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Editorial Letter/Acknowledgments

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Dear reader,

Empires are very much alive, at least in the historiographical constellation that constitutes the autumn issue of this journal. More than empires: the imperial. The imperial entails the empires that were officially dismantled after wars, but also the ones that never existed *de iure*; the conditions that led to their creations and their demises, and the aftermath, the consequences of their existence still part of our own worlds, on plain sight or cleverly concealed between oblivion and normalization.

In this issue we present to you just a part of the myriad of angles that engage with history of empire and the imperial—past shapes, patterns, relations and continuities—while also reflecting on how history writing itself can mimic, more that it is aware of, gestures from past historiographies which were actively committed to sustain imperial projects. In the methodology section of this issue, Benjamin Gaillard reflects on the concept of empire, the scope and limits of its use for global history. Luis De la Peña proposes comparison as an effective tool to understand

fragmenting empires, arguing that the Colombian and the Greek independence movements during the age of Revolutions have more in common than they appear at first glance. In the Public History section there is a reflection on the aftermath of ‘the imperial’ with articles from Christian Jacobs and Paul Sprute on the Berlin Postkolonial tours that try to problematize Germany’s colonizing past still inscribed in the city, as in street names or gardens. Freya Schwachenwald critically assesses the alternative forms of knowledge—within art production—that have been proposed in the face of epistemological, environmental and colonial violence.

On the research articles section, Harry Edwards and Julia Boechat tackle the cultural networks and art circulation in two different settings. Edwards deals with *batida*, a genre of electronic dance music from Lisbon, and its ties with African-diaspora identity from 1990s. Boechat studies Bulgakov’s novel *The Master and Margarita* looking at its distribution and reception in the USSR. Florian Wieser analyzes the operation of the gender-race matrix in the Spanish empire from the

discourses on masculinity in the others they encountered during the 16th century expansion campaigns. Mirjam Limbrunner looks closely at the history of Socialist Zionism to try to understand one of the many historical layers of the Israel-Palestine conflict. In the final section of the journal we have included the book and conference reviews, all of them have been published or taken place within the past year.

As in past editions of this journal, the articles cover a vast region of academic areas. Chronologically, geographically and methodologically different from each other, they all share two traits. The first is that all articles, essays and reviews are written by students. The second one is that they are deeply committed with writing history in a thorough and critical way.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Best regards,

The Global histories
editorial team

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