

Seminário História(s) do Presente. A formação do mundo contemporâneo.

Organizadores: Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo (Universidade de Coimbra) e José Pedro Monteiro (Centro de Estudos de Comunicação e Sociedade – Universidade do Minho)

10 Fev, 2022

14:30 / Anfiteatro III da Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra e online\*  
(Em língua inglesa)

# Governing Nature. Inter-Imperial Institutions and Scientific Cooperation in Late Colonial Africa

Damiano Matasci

(Université de Genève, Genebra, Suíça)

The post WWII period was a time of dramatic changes for scientific research in colonial Africa. As a large amount of scholarship has shown, the production of knowledge on natural environment became one of the key features of European imperialism. It largely supported economic and social development policies, as well as the fight against natural disasters, such as locust invasions. Until recently, however, historians have mainly addressed such evolution by focusing on singular imperial or colonial settings. By adopting a “trans-imperial” perspective, the aim of this paper is to show why and how empires developed forms of cross-border cooperation in all fields of natural and human sciences. To this end, the

focus will be put on a set of inter-imperial institutions established from the 1940s, more particularly the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa South of the Sahara, the Scientific Council for Africa South of the Sahara and the International Red Locust Control Service. This will help us in better understating the role of scientific research in the modernization of colonial governance and how dynamics of competition, collaboration and connectivity between and beyond empires were reframed by the decolonization process.

\*Este seminário decorrerá de forma híbrida. Quem desejar assistir em modalidade online deve enviar email para [historias.do.presente2022@gmail.com](mailto:historias.do.presente2022@gmail.com)

Cofinanciado por:



Esta iniciativa é apoiada por dois projectos de investigação financiados pela Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, o projecto *Worlds of (Under)development: Processes and Legacies of the Portuguese Colonial Empire in a Comparative Perspective 1945-1975* (referência PTDC/HAR-HIS/31906/2017) e projecto *Humanity Internationalized: Cases, Dynamics and Comparisons (1945-1980)* (PTDC/HAR-HIS/6257/2020).