

CFP International Conference  
Policing Empires: Social Control, Political Transition, (Post-)Colonial Legacies



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**Call for Papers**  
**International Conference**  
**Policing Empires**  
**Social Control, Political Transition, (Post-)Colonial Legacies**  
12-13 December 2013  
Brussels - Royal Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts

After years of academic neglect, colonial policing has recently attracted increasing attention. New historical insights on colonial security strategies and on their postcolonial vestiges (in the global South as well as in the former metropolises) testify to the dynamism of this field of research. The 2-day international conference *Policing Empires: Social Control, Political Transition, (Post-)Colonial Legacies*, to be held in Brussels in December 2013, is the last in a series of events convened by the GERN Working Group on (Post-)Colonial Policing. Preceding workshops have focused on policing in the British, French, Belgian and Dutch, and finally Portuguese Empires and have addressed various aspects of policing, surveillance and security experiences. Building on these explorations, the aim of this final conference is to spur new reflection and discussion on connectivity, continuity and change across the (former) European Empires and to promote a multi-sited and comparative approach to colonial policing practices and their legacies in the postcolonial world. It intends to bring together researchers and research evidence from different areas of the world and of specialization, and to foster cross-disciplinary and cross-empire debates through innovative case-studies related to the broad themes of the conference.

In order to open new perspectives, we invite papers that transcend traditional definitions and paradigms of policing in 19th and 20th century colonial contexts. This entails debates not limited to police services but embracing other actors, strategies and techniques which were also part of the colonial law and order apparatus, as well as analysis going beyond institutional approaches and state boundaries. In both cases, we would like to discuss formal and informal interactions of colonial security norms and projects with the social and spatial realities of the policed.

The conference will be organized along three major themes: social control, political transition and (post-)colonial legacies. These will provide a flexible framework allowing to explore a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

**Social Control**

- Class, race, ethnicity, gender and policing
- Informal and semi-informal mechanisms of control
- Policing, consent and control
- Criminality, delinquency and urban order

**Political Transition**

- Policing and pacification
- Intelligence and surveillance
- Colonial and counter-colonial networks
- Negotiating a 'new' order: violence, resistance, agency

**(Post-)Colonial Legacies**

- Colonial (dis)continuities in policing the (newly) independent state
- Police work and the internationalization/regionalization of security politics
- Memories of policing, police violence and repression
- Policing the former colonized in the metropole

(The above list is only indicative and papers on all aspects of the broad themes of the conference are welcome.)

For paper proposals, please submit a title, a 250-word abstract and a short biography in English by **May 1st, 2013** to [policingempires.conference2013@gmail.com](mailto:policingempires.conference2013@gmail.com). Authors will be sent notifications of acceptance or rejection by email before June 1st, 2013 and complete papers will be due on November 1st, 2013. Selected proceedings of the conference will be published.

A limited budget to help with travel and/or accommodation expenses may be made available (with preference given to junior and low-income scholars). Please note that these funds are very limited: participants are therefore encouraged to find their own sources of financial support.

For more information, please contact [policingempires.conference2013@gmail.com](mailto:policingempires.conference2013@gmail.com)

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