

[Global Histories]

A student journal

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Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking interest in the sixth edition of *Global Histories: A Student Journal*. In this, our second issue of 2018, we have again assembled an array of impressive 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, as well as temporalities. The explorations in the different articles reflect a strong concern with the dynamics of unlikely connectivities, yet move past the mere assessment of their historical relevance, but instead astutely investigate their structuring influences. The contributions show how global historical research perspectives succeed in scrutinizing and going beyond the—by now seemingly self-evident—premises that many perceive to be this field's main contribution: the identification of webs of interlinkages and causations.

Taken together, we hope that the reader gains a concrete idea of the common threads that characterize our understanding and practice of global history in this project, despite the many different employed methodologies, concerns, or points of view in the published articles.

This edition again includes a number of book reviews surveying the latest research in a variety of global historical fields. The issue is completed by five insightful conference reviews, intended to encourage fellow students to use the chances of participating in, or organizing such events—as well as giving proof of the already delightfully high degree of existing activities. Lastly, two museum exhibition reviews give glimpses of how 'global histories' currently play out in European publics.

The first research article of this volume is Joseph A.B. Jackson-Eade's *The Slave-Interpreter System in the Fifteenth-Century Atlantic World*, which analyzes the structures shaping the linguistic mediation on which Iberian imperial expansion into the Atlantic Ocean had to rely. The article focuses on the specific case of captive go-betweens and underlying tensions that shaped their relationships with the Iberians.

In the second article of this edition, Burak Muhammet Nuri Gücin's *A Late Ottoman Expression of Modernity: Prince Said Halim Pasha's Enterprise of Muslim Political Agency*, the author explores the statesman's proposals for an Islamic political order that should meet the challenges that modernization posed to the Ottoman Empire. This body politic would, on the one hand, specifically, distinguish itself from the West, yet also incorporate its influences in political thinking.

Sara Legrandjacques' article, *Global Students? The International Mobility and Identity of Students from Colonial India and Indochina, 1880s–1945*, explores the connections between increasing student mobility and identity construction in colonized Asian countries. At the same time, these 'colonial students' were driven by individual professional and collective political goals or religious motives. Legrandjacques highlights the contradictory effects of their experiences.

Tobias Sæther and Lennart Visser's *Business in Uncertainty and War: Trust and Risk for Siemens in Harbin and Vladivostok, 1914–1923* reconsiders the existing historiography on the First World War as a rupture to early globalization. Their analysis shows how the war shaped the trajectory of the German corporation's activities in the Tsarist Russian Far East, but hardly marked its end. Instead, the war gave way to altered, decentered, but still intense global orientations.

In the fifth article, '*A New Head—A New Way of Living: The Sixties' New Man*, Daniel H. Marshall posits that young activists of the post-war generation developed the 'New Man' as a historical agent to negotiate the cataclysmic changes of the first half of the 20th century. This radical new subject dialectically rejected the past and embraced the possibilities of the future, while their contemporary capacities as agents for change seemed stifled by the politically powerful.

The sixth article of this edition is Chaeri Lee's *The High Dam at Aswan: History Building on the Precipice* that historicizes the narrativization of the Egyptian dam as a clash between tradition and modernity. The parallel scrutiny of the Egyptian state's and UNESCO's rhetoric in their public presentations of the project reveals striking similarities in their rationalizations, together facilitating institutional amnesia of the human costs incurred by the local Nubian communities.

The next article is Holle Ameriga Meding's *The Día de los Mártires—Spontaneous Demonstration, Heroic Myth, or Political Instrument? The 1964 Panamanian Flag Riots in the History of US-Panamanian Relations*. Meding recapitulates the far-reaching consequences that the Panama Canal meant to these relations, highlighting the tensions that erupted in the 1964 riots, and succinctly clarifies the complex processes of polarization emerging from this shared history.

Finally, the eighth article, *The Europeanization of the Italian Migration Regime: Historicizing its Prerequisites, Development, and Transfer from the 'Oil Shock' to the Mediterranean 'Migration Crisis'* by Mathias Hatleskog Tjønn, illuminates the processes that let the current state of affairs emerge. Tjønn presents today's regime as the result of complex, sometimes circular pressures but also as the surprising outcome of unforeseen circumstances of immigration to Europe.

In addition to the research articles, we have reviewed recently six published books of interest to global history students. Anne-Marie Harrison opens this section with an insightful reading of *Barracoon: The Story of the Last 'Black Cargo'*

by Zora Neal Hurston as an urgent source for the study of the US-American empire.

Her review is followed by Philipp Kandler's of *Sovereign Emergencies: Latin America and the Making of Global Human Rights Politics* by Patrick Kelly, another contribution to the growing body of literature revisiting the history of human rights.

Charlotte Sophie Kohrs' review of the multifaceted volume *Officially Indian: Symbols that Define the United States* by Cécile R. Ganteaume highlights the relevance of cultural references to Native Americans for the historical identity of the United States.

Heike Bauer's *The Hirschfeld Archives: Violence, Death, and Modern Queer Culture*, examining these negative, but formative experiences through the lens of the influential sexologist's work and his reception, is reviewed by Ben Miller.

Paul Sprute read Odd Arne Westad's *The Cold War: A World History*, praising it as an important alternative 'grand narrative' of the Cold War that underlines the repercussions of conflicts around the globe on the US-Soviet competition.

This section is closed by David Yee's review of Jocelyn Olcott's *International Women's Year: The Greatest Consciousness-Raising Event in History*, taking a conference in Beirut as lens to examining international diplomacy and social movements in a Cold War context.

We continue this fall edition of our journal with reports from the relevant student conferences having taken place in the field over the past months. In fact, it is highly encouraging to see student-organized and -run conferences disseminate as they offer unique opportunities for academic exchange to student researchers.

First of all, Marjolein de Raat reports from the first *Transcultural Studies Student Conference* organized by the student body of the homonymous M.A. program in at Universität Heidelberg, whose members have regularly contributed to our own student projects in the past.

Sandra Alsén and Charlotte Sophie Kohrs review this year's third edition of the highly successful *World History Student Conference* at King's College, London.

Alexandra Holmes offers an insight into a unique conference organized by members of the International Students of History Association: *HYPE*, the *History and Physics Experience* brought together students of both disciplines in Bologna to exchange their peculiar perspectives on the history of nuclearity.

Reeti Basu has reviewed the fourth edition of our very own *Global History Student Conference* where Joseph A.B. Jackson-Eade and Sara Legrandjacques already presented the research on which their articles in this edition of our journal are based.

Lastly, Lea Kröner has visited the *Global History Student Conference Istanbul* at Şehir Üniversitesi, reporting from another premiere in this year's series of student conferences.

We close this issue of our journal with two reviews of museum exhibitions that both inquire the importance of positionality in art. On the one hand, Anna Victoria Breidenbach reflects on a central social category of belonging in her review of the exhibition *Motherland in Art* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow. Paul Sprute has reviewed the exhibition *Hello World: Revising a Collection* in Museum Hamburger Bahnhof of the Berlin State Museums that fathomed a more integrative and 'cosmopolitan' vision of exhibiting art than currently practiced.

Reflecting on the production of this issue of *Global Histories* over the past months, it was again very gratifying to have such a brilliant and dedicated editorial team contributing to this collaborative project and allowing us to publish this multifaceted edition, while also trying out certain changes in our editorial process. In particular, we have begun to explore recurring and more closely focused journal sections on public history and the methodologies of global history that will be part of future issues.

Over the more than justified praise for our editorial team we should not forget to thank everyone who submitted an article to this edition! Equally, we would like to thank all our published authors for the fruitful collaboration over the past months and sticking with us over possible rougher stretches of way. We also want to apologize for necessarily hard editorial choices that had to be made from time to time.

Looking ahead, this edition of our journal marks a transition as Alina Rodriguez is taking over from Paul Sprute as the editor-in-chief and head of the team organizing the annual Berlin Global History Student Conference. In the editorial team, we have no doubt that Alina will skillfully manage and further develop our student projects, together with our seasoned team members as well as many new students in the M.A. program in Global History here in Berlin.

Amazingly, our student projects already move on to their fifth year of existence in 2019, the call for papers for the first issue of *Global Histories'* next volume is currently open and we are surely looking forward to reviewing a multitude of engaging submissions from all walks of global historical life over the Christmas break.

Enjoy your read!

Your Editorial Team

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On a final note, we would like to thank Paul Sprute, who is stepping down as our editor with the publication of this edition in order to embark on new professional experiences. It is through his guidance that the team has been able to sustain a fruitful academic collaboration with authors and among the team members. We are looking forward to continuing our work together, as he will remain in the journal as part of the editorial board.