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Lenny A. Ureña Valerio (2019)

Colonial fantasies, imperial realities: race science and the making of Polishness on the fringes of the German Empire, 1840

Published: 27.11.2019

Recommended by Redakcja Pol-Int

Publishing house Ohio University Press

Place of publication Athens

Page references 295

Language English

ISBN: 978-0-82144-663-8

History, Cultural Studies

English

In *Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities*, Lenny Ureña Valerio offers a transnational approach to Polish-German relations and nineteenth-century colonial subjectivities. She investigates key cultural dynamics in the history of medicine, colonialism, and migration that bring Germany and Prussian Poland closer to the colonial and postcolonial worlds in Africa and Latin America. She also analyzes how Poles in the German Empire positioned themselves in relation to Germans and native populations in overseas colonies. She thus recasts Polish perspectives and experiences, allowing new insights into identity formation and nationalist movements within the German Empire.

Crucially, Ureña Valerio also studies the medical projects and scientific ideas that traveled from colonies to the German metropole, and vice versa, which were influential not only in the racialization of Slavic populations, but also in bringing scientific conceptions of race to the everydayness of the German Empire. As a whole, *Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities* illuminates nested imperial and colonial relations using sources that range from medical texts and state documents to travel literature and fiction. By studying these scientific and political debates, Ureña Valerio uncovers novel ways to connect medicine, migration, and colonialism and provides an invigorating model for the analysis of Polish history from a global perspective.

(From the publisher's website.)

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