

ODOR AND EMPIRE: INDIA AND THE PHILIPPINES

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Understanding odor, and how it is perceived, is vital to an apprehension of two empires – British India and the American Philippines. Civilized people did not stink. Their bodies smelled clean. Their public spaces were odorless or pleasant-smelling. Their refuse was buried, and human waste was sent underground, where its stench would not offend refined nostrils. Making Indians and Filipinos mannerly, and therefore civilized, was one of empire's central missions, and critically important to it was deodorizing their bodies and their environments.

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4:30-6pm

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Building E51 Room 275

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This event is part of the World History Seminar Series sponsored by the MIT History Faculty.
For more information please contact mjpepin@mit.edu.