

Empires of Useful Knowledge:

Patents and Colonial Technology in the Atlantic World

A @passimproject seminar

Monday, 9 September 2019 15.15-17.00. Tvärsnittet, Kopparhammaren, Norrköping

In conjunction with PASSIM's first workshop, "Intellectual Property for the Un-discipline(d)" in Norrköping, September 10-12, 2019, we invite you to join us for a pre-workshop seminar with David Pretel, El Colegio de México. For each of the three workshops PASSIM hosts during 2017-2022, we invite one of the workshop participants for an extended stay as a *PASSIM Special Guest*, seeking further discussions and networking with a scholar whose work represents important insights and complementary perspectives to PASSIM's. In his talk on September 9, David Pretel—*PASSIM Special Guest* for 2019—will present a comparative study of French, British, Dutch and Spanish colonial patent systems in the Caribbean and their transition to postcolonial systems during the 20th century. His study of the rise of colonial patent institutions poses interesting questions about the diversity of institutional agency, imperial governance, legal transfers, knowledge structures and technological cultures throughout modern history.

PASSIM ("Patents as Scientific Information, 1895-2020") is a five-year (2017-2022) project funded by an ERC Advanced Investigator Grant (741095) to Professor Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, Linköping University, Sweden. PASSIM focuses on the "openness" aspect of patents, considering their role as technoscientific documents in the history of information and intellectual property. For more information on the project and the team, send us an e-mail: contact@passim.se, follow us on twitter [@passimproject](https://twitter.com/passimproject) or visit our website www.passim.se.



Introduction by Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, Professor in Mediated Culture and PASSIM PI

Speaker

Dr David Pretel is a historian specializing in global and imperial history, science and technology studies, and the history of capitalism, with an ever-increasing interest in the global history of Latin America. David was educated at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and the University of Cambridge. His current research of direct relevance to PASSIM is the comparative history of colonial and post-colonial patent systems in Latin America in the global context of the making of an international patent system. More about David? <http://www.davidpretel.com>

Recent publications include:

Institutionalising Patents in Nineteenth-Century Spain (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2018).

"Technology and the Fates of Three Caribbean Commodities," *History of Technology*, Vol. 34 (Bloomsbury, 2019).

Inventiones institucionales: El sistema de patentes en las colonias españolas durante el siglo XIX, *América Latina en la Historia Económica / Latin America in Economic History*, 26 (2) (2019)

Technology and Globalisation: Networks of Experts in World History (Palgrave Studies in Economic History, 2018), with Lino Camprubí

"La economía política del sistema español de patentes en perspectiva internacional, 1826-1902," *Investigaciones de Historia Económica-Economic History Research*, issue 13.3 (2017).

The Caribbean and the Atlantic World Economy: Circuits of Trade, Money and Knowledge, 1650-1914 (Palgrave-Macmillan, Cambridge Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies Series, 2015), with Adrian Leonard.