Narrative,</b>	
Substance and Context,	4-5
History and Project Duration,	5-6
Staff,	6-8
Methods,	9-17
Final Product and Dissemination,	17-18
Work Plan,	18
History of Grants,	18-19
Bibliography,	19-20
<b>Project Budget (8 pages w/attachments)</b>	21-28
<b>Appendix</b>	29-57
Curriculum vitas of principal collaborators: E. Mancke, J. Reid, and H. Bowen	
Confirmation statements from paper presenters and commentators	
Letters of support from Saint Mary's University and the University of Leicester	
<b>Statement of History of Grants (included in Project Narrative, above)</b>	58

### List of Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>University</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alava, Seema	Jamia Millia University	New Delhi, India
Bannister, Jerry	Dalhousie University	Halifax, N.S., Canada
Bowen, Huw V.	University of Leicester	Leicester, U.K.
Brown, Christopher L.	Rutgers University	Brunswick, N.J.
Burnard, Trevor	University of Sussex	Sussex, U.K.
Campbell, Gwyn	McGill University	Montréal, PQ, Canada
Conway, Stephen	University of London	London, U.K.
Datta, Rajat	Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi, India
Doortmont, Michel	University of Groningen	Groningen, The Netherlands
Fisher, Michael H.	Oberlin College	Oberlin, Ohio
Gaastra, Femme	University of Leiden	Leiden, The Netherlands
Grant-Costa, Paul	Yale University	New Haven, Conn.
Hinderaker, Eric	University of Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah
Hornsby, Stephen	University of Maine	Orono, Maine
Lee, Wayne	University of North Carolina	Chapel Hill, NC
MacMillan, Ken	University of Calgary	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Mancke, Elizabeth	University of Akron	Akron, Ohio
Marshall, P.J.	King's College, London, emer.	Hants, U.K.
Peers, Douglas M.	University of Calgary	Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Reid, John G.	Saint Mary's University	Halifax, N.S., Canada
Stern, Philip	American University	Washington, D.C.
Subrahmanyam, Sanjay	UCLA	Los Angeles, Ca.
Travers, Robert	Cornell University	Ithaca, NY

## British Asia and the British Atlantic, c.1500-1820: Two Worlds or One?

### Project Narrative

**Substance and Context:** This project aims to define the processes of British overseas expansion, development, and crisis firmly within a global framework of interpretation. This objective is to be engaged by a team of scholars through exploration of core themes located in two different geographical contexts: the Atlantic world and the Indian Ocean world. Adopting a multifaceted approach, this project will identify patterns of cultural interactions, through comparisons, contrasts, and linkages across the period, c.1500-1820.<sup>1</sup>

The study of British imperialism is bedeviled by narrow subject and geographical specialization, which has led to the historiographical fracturing of the early modern empire. As a result, historians of Asia seldom, if ever, talk to historians of early modern North America; and historians of the Atlantic world do not often engage with historians of the Indian Ocean world. This situation reflects the inherent difficulties of developing research agendas that cross historiographical and spatial boundaries, and to date only a few scholars have constructed analytical frameworks that allow them to place their work within global terms of reference. There are signs that horizons are now being broadened. In a review of *The Making and Unmaking of Empires: Britain, India, and America, c. 1750-1783*, David Armitage praises P.J. Marshall for combining ‘what less ambitious historians long contrived to keep asunder: Britain’s “Old” maritime Empire in the Atlantic world and its “New” territorial Empire in India,’ but notes that much remains to be done.<sup>2</sup> Similarly, Linda Colley in an article in the *New York Review of Books* states

---

<sup>1</sup> These dates are roughly the ones that scholars of early modern European expansion generally use. They can be extended back to c.1450, when the Iberians began pushing down the African coast, and forward to c.1830 to include of the wars for independence in Latin America. We have chosen a date after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the last of global wars for empire in the long eighteenth century.

<sup>2</sup> David Armitage, “The Native Question,” *Times Literary Supplement*, October 21, 2005, p. 10.

that the “biggest flaw in the mighty conception of Atlanticism” is its inability to account for developments in Asia and ultimately the Pacific.<sup>3</sup>

The three principal collaborators of this project believe that much can be gained by establishing a conversation among scholars studying different, though simultaneous, manifestations of British power and influence in the wider world. Indeed the complexities of the problem suggest the need for scholars to present considered papers and discuss the issues intensively in a face-to-face setting. Thus we propose to hold a conference in July 2007 in Sussex, England, around seven different themes that can be addressed from both Asian and Atlantic perspectives: the Indian and Atlantic Ocean contexts; governance and regulatory frameworks in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic basins; Anglo-Indigenous commercial relations in Asia, Africa, and the Americas; Anglo-Indigenous diplomacy in Asia, Africa, and the Americas; Anglo-Indigenous military relations in Asia and the Americas; societies within the British “pales” in Asia, Africa, and the Americas; and sovereignty and law in Asia and the Americas.

We intentionally designed the session themes so that some dealt with maritime space and some with land-based concerns, with a particular emphasis on British relations with indigenous peoples of the Americas, Africa, and Asia. In designing the project, we increasingly recognized the difficulty of positioning Africa within the dichotomy of British Asia and the British Atlantic, even though the transatlantic slave trade is central to the history of the early modern Atlantic world. Thus in addition to trying to understand expressions of British influence in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, we will pose for all the conference participants, but particularly the commentators, the question of how we understand Africa and Africans in the early modern world.

**History and Project Duration:** This project developed out of the mutual scholarly interests of the project director, Elizabeth Mancke, and the two principal collaborators, John G. Reid and Huw V. Bowen. We all shared a concern about how to avoid being held captive to scholarly specializations and entrenched

---

<sup>3</sup> Linda Colley, “The Sea Around Us,” *New York Review of Books*, June 22, 2006, 45.

conceptualizations. In particular, we have all struggled with how to integrate supposedly peripheral areas and peoples of the early modern British Empire – such as Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Bengal, and the Mi'kmaq, fishermen, and families of East India Company employees – into a more comprehensive analysis of the British world. In 2003 we began initial email conversations to determine if it would be possible to design a large-scale collaborative project to address the comparisons, if not commonalities, between British Asia and the British Atlantic, c.1500-1820.

In May 2004, we met for three days at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to discuss how we might design a conference around the theme of “British Asia and the British Atlantic, 1500-1820: Two Worlds or One?” At that time, we identified the seven themes for sessions, possible paper presenters, and possible commentators. (See Methods section, page 8.) Subsequent to that meeting, we contacted potential participants, solicited comments, and strategized on when to hold the conference and how to fund it. Costs for meeting in Halifax have been paid by our respective institutions. Last spring we applied to the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for a grant under its new “International Opportunities Fund” and were awarded \$41,295 (Canadian) [\$36,740 US]. See below for the duration of the project, set for grant purposes for July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008, with the conference July 11-14, 2007. In the months following the conference we will be preparing the essays for submission to a press for publication.

**Staff:** As noted above, the three principal collaborators on this project, Elizabeth Mancke, John G. Reid, and Huw V. Bowen, initiated this project out of shared concerns with how to think about the entirety of the British Empire. Mancke and Reid have worked together collaboratively on other projects dealing with northeastern North America and recognize the value of well-structured collaborative work. As well, our work on the parts of the British Empire that became Canada has made clear that the most useful comparisons are not necessarily with the closest neighbors – the colonies that rebelled and become the United States – but often with other, more distant, parts of the Empire. When Huw Bowen remarked at a conference on some commonalities between British military policy in Nova Scotia and South Asia, the

die were cast to identify a more systematic set of comparative themes and invite other scholars to participate in a broader discussion.

The three principal collaborators for the project have international reputations for their work on different aspects of British imperialism and colonization in the early modern world. (See attached curriculum vitas for details.) In choosing scholars to write papers for the conference, we looked for people with expertise on the theme of a session, as well as tried to create a group of people that were of diverse ranks and interests. If this project has any possibility of generating ongoing collaborative work and linking hitherto discrete fields, then we needed scholars at the beginning of their careers who are looking forward with freshness into new scholarly fields, established mid-career scholars who will take intellectual risks and support junior colleagues, and senior scholars who can reflect back on the strengths and weaknesses of the conceptual frameworks within which they worked.

As well, we want different national perspectives, and thus have a mix of people from the United States, Canada, Britain, India, and the Netherlands. The two scholars from the Netherlands have the expertise for both the topics on which they will be writing and on overseas Dutch enterprises. Thus they can offer important qualifiers in the conference discussions about what is specific to the British Empire and what is a more general characteristic of European overseas expansion, a role that is also served by Sanjay Subrahmanyam, who has written extensively on the Portuguese empire in Asia.

The following lists include all the participants in this project: principal collaborators, commentators, and paper presenters.

Project Director

Elizabeth Mancke  
Department of History  
University of Akron  
Akron, Ohio 44325-1902  
[emancke@uakron.edu](mailto:emancke@uakron.edu)

Principal Collaborator

John G. Reid  
Department of History  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
B3H 3C3  
[john.reid@smu.ca](mailto:john.reid@smu.ca)

Principal Collaborator

Huw V. Bowen  
School of Historical Studies  
University of Leicester  
Leicester, LE1 7RH, U.K.  
[hbv2@le.ac.uk](mailto:hbv2@le.ac.uk)

All three collaborators will share equally the responsibilities for organizing the conference, editing the papers, writing an introduction and conclusion for a published volume of essays, and preparing the

manuscript for publication. Elizabeth Mancke will administer the grant. The time commitment for Mancke (who will also be co-authoring an essay) is estimated at 10 percent of her nine-month contract; the time commitment for Reid and Bowen is estimated at 5+ percent of their twelve-month contracts.

Short biographies of the paper presenters are included after the descriptions of the papers they will be writing. Biographies of the commentators are listed at the end of the descriptions of the paper topics.

#### Commentators

Gwyn Campbell: Professor of History and Canada Research Chair, McGill University, Montréal

Stephen Conway: Professor of History, University College, London

Peter J. Marshall: Emeritus Rhodes Professor of Imperial History, King's College, London

#### Paper Presenters

Seema Alava: Associate Professor of History, Jamia Millia University, New Delhi, India

Jerry Bannister: Associate Professor of History, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Christopher L. Brown: Associate Professor of History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Trevor G. Burnard: Professor of American History, University of Sussex, U.K.

Rajat Datta: Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Michel Doortmont: Associate Professor in International Relations and Development Studies, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Michael H. Fisher: Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Femme Gaastra: Chair of Maritime History, University of Leiden, The Netherlands

Paul Grant-Costa: ABD, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Eric Hinderaker: Professor of History, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

Stephen J. Hornsby: Professor of Geography, University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Wayne E. Lee: Associate Professor of History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Ken MacMillan: Assistant Professor of History, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

Elizabeth Mancke: Professor of History, University of Akron, Akron, Ohio

Douglas Peers: Professor of History, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

Philip J. Stern: Assistant Professor of History, American University, Washington, D.C.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam: Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair in Indian History, University of California at Los Angeles

Robert Travers: Assistant Professor, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

We anticipate that the time commitments of the paper presenters will be something on the order of 2 months to write the essay and then revise it for publication, although the writing will likely be stretched out over more months. While these papers are related to the research expertise of each scholar, they are not drawn from their existing research. We anticipate that the time commitments of the commentators will be a minimum of a week to read the essays, prepare comments, and attend the conference.

**Methods:** In designing this project, we chose to identify a manageable range of themes that are comparative and then to ask scholars to write on the theme. In our initial discussions, we quickly recognized that we are so habituated to the scholarly audiences to which we normally address our work, that we have intentionally asked scholars to refocus their perspectives. Indeed, the different scholarly expertise and perspectives of the three principal collaborators underscored the need for coherent themes. For the seven themes listed below, which will constitute seven conference sessions, four will have two essays and three will have three essays, for a total of seventeen papers. A eighteenth paper will be given by Sanjay Subrahmanyam on how the early modern Iberians perceived the British Empire.

The Oceans: These papers seek to offer a comparative analysis of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds, with a view to identifying the nature and extent of British influences. British overseas expansion was conducted within frameworks defined by participation in two oceanic systems. One of these systems, the Atlantic world, was a European creation, while the Indian Ocean was a centuries-old system. To what extent were the British able to exert influence within these different oceanic regions? How were they able to do this? How did it change over time? To what extent does it matter that in the Indian Ocean they were entering a well-established system of navigation, while in the Atlantic Ocean they were participants in the creation of a transoceanic system? How did maritime influences shape the patterns of expansion, both oceanic and territorial? [Two essays, one on the Atlantic Ocean, one on the Indian Ocean.]

Femme Gaastra (PhD, 1989) is Professor of Maritime History at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands. He is a specialist on the economic history of the Dutch East India Company, and most recently has published *The Dutch East India Company. Expansion and Decline* (Zutphen: De Walburg Pers, 2003). (Indian Ocean)

Stephen J. Hornsby (PhD, University of British Columbia, 1986) is Professor of Geography and Director of the Canadian-American Center at the University of Maine. His most recent book, *British Atlantic, American Frontier: Spaces of Power in Early Modern British America* reinterprets the patterns of development and cohesion in the British Empire.

Governance and regulatory frameworks: These papers explore the different frameworks of institutional organization through which the metropolis (and not necessarily just the government) endeavored to exert influence and control over its extra-European maritime and territorial enterprises. How varied were the methods and principles involved? How did the British government conceptualize the control and organization of those worlds? In what ways did the role of the state change over the early modern period, notably with regard to the deployment of naval and military resources? How was the interface created, in both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean basins, between the British state and existing commercial enterprises? [Two essays, one on the Atlantic world, one on the Indian Ocean basin.]

Jerry Bannister (PhD, University of Toronto, 1999) is an Associate Professor of History at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His path-breaking work on state formation and naval governance in early modern Newfoundland has garnered numerous prizes including the prestigious Sir John A. Macdonald Prize for *The Rule of the Admirals: Law, Custom and Naval Government in Newfoundland, 1699-1832*. (Atlantic Ocean)

Philip J. Stern (PhD, Columbia, 2004) is Assistant Professor of History at American University in Washington, D.C. A specialist on British state formation in the Indian Ocean basin in the early modern era, he has published ‘Rescuing the age from a charge of ignorance’: gentility, knowledge, and British exploration of Africa in the later eighteenth century,” in *A New Imperial History: Culture, Identity and Modernity in Britain and the Empire, 1660–1840* (Cambridge, 2004). (Indian Ocean)

Anglo-Indigenous Commercial Relations: These papers will explore the intersection of indigenous and British economic activities and the effect upon patterns of growth and development. To what degree was British overseas commerce shaped by existing indigenous networks? To what degree did access to overseas commerce reshape indigenous economic, political, and social structures? To what extent did overseas commerce reshape indigenous production away from internal markets and towards external ones? To what extent did the exertion of imperial control affect indigenous modes of production, exchange, and merchant capitalism? [Three essays, one each on Asia, Africa, and the Americas.]

Rajat Datta (PhD, University of London, 1990) is Professor of History at the Centre for Historical Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. An expert on the economy of early modern India, he has published *Society, Economy and the Market: Commercialization in Rural Bengal, c. 1760-1800* (2000) and co-authored *Global silk industry: a complete source book* (2005) with Mahesh Nanavaty. (Anglo-Indian commercial relations)

Joseph E. Inikori (PhD, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, 1973) is Professor of History at Rochester University in Rochester, NY. His research focuses on the evolution of the current global economic order from the 16th century to the present, with a specialization in the African slave trade. His recent book, *Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England* (2002) has provoked considerable scholarly debate about the economic impact of the slave trade on global development. (Anglo-African commercial relations)

Elizabeth Mancke (PhD, John Hopkins University, 1990) and Paul Grant-Costa (PhD, Connecticut, and ABD, Yale University) will be co-authoring the essay on Anglo-Amerindian commercial relations. Mancke began her scholarly career working on commercial relations between the Hudson's Bay Company and natives, c.1670-1730. Paul Grant-Costa, specializes in transatlantic relations between the British government and native peoples. He is completing his dissertation entitled "'The Last Indian War in Southern New England: The Mohegan Indians v. The Governour and Company of Connecticut, 1703-1774," a study of a seven-decade legal case. His earlier degrees were in law (U Conn) and theoretical linguistic. (Anglo-Amerindian commercial relations)

Diplomacy: These papers will deal with diplomacy, defined broadly to incorporate all elements of negotiations of relationships between the British and indigenous peoples, both within the empire and beyond. Who negotiated for each side? What were the purposes of diplomacy? How did diplomatic relations shift over the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? Were diplomatic relations bilateral or multilateral, and in what ways? What parts did agents of the Crown play in these processes, and how did their roles change over time? [Three essays, one each on Asia, Africa, and the Americas.]

Christopher L. Brown (DPhil, Oxford, 1994) is Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University (Brunswick Campus). An author of award-winning articles and the recently published *Moral Capital: Foundations of British Abolitionism* (2006), he specializes on the abolition of slavery in the Atlantic world and on early modern Britain and its empire. (Anglo-African diplomacy)

Michael H. Fisher (PhD, University of Chicago, 1978) is the Robert S. Danforth Professor of History at Oberlin College in Ohio. The author of numerous books, most recently *Counterflows to Colonialism : Indian Travellers and Settlers in Britain, 1600-1857* (2004), Fisher specializes on Anglo-Indian relations in eighteenth and early nineteenth India. (Anglo-Indian diplomacy)

Eric Hinderaker (PhD, Harvard University, 1991), Professor of History at the University of Utah, is a specialist on the impact of European expansion on the indigenous peoples of North America. He is the author of *Elusive Empires: Constructing Colonialism in the Ohio Valley, 1673-1800* (1997) and the co-author with Peter Mancall of *At the Edge of Empire : the Backcountry in British North America* (2003). (Anglo-Amerindian diplomacy)

Military Relations: These papers will explore the ways that the British used indigenous human and financial resources to assert and extend military influence within the Americas and Asia. Why did indigenous participation become essential in the conduct of intra-European conflicts? How far in reality were Europeans militarily dominant in the extra-European world? In what ways did the British seek to co-opt indigenous resources to further their ambitions? Did these processes change over time? How did the metropolitan government attempt to use peripheral resources to further the national interest? [Two essays, one on North America; one Asia. Note: Britain did not control territory or engage in military conflicts in Africa until the end of the eighteenth century, and thus we have not commissioned an essay on Africa, though it will be discussed in the context of the commentary.]

Wayne E. Lee (PhD, Duke University, 1999), Associate Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, is broadly trained in military history, with expertise in both early modern British America and ancient Greece. The author of *Crowds and Soldiers in Revolutionary North*

*Carolina: The Culture of Violence in Riot and War* (2001), his current work focuses on Native American warfare. (Anglo-Amerindian military relations)

Douglas M. Peers (PhD, King's College, London, 1988) is a Professor of History and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Calgary in Alberta. He has published extensively on the British Empire in India with a focus on military affairs, including *India Under Colonial Rule, 1700-1885* (2006) and *Between Mars and Mammon: Colonial Armies and the Garrison State in India, 1819-1835* (1995). (Anglo-Indian military relations)

Societies within the British Pales: The British constructed an empire from both colonies of settlement and colonies of commerce and conquest. These papers will examine the impact of British imperialism upon the development of societies within these different contexts. To what extent did 'race' define social relations? To what extent did 'class' define social relations? To what extent did distorted sex ratios shape sexual, familial, and community relations? [Three essays, one each on Asia, Africa, and the Americas.]

Seema Alavi (PhD, Cambridge, 1991) is Associate Professor of History at Jamia Millia University in New Delhi, India. Her research on the society of Mughal India has concentrated on the cultural and social adjustments of Indians in response to the growth in the power of the British East India Company. Her numerous publications include *The Sepoys and the Company : Tradition and Transition in Northern India, 1770-1830* (1995). (Anglo-Indian societies)

Michel Doortmont (PhD, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, 1994) is a University Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands. He has written numerous articles on Euro-African social relations in West Africa during the era of the slave trade. (Anglo-African societies)

Trevor G. Burnard (PhD, Johns Hopkins University, 1989) is Professor of American History at the University of Sussex, U.K. An expert on social structure in British America, his most recent book, *Mastery, Tyranny, and Desire: Thomas Thistlewood and His Slaves in the Anglo-Jamaican World*, has been made into a television series in Britain. (Anglo-American societies)

Sovereignty and Law: These essays will explore the projection of British notions of sovereignty and law into the extra-European world and how they were influenced and modified by indigenous conceptions of sovereignty and legality. To what extent was overseas empire based on the assertion of British sovereignty? How was that sovereignty expressed, and what forms did it take? In what circumstances could such claims of sovereignty be made good? In what circumstances were the British obliged to acknowledge alternative claims of sovereignty and governing authority? What effect did recognition of these alternatives have on expressions of British rule? To what extent did overseas British sovereignty depend on territorial claims? What was the nature of Crown claims to sovereignty in cases where possessions were acquired by private individuals or organizations? [Two essays, one for the Americas, one for Asia. Note, because the British did not claim territory in Africa or establish separate legal jurisdictions in Africa before the late eighteenth century, we are not commissioning an essay on Africa, but will use the discussions and commentary to explore how developments elsewhere influenced the emergence of British colonialism in Africa.]

Ken MacMillan (PhD, McMaster University, Ontario, 2002) is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Calgary. He specializes on the emergence of a British ideology of empire with a particular emphasis on changing notions of sovereignty, and is the author of *Sovereignty and Possession in the English New World: The Legal Foundations of Empire, 1576-1640* (2006). (British Atlantic world)

Robert Travers (PhD, Cambridge, 2001) is Assistant Professor of History at Cornell University. His work on the establishment of British sovereignty in India is widely respected, and he is completing a manuscript entitled *Asiatic Empire: British Ideology and Colonial State-Formation in Bengal, 1757-1793* (forthcoming, Cambridge). (Asian world)

Finally, Sanjay Subrahmanyam (PhD, University of Delhi, 1987) Navin and Pratima Doshi Chair in Indian History at the University of California at Los Angeles, will be presenting an essay on Iberian genealogies of the early modern British Empire. He is a specialist on the political and economic history

of early modern India, as well as the early modern Portuguese Empire in Asia. He has authored or edited over a dozen books and has written scores of essays.

Commentators (in alphabetical order)

Gwyn Campbell is Professor of History and has a Canada Research Chair in the Department of History at McGill University in Montréal, Quebec. A specialist in the economic history of the Indian Ocean, he is currently undertaking research into slavery, migration and diasporas in the Indian Ocean. His publications include *An Economic History of Imperial Madagascar, 1750-1895: The Rise and Fall of an Island Empire* (2005) and *Slavery and Resistance in Africa and Asia* (2005), the latter co-edited with Edward Alpers and Michael Salman. His expertise on place of African societies in the Indian Ocean world will complement the Atlantic-African expertise of our paper presenters and allow us to investigate the place of Africa at the intersection of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds.

Stephen Conway is Professor of History at University College London. The author of numerous articles and books on Britain and the American Revolution, he is an expert on the nature of war in the early modern British world. His publications include *War, State, and Society in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Britain and Ireland* (2006) and a collection of essays co-edited with Julie Flavell, *Britain and America go to War: The Impact of War and Warfare in Anglo-America, 1754-1815* (2004).

Peter J. Marshall, Emeritus Rhodes Professor of Imperial History at King's College London, is one of the foremost experts on the early modern British Empire. After specializing on the British in India, he has subsequently broadened his work to the entire Empire. He edited the second volume of *The Oxford History of the British Empire* and recently published *The Making and Unmaking of Empires : Britain, India, and America c.1750-1783*.a

**Conference:** We plan to convene the conference at the University of Sussex where we can rent conference space, rooms, and meals at prices considerably lower than comparable facilities in London.

Given the three locations of the principal collaborators and the diverse locations of the paper presenters and commentators, we decided to try to hold the conference in Great Britain. One of our paper presenters, Trevor Burnard, is Professor of American History and Chair of American Studies at the University of Sussex, and is serving as local coordinator. We plan to hold the conference after the Anglo-American conference held annually in London and with the anticipation of conference attendees from within Britain. Below is a tentative conference schedule. We plan for it to start on a Wednesday afternoon, either July 11, 2007, and conclude on the Friday afternoon. We have planned a conference pace that will allow for ample discussion of the papers during the sessions, as well as during breaks and meals.

---

**Wednesday: July 11, 2007**

**2:00-2:30 Introduction**

**2:30-4:00 The Oceans:**

The Atlantic Ocean: Stephen Hornsby

The Indian Ocean: Femme Gaastra

**4:00-4:30 Break**

**4:30-6:00 Governance and Regulatory Frameworks**

Atlantic Basin: Jerry Bannister

Indian Ocean Basin: Philip Stern

**Evening Free**

**Thursday: July 12**

**9:00-11:00 Anglo-Indigenous Commercial Relations**

Asia: Rajat Datta

Americas: William Ramsey

Africa: [undetermined]

**11:00-11:30 Break**

**11:30-1:00 Military Relations**

Anglo-Asian: Douglas Peers

Anglo-Amerindian: Wayne Lee

**1:00-2:30 Lunch**

**2:30-4:30 Diplomacy**

Asia: Michael Fisher

Africa: Christopher Brown

Americas: Eric Hinderaker

**4:30-6:30 Break**

**6:30 Conference Dinner**

**Friday: July 13**

**9:00-11:00 Societies within the Pale**

Asia: Seema Alavi

Africa: Michel Doortmont

Americas: Trevor Burnard

**11:00-11:30 Break**

**11:30-1:00 Sovereignty and Law**

Asia: Robert Travers

Americas: Ken MacMillan

**1:00-2:30 Lunch**

Talk/paper by Sanjay Subrahmanyam

**2:30-5:30 Final Session**

General Reflections by the Commentators

New Agendas

Further Developments

**Conference Dinner**

**Saturday, July 14: Departure**

---

**Final Product and Dissemination:** In choosing the themes for the sessions, we were planning for both the conference and subsequent publication of the essays around the seven themes. The three principal collaborators will edit the essays, as well as write the introduction and conclusion to the essays. We hope to have a draft of both prepared by the time of the conference, based on the conference papers, and as our own contributions to the discussion. At the time of the conference, we plan to contact university press editors to discuss the publication of the essays. All three authors have contacts with major university presses, and thus we are reasonably confident of a good reception. All three principal collaborators have discussed the project with press editors and are confident of securing a contract. Editorial expenses for

preparing the manuscript are calculated into the cost-sharing of the principal collaborators. Photocopy and mailing expenses will be born by our individual institutions.

**Work Plan:** Given the partial funding we have received from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, we have begun preparations for the conference, including booking space at the University of Sussex and asking paper presenters to plan for the conference. We would like initial drafts of the papers circulated among the presenters for the seven sessions in early spring (March-April).

April 1, 2007: The principal collaborators will finalize the necessary arrangements for conference space, meals, and lodging.

May 2007: The conference versions of the papers will be circulated, and the principal collaborators will begin work on an introduction and conclusion, as well as the initial editing of the essays and communications with authors. Commentators will receive the papers with sufficient to prepare substantive comments.

June 2007: The principal collaborators will provide initial feedback to authors.

July 2007: The conference will be held July 11-14, 2007. Before the conference, the principal collaborators will arrange meetings with press editors to discuss publication of the essays. At the conference there will also be discussions about future work.

August-October 2007: The authors will revise their essays, with a submission date of November 1, 2007 to the principal collaborators/editors. The editors will then prepare the manuscript for publication, with an anticipated submission date of February 15, 2008.

August-December 2008: The collaborators will reconcile all outstanding costs from the conference.

March 31, 2008: We plan to have the manuscript to press and a future project planned.

June 2008: Closing out the grant.

**History of Grants:** As noted above, we have received partial funding for this project from the SSHRC of Canada. We have also applied in fall 1006 to the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain. Funding for expenses incurred to date, in particular the meeting in Halifax and the submission of grants,

has been through the three institutions of the principal collaborators: the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio; Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and the University of Leicester, Leicester, U.K.

**Bibliography:** Below is a brief bibliography of work that addresses some of the concerns, if not specific themes, of this project.

David Armitage and Michael J. Braddick, (eds), *The British Atlantic World, 1500-1800* (New York, 2002).

Bernard Bailyn, *Atlantic history: concept and contours* (Cambridge, MA, 2005).

C.A. Bayly, *The birth of the modern world, 1780-1914* (Oxford, 2004).

C.A. Bayly, 'The first age of global imperialism, 1780-1830' in Peter Burroughs and A.J. Stockwell (eds), *Managing the business of empire: essays in honour of D.K. Fieldhouse* (London, 1998), 28-43.

C.A. Bayly, *Imperial meridian : the British Empire and the world, 1780-1830* (London, 1989).

H.V. Bowen, *Elites, enterprise and the making of the British overseas empire, 1688-1775* (London, 1996).

P.J. Cain and A.G. Hopkins, *British imperialism, 1688-2000* (Second edition, London, 2001).

Linda Colley, *Captives: Britain, Empire, and the World, 1600-1850* (London, 2002).

Christine Daniels and Michael V. Kennedy, (eds) *Negotiated empires: centers and peripheries in the New World, 1500-1820* (New York, 1998).

Ashin Das Gupta and M.N. Pearson (eds), *India and the Indian Ocean, 1500-1800* (Oxford, 1987).

Martin Daunton and Rick Halpern (eds), *Empire and others: British encounters with indigenous peoples, 1600-1850* (Philadelphia, 1999).

David Eltis, *The rise of African slavery in the Americas* (Cambridge, 1999).

Holden Furber, *Rival empires of trade in the Orient, 1600-1800* (Minnesota, 1976).

Jack P. Greene, *Peripheries and center: constitutional development in the extended politics of the British empire and the United States, 1607-1788* (Athens, GA, 1986).

Stephen J. Hornsby, *British Atlantic, American Frontier: spaces of power in early modern British America* (Hanover, NH, 2005).

Victor B. Lieberman, *Strange parallels: Southeast Asia in global context, c. 800-1830* (Cambridge, 2003)

- Wm. Roger Louis (editor-in-chief), *The Oxford History of the British Empire* (5 vols.; Oxford, 1998-9); and *The Oxford History of the British Empire, Companion Series* (4 vols to date, Oxford, 2004+)
- Elizabeth Mancke and Carol Shammas, (eds), *The Creation of the British Atlantic World* (Baltimore, 2005)
- John McCusker and Kenneth Morgan (eds), *The Early Modern Atlantic Economy: Essays on Transatlantic Enterprise* (Cambridge, 2000).
- P.J. Marshall (ed.), *The eighteenth century in Indian history: evolution or revolution?* (Oxford, 2003).
- P.J. Marshall, *The making and unmaking of empires: Britain, India and America, c.1750 -1783* (Oxford, 2005).
- David Ormrod, *The Rise of Commercial Empires: England and the Netherlands in the age of mercantilism, 1650-1770* (Cambridge, 2003).
- Michael Pearson, *The Indian Ocean* (New York, 2003).
- A.J. R. Russell-Wood (ed), *Government and governance of European empires, 1450-1800* (2 vols.; Brookfield, VT, 2000).
- Kathleen Wilson (ed), *A New Imperial History: Culture, Identity, and Modernity in Britain and the Empire, 1660-1840* (Cambridge, 2004).