



Capitalism and the New Materialism

Workshop with Seth Rockman and Sven Beckert, Basel, 17 May 2017

For scholars interested in the enduring questions of historical materialism and the class relations of capitalism, are there new analytical possibilities from “thinking with things” and “making matter matter”? Beyond this deceptively simple question is the observation that scholars working across multiple disciplines have been lavishing attention on artifacts, environment, and the embeddedness of human experience in a matrix of networks and assemblages. Much of this work has been grouped under the heading of “New Materialism,” but its implications for historians are still emerging. The conversation will focus on the opportunities and limitations the so-called “New Materialism” for historical research, with students considering the ways that the questions and provocations of the “material turn” may inform their own scholarship.

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Sven Beckert is Laird Bell Professor of History at Harvard University.

Wednesday, 17 May 2017: 9.00 - 12.30 am

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Registration: bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration no later than 7 May