



Call for Papers

Colonial Sanitation Workshop



Image:
"Michael Faraday
giving his card to
Father Thames",
Punch, 21 July 1855

Online Event 2 June 2026*

Modern sanitation has long been tied to systems of power, governance, and social hierarchy. Sanitation is not only about treating sewage, waste disposal, and the supply of fresh water – it involves economy, technology, planning, regulation, and much more. Sanitation also represents cultural values, social justice, and Human-Nature relations. During the 19th-20th centuries, European sanitary ideology spread worldwide, often as a direct product of the colonial project. Sanitation reinforced European notions of “undeveloped” civilizations and legitimized colonial rule by demonstrating European control over territories and living conditions. While sanitary systems improved living conditions for some, they came with environmental and social costs.

This online workshop brings together scholars of any sanitation aspect under colonial rule across the globe in the 19th-20th centuries. We will discuss works in progress, identify common patterns, examine the uniqueness of each study, and gain inspiration and academic feedback on our work. Eventually, we will discuss future collaborations in projects, writing, and conferences. All scholars are welcome to participate in the workshop; however, we especially encourage early-career scholars during their PhD or Postdoctoral studies to apply.

Submissions by 8 December 2025 to Dr. Yaron J. Balslev: aron.j.Balslev@uis.no

Applications should include one PDF that consists of:

- Paper abstract of maximum 500 words
- Short CV - maximum 2 pages

* Hours will be set according to the participants' time zones.

The workshop is organized as part of the EU MSCA Project BLOCYP (grant no. 101150702) hosted at the University of Stavanger, Norway.