

Prof. em. David Arnold

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“Poison, Science and the Colonial Order: India, 1830-1950”

Poisons and poisoning occupy a significant but neglected place in the history of science, society and governance in modern India. This lecture considers why poisoning became so important to the British and their ‘arsenical empire’, especially through investigation into indigenous drugs and therapeutic practices, through criminal poisoning and the formation of a distinctly Indian system of medical jurisprudence, and through the development of a scientific agency (chemical examiners) for whom toxicology was a primary responsibility. Poison thus serves as an exemplification of how colonial science was constituted and evolved.

Date: Wednesday, 13.11.2013

Venue: ETH Zürich, IFW, Room A 32.1

Time: 18:15