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'Jurisdictional Accumulation: an early modern history of law, empires, and capital' book launch

Monday, 21 June 2021 11:00 (1h 30m)

This roundtable brings experts in law, history, and historical sociology to discuss Maia Pal's recent book *Jurisdictional Accumulation* (CUP, 2020). The majority of European early modern empires – the Castilian, French, Dutch, and English/British – developed practices of jurisdictional accumulation, distinguished by the three categories of extensions, transports, and transplants of authority. This book is concerned with various diplomatic and colonial agents which enabled the transports and transplants of sovereign authority. Through historical analyses of ambassadors and consuls in the Mediterranean based on primary and secondary material, and on the empires' Atlantic imperial expansions and conquests, the book makes a major analytical contribution to historical sociology. As an interdisciplinary exercise in conceptual innovation based on a Political Marxist framework and its concept of social property relations, the book goes beyond common binaries in both conventional and critical histories. The new concept of jurisdictional accumulation brings ambassadors, consuls, merchants, and lawyers out of the shadows of empire and onto the main stage of the construction of modern international relations and international law.

Track Classification: Historical Sociology and International Relations Working Group