Scandinavians played a small but enduring role in the foundation of a colonial world order. From the early seventeenth century until the present, Denmark, Norway and Sweden has been active in exploiting peoples and spaces of the globe. Recently archaeological perspectives and source materials have been acknowledged for providing new insights into the role of material culture, space and man in these processes. This talk will present a brief overview of colonial history from a Scandinavia vantage point emphasizing critical archaeological perspectives on prevalent methodological nationalist views on Scandinavian pasts from the early modern period to the present.

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