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Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in this fourth edition of *Global Histories: A Student Journal*. In this year's autumn edition, we have again assembled an impressive array of research articles that together give an insight into the manifold opportunities connected to global history as a historical approach pursued from a student perspective.

The eight research articles in this edition cover a wide scope of locations and languages, and we are especially grateful for the opportunity to explore the benefits of global history approaches across different temporalities. This is exemplified by contributions drawing attention to unexpected agents shaping early modern globality but equally by several studies that transcend the focus on specific time periods by stressing the long-lasting continuities of certain cultural preconceptions or discursive patterns. The articles in question point out how references to the imagined pasts of (national) communities develop in the public sphere as political arguments as they are used for purposes of identification and delineation.

In the editorial team, we have also always been interested in interdisciplinary approaches to our field and are happy to include several contributions that widen our understanding of the possibilities of global history if it comes together with methodologies, concerns, or points of view that historians do not usually consider.

This edition again includes several book reviews surveying the latest research in a variety of global historical fields as well as the process of writing history. The issue is completed by six conference and summer school reports intended to encourage fellow students to use the chances of participating in or organizing such events.

The first research article of this volume is Vita Unwin's *Facilitating Early Modern Globality: Uncovering the Role and Status of the Remadores on the Gold Coast*, investigating the crucial but long overlooked importance that the canoe-men of the region have had over centuries in making the cross-Atlantic trade economy possible. Vita Unwin points to the complexity of relations underlying this nodal point of early globalization.

In continuation of a focus in our last edition, this issue again includes research on the global history of the Russian Revolution through investigations into the fractured histories of Russian émigré communities. Katya Knyazeva's *High and Low: The Material Culture of the Russian Diaspora in Shanghai, 1920s–1940s* gives an intriguing insight into the *Alltagsgeschichte* of a post-revolutionary Russian bourgeoisie in China whose diaspora was shaped by the revolution that they defied.

Immanuel Harisch's article, *Bartering Coffee, Cocoa and W50 Trucks: The Trade Relationships of Angola, São Tomé and the GDR in a Comparative Per-*

spective, examines the economic connections between socialist regimes in Africa and Germany shedding light on the material realities of late global socialism and how the commitment to ‘international solidarity’ was strategically deployed by socialist-leaning states in Africa to advance their political goals.

Julien Hoffmann’s study, “*We Have No Right to Force our Religion on others*”: *Civilization, Modernity and the Discourse on Religious Tolerance in 19th Century Great Britain*, is concerned with the question of how the concept of tolerance was deployed as a marker of progress and civilizational superiority in British press coverage. Religious fervor, particularly that connected to Islam, served as the negative image of backwardness to this projection of British modernity.

Dimitrios Chaidas’ article analyzes the prevalence of certain representations of Greece in today’s British press. The title of his article, “*Are Greeks Desperate for Heroes?*” *A Corpus-based Investigation of Colonial Discourses*, refers to his demonstration of the possibilities of the digital humanities for examining predominant discursive patterns. Chaidas shows how the British public refer to the past and mythology of Ancient Greece to make sense of the modern state’s crisis. While they can easily stand alone, it is intriguing to relate Hoffmann’s and Chaidas’ contributions to each other.

Monica Palmeri’s article, *The Time of the Myth: Situating Representations of the Roman Empire within Italian Colonialism, 1911–1940* is likewise concerned with the image of the nation rooted in an idealized past. The study examines how the modern Italian imperialist state creatively produced an argument for Italian colonialism in images, restorations of archeological remains, and exhibitions. The fascist regime legitimized its expansionist foreign policy in these displays by claiming heritage to the Roman Empire as a colonizing and civilizing force.

Disha Karnad Jani explores how the anti-colonial activist intellectual M.N. Roy employed the accusation of Fascism against the mainstream of Indian anti-colonialists in her illuminating study, *The Concept of Fascism in Colonial India: M.N. Roy and The Problem of Freedom*. The author explores how the concept of fascism itself evolves through its use in a non-European setting and thereby contributes to research decentring conceptual history.

Finally, Rowan Holmes’ intriguing contribution, *Microhistory Interrogates a Mystery: On Some Possible New Relations in the ‘Somerton Man’ or ‘Tamám Shud’ Case*, investigates the purpose of history itself. It is an inspired piece of writing, which implicitly reflects on the role of historians by literally turning them into detectives trying to build their case. It also raises questions about how history can be presented through its narrative style, and in this way points beyond the described case.

In addition to the research articles, members of the editorial team have reviewed recently published books that are of interest to (global) history students. David Lang revisits another mystery in his review of a collected volume, edited by Ray

mond Clemens, on *The Voynich Manuscript*, an obscure medieval document that has never been decoded. Dennis Kölling reviews *The Autonomous City: A History of Urban Squatting* by Alexander Vasudevan, which explores the issue of squatting as a transnational practice but remains confined to the Atlantic. Ryan Glauser contributes a review on *The Spread of Modern Industry to the Periphery since 1871*, a volume edited by Kevin O'Rourke and Jeffrey Williamson. The review points out that the editors question concepts such as modernity and peripherality but ultimately struggle to overcome diffusionist perspectives. Lastly, Alexandra Holmes reviews *Essaying the Past*, a guide to the most important occupation of any aspiring historian—the sometimes-arduous writing process.

We close this autumn edition with reports from several conferences and summer schools that have taken place over the ‘long summer.’ Kathleen Burke opens this section with her review of the third instalment of our sister project, the *Global History Student Conference*, that took place in Berlin this May. In the same month, students at King’s College in London have hosted their own *World History Student Conference*, attended for us by Dennis Kölling who reviews it here. Sébastien Tremblay reports back from a conference on Conceptual History in Helsinki that was held August, followed by Philipp Kandler’s review of the 18th *AHILA Congress*, held in September in Valencia; both authors are pursuing their doctorates in graduate schools of our own Freie Universität. Lastly, Nils Oellerich and Hauke Jacobs provide an exemplary report on two summer schools from the “*Go East*” program of the German Academic Exchange Service, which facilitates several dozens of these schools each year.

From a practical standpoint, it was extremely gratifying to receive more submissions for this edition than ever before, although it necessarily led to some hard editorial choices. Equally, our editorial team for this edition was the most experienced so far, with many members having already worked on the previous two or three editions, although we were still glad to welcome a number of new members, who played a vital role in the successful production of this edition. Three of the articles published in this edition are based on conference presentations at this year’s Berlin conference, and one on a presentation at King’s College, proving to us how valuable it is to give students such opportunities to develop their research in collaboration with others over the long term.

As the days in Berlin get shorter, we hope to offer you good reads and trust that the published articles hold some insight for you. Furthermore, we would like this edition to make the potential of global history as a field of inquiry, a perspective, and an approach a bit clearer to you—through, rather than despite, the diversity that our articles represent.

Your Editorial team

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