



Cattle Commodification in Global History

Capitalism, Science and Empire

Organised by

The ERC Starting Grant Project CATTLEFRONTIERS

Het Rustpunt | 3-5 June 2026



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GHENT
UNIVERSITY



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Wednesday 3 June

09:00

WELCOME REMARKS

SAMUËL COGHE
Ghent University

09:30

PASTORALISM & CAPITALISM

Chair: Ryan Carty
Discussant: Jan-Bart Gewald

MARK MORITZ
Ohio State University
Cattle, Capital, and Classification: Rethinking Livestock Systems in a Global Perspective

PAULO MATOS
Ghent University
Native cattle as anti-commodity in colonial Angola: A case?

ENID GUÉNÉ
Ghent University
Between Cattle and Game: Hunter-Gatherers, Pastoralism, and Colonial Commodities in Kenya

10:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:00

PASTORALISM & CAPITALISM: CONTINUATION DISCUSSION

11:45

BOOK LAUNCH

The Routledge Handbook of Pastoralism (2026)

12:00

LUNCH

13:00

RETHINKING RANCHING

Chair: Mark Moritz
Discussant: Shawn van Ausdal

NIKOLAUS SCHAREIKA
University of Göttingen
The Social Embeddedness of Cattle Capitalism

INGRID CAROLINA HORMAZA JIMENEZ
University of Bielefeld
"The cattle goes to market on its own feet": Agrarian Colonisation and the Extension of Cattle in Latin America in the 1960s

ELENE VERNAEVE
Ghent University
Disrupted infrastructure: The role of non-human-animals in the construction of the cattle ranching frontier in Katanga, Belgian Congo (1910-1930s)

14:45

COFFEE BREAK

15:15

VETERINARY SCIENCE AT THE CATTLE FRONTIER

Chair: Giovanni Tonolo
Discussant: Wesley Mwatwara

OLUWASEUN WILLIAMS
University College Dublin
Dismantling "the Great Stumbling Block to Expansion": Epizootics, Veterinary Science and Cattle Capitalism in Colonial Nigeria

ZARAH CLEVE
Ghent University
Cattle Bodies and Colonial Science: Chemotherapeutic Research on Trypanosomiasis at Kisenyi Laboratory, 1920s-1930s.

16:45

THE POLITICS OF BREEDING

Chair: Zarah Cleve
Discussant: Bárbara Direito

MARIA-APARECIDA LOPES
California State University, Fresno
Beef Biopolitics in the Tropics: Zebu Cattle and the Making of the Modern Meat Complex

GIOVANNI TONOLO
University of Florence
Eating Steaks to Save the Cow: The Re-commodification(s) of the Chianina Breed (1960- 2000)

19:00

DINNER AT DE ABT VAN ORVAL
Lange Kruisstraat 4, 9000 Gent

09:00

CATTLE LABOUR ON THE FRONTIER

Chair: Paulo Matos
Discussant: Nikolaus Shareika

BÁRBARA DIREITO

NOVA University Lisbon
*Cattle and Copra in Plantation
Zambezia – 1880s-1970s*

JAN-BART GEWALD

Leiden University
*"Damara" cattle in Kimberly. The
symbiotic relationship between
diamond mining and the
development of pastoralist
Herero society in Southern Africa,
1860-1920*



10:45

CATTLE AND COLONIAL STATES

Chair: Elene Vernaeve
Discussant: Thomas Dubois

ERIK GILBERT

Arkansas State University
*Two Pastoralisms: Farmers,
Cattle and Tick Eradication in
Colonial East Africa and the US
Ozark Plateau 1890-1940*

WESLEY MWATWARA

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
*Cattle Commodification and
Colonial Statecraft in Early
Southern Rhodesia, 1890s to
early 1920s*

LARS DICKMAN

Heidelberg University
*'Our most important rivals in
nature': Insect Pests and
Biological Control on Northern
Australia's Cattle Frontier,
1925-1940*

12:30

LUNCH

13:45

BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Chair: Louise Barré
Discussant: Erik Gilbert

RYAN CARTY

North Carolina State University
*"Delicate Nature": Technology
and Environment in the West
African Cattle and Meat Trade,
1940-1978*

THOMAS DAVID DUBOIS

Beijing Normal University
*Who ordered the beef? Local
Paths in China's Cattle
Economy*

GHULAM NADRI

Georgia State University
*Cattle commodities and
industrial capitalism. US imports
of hides and skins from the Indian
Ocean World in the 19th century*

15:30

COFFEE BREAK

16:00

DAIRY ECONOMIES

Chair: Oluwaseun Williams
Discussant: Ghulam Nadri

ANSHUL VERMA

Harvard University/IHEID, Geneva
*Milk Goes to Bazar: From the
Cowherd to the Cooperative*

KOYNA TOMAR

University of Pennsylvania
*Engineering Milk: FAO,
Development, and the Global
Dairy Economy, 1950 – 1970*

Thursday 4 June



17:30

GUIDED TOUR THROUGH GHENT

With Mieke Thienpont

19:00

DINNER AT HET PAKHUIS

Schuurkenstraat 4, 9000 Gent



Friday 5 June

09:00

NUTRITION AND SCIENCE

Chair: Samuël Coghe

Discussant: Maria-Aparecida Lopes

RITAM DUTTA

Jadavpur University

*Milk, Manure, and Metabolism:
Rothamsted and the Chemical
Re-Making of Cattle
Commodification, 1843–1880*

LUCAS ERICHSEN

National Institute of the Atlantic
Forest, INMA-Brasil

*The "Deanima(li)zed" Commodity:
Slaughterhouses, Science, and
Urban Metabolism in Rio de
Janeiro (1777–1881)*



LOUISE BARRÉ

Ghent University

*In Search for Cheap Protein:
Transimperial Nutrition Science
and Labour Commodification in
the Belgian Congo*

10:45

COFFEE BREAK

11:15

FINAL DISCUSSION

12:30

GOODBYE LUNCH



A CATTLEFRONTIERS WORKSHOP

CONVENORS

Louise Barré
Zarah Cleve
Samuël Coghe
Paulo Matos
Elene Vernaeve

MANAGEMENT

Femke De Nil
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GRAPHICS

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