

**How to run the world:
Conceptions of imperial rule between republicanism and technocracy**

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Eva Hausteiner is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in Political Theory at Humboldt University, Berlin. Her Dr. phil. was completed in 2014 on strategies of imperial legitimation, under the supervision of Herfried Münkler and Jürgen Osterhammel (published with Campus in 2015 under the title *Greater than Rome*). She received her M.A. in Political Science, Russian Studies and Economics from University of Potsdam and Humboldt-University, and spent time as a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University as well as Princeton University.

Her research focuses on the history of political thought in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a particular interest in conceptual history and the history of international thought. She has published on ideas of empire and federation, but also on contemporary and early 20th century Russian political thought.

The paper:

The paper delineates a shift towards technocracy in British imperial discourse in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by reconstructing strategies of imperial legitimation and their implications for the conceptualization of large-scale political orders. The analysis of British imperial visions and Roman analogies in the decades after 1870 reconstructs a notion of empire that differs substantially from those discussed in recent debates on liberalism and empire: a concept of empire that is not civilizing and universalist, but hierarchical, technocratic, and spatially limited. The Roman archetype supplies a justificatory framework for an imperial model that defines itself not through republican virtue, but through output legitimacy, and that converges with ruling techniques of the modern state.