More Money, Lese Majesty:
The Great Potosi Mint Fraud of 1649 & its Global Impact

Mittwoch 14. 12. 2016  18.30-20.00h

Ort: Hörsaal 16  Hauptgebäude, Universität Wien
Hochparterre, Stiege 5

Eine Veranstaltung der Instituts für Wirtschaft und Sozialgeschichte (WISO) in Kooperation mit dem Forschungsschwerpunkt Globalgeschichte und dem Forschungs und Kulturverein für Kontinentalamerika und die Karibik (KonaK Wien)
Abstract:

When Spanish silver merchants and officials conspired to debase the world's most common coin, little did they know it might not only cost them their heads, but also their global empire's solvency. This paper traces the rise and fall of some of the greatest fraudsters in the history of Spanish America. What circumstances allowed them thrive for over a decade, and what made it possible to bring them down?

Brief CV

Kris Lane holds the France V. Scholes Chair in Colonial Latin American History at Tulane University. Lane's current project, Treasury of the World No More: The Great Potosí Mint Fraud of 1649, examines the world's largest debasement scam in early modern world history, one that reverberated globally for decades. Lane's previous books include Colour of Paradise: The Emerald in the Age of Gunpowder Empires (Yale, 2010), Quito 1599: City & Colony in Transition (New Mexico, 2002), and Pillaging the Empire: Piracy in the Americas, 1500-1750 (M.E. Sharpe, 1998, 2d. ed. Routledge, 2015). Lane has also edited two works by failed Spanish conquistador Bernardo de Vargas Machuca: The Indian Militia (Duke, 2010) and Defending the Conquest (Penn State, 2012). He has served as editor of Colonial Latin American Review since 2010, and he began editing the Diálogos book series for the University of New Mexico Press in 2013. Lane's other main project is a digital archive encompassing the history and iconography of Potosí.