

Lecture Series

Summer Semester 2024

BETWEEN EDEN AND FALL

*Common Land in
Early Modern and
Modern Western Europe*

23 April

*The Commons as a Form of Institution for
Collective Action, in Longitudinal Perspective*

Tine de Moor (Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University)

7 May

*Changing Conceptions of Common Land in Britain across
the 19th Century*

Angus Winchester (Lancaster University)

21 May

*Commons in Context: Collective Resources in
German Rural Societies (18th and 19th Centuries)*

Niels Grüne (Innsbruck University)

4 June

*"Clearly Defined Boundaries", Inclusiveness, and
(In)Equality in the Spanish Commons*

José Miguel Lana Berasáin (Public Univ. Navarre)

18 June

*The Commons in Portugal: Forms of Use
and Governance*

Margarida Sobral Neto (University of Coimbra)

18:00 - 20:00

Karmarschraum, Leibnizhaus

Holzmarkt 5 - 30159, Hannover

Hybrid event via Zoom - more information at
<https://tinyurl.com/betweenedenandfall>

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Alexander von
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STIFTUNG



Hieronymus Bosch - The Haywain Triptych, ca. 1516, Museo del Prado (Madrid)

The background of the slide is a classical painting depicting Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Adam is on the left, reclining on the ground, while Eve stands on the right, holding the forbidden fruit. The scene is set in a lush, green landscape with a large tree and a small animal in the distance. The overall tone is dark and dramatic.

Regarding this Lecture Series

Since the publication of Garrett Hardin's seminal article «The tragedy of the commons» in 1968, land and other resources held in common have been the object of intensive research and debate. What were the commons? How did they work? What were the rules and norms that operated in their management? Were they socially and environmentally sustainable? Why did they disappear? What were the consequences of their privatisation? Historians and other social scientists have provided answers to these and other questions by addressing the management of the commons from different perspectives and disciplines, ranging from economics to law, from the environmental dimension of the commons to the cultural issues attached to them. Historians have offered insights into the evolution of the commons from the Middle Ages to the modern era, emphasising the importance of historical factors to understand the commons today.

This lecture series alternates with discussion sessions in a course taught at the Historisches Seminar at Leibniz Universität Hannover. Both are intended to provide an overview of common land in the early modern and modern ages in some western European regions. After reviewing classical works, the course will focus on several case studies in western Europe - the Netherlands, England, Germany, Spain, Portugal. Discussion sessions and lectures delivered by specialists in the field will alternate. The course aims to offer a broad understanding of the phenomenon of the commons, the importance of a historical analysis of common land tenure, and the possibilities and reflections that knowledge of the past can offer us.