

# [Global Histories]

## A student journal

**Review: EUI Summer School in Comparative and Transnational History, 2015**

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## EUI Summer School Review

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### OSCAR NORRIS-BROUGHTON AND MARIUS OESTERHELD

*Oscar completed his BA in Intellectual History at the University of Sussex in 2010, focusing on the development of democracy in Germany during the late 19th and early 20th century. Upon completion of his undergraduate studies he moved to Germany in order to write about the migration of radical ideas and individuals across the globe. This interest drew him towards undertaking a MA in Global History at both Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Freie Universität Berlin in 2013. His main research interests include: industrial democracy, anarchism, nationalism, socialism, the works of Gustav Landauer and the Weimar Republic.*

*Having completed his BA in history and cultural anthropology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and University College London, Marius is now studying Global History - with a special focus on the history of East Asia in the 19th and 20th century - at Freie Universität Berlin. His research interests include intellectual and conceptual history, labour history, the history of emotions, translation studies and popular music in the context of war and imperialism. Currently, he is analysing Chinese and Japanese adaptations of British self-advancement literature between 1870 and 1920. He has received grants from Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes and DAAD and worked in various fields, including heritage protection, online journalism and cultural diplomacy, in Berlin and Beijing.*

Set amongst the natural beauty of the Tuscan countryside, the European University Institute's (EUI) summer school in *Comparative and Transnational History: Theories, Methodology and Case Studies*, convened by Regina Grafe, Laura Lee Downs and Ann Thomson (all of them resident professors at the EUI), boasted an impressive array of intellectual stimuli. The EUI itself is an international centre for doctorate and post-doctorate studies that was established 40 years ago by the six founding members of the EU and is co-funded by the at present 21 contracting states. Its mission is to "foster the advancement of learning in fields which are of particular interest for the development of Europe" while at the same time promoting a cultural exchange between member states. It is located on the outskirts of Florence and consists of 14 historical villae sprawling across the picturesque hills of Fiesole. Since 2005, the EUI Department of History and Civilization has hosted an annual four day summer school for students of history and area studies. Thematically, the focus of the summer school sought to explore transregional and global histories as a means of moving beyond using nation-states as the traditional units or containers for historical analysis. In particular, a strong emphasis was placed upon comparative approaches to history in order to defy and transcend Eurocentric and nationalistic history narratives.

The schedule of the summer school was tightly packed with lectures delivered by both EUI faculty members and visiting scholars and – of course – student presentations. The wide range of thematic fields covered included the history of emotions, of gender and labour, settler colonialism and the global silk trade. From

the EUI, Stéphane Van Damme opened the floor with a paper entitled “Democratic Nature in the Early American Republic”, followed by Laura Lee Downs who presented her research on “Women’s Work and the Transformation of State-Society Relations in Europe, 1914-18”, with their colleague Luca Molà offering a rich introduction to “Silk, Italy, and Global History: The Long Term Perspective”. The first guest lecturer, Gabriel Piterberg (UCLA), spoke about “Settler Colonialism as a Global Phenomenon”; the second guest, Garthine Walker (University of Cardiff), presented a paper on “Translating Emotions in English and Welsh 17th- and 18th-Century Court Records”; Michael Miller (CEU Budapest) elaborated on “Revolutionaries in Exile: ‘48ers in Europe and Beyond”“; and the official programme was concluded by Paul Corner (Università di Siena) with a talk on “Popular Opinion in Comparative Perspective: Problems and Methodologies”.

These hour long presentations were then followed by often intense and lively discussions, which were, however, cut short by the tight schedule. In addition to the professional academics, 21 student participants from 15 countries also delivered their own shorter research presentations across an even broader array of historical topics. Unfortunately, the ten minutes allotted to each presenter proved slightly too short to fully explore many of the research projects, however ample time was found after the seminars to continue discussions. The conversations that followed these presentations were extremely useful for many of the participants, most of whom had either presented ongoing research pertaining to their doctoral studies, or work which was connected to recently, or soon to be completed masters theses that they were interested in developing further. In this regard, the summer school successfully laid a foundation for discussion and exchange of ideas between young scholars. Furthermore, this atmosphere of openness and discussion continued throughout the summer school, encouraging participants to engage with each others work constructively beyond the strict 09:00 to 18:00 daily schedule. Thankfully the strong Italian coffee and excellent food provided kept all of the participants fit and well provisioned throughout these long, but highly stimulating and productive days.

In addition to the presentations, the EUI summer school also included a guided tour of the institute’s library and research archives, which have featured the Historical Archives of the European Union since 1986, as well as part of the institute’s impressive grounds and hill top villas. This provided students with the opportunity to experience the vast scale of the institute which boasts an impressive array of villas and numerous quiet and scenic locations for study.

*List of Student presenters.*

Topi Artukka - Between Old and New: Establishing a New Regime Through the High Society in Early 19th Century Turku.

Igor Ciobanu - Images and Perceptions about Bessarabians of the Romanian and Soviet Authorities (During the Second World War).

Vassiliki Charalambous - Constructing the Great Eastern Crisis in the French Press: The role of the Special Correspondent.

Alexandra Esche - Bourgeois Antisemitism in Germany and England, (1890-1920).

Maria Florutau - Transnationalism Through Historiography During the Late Habsburg Enlightenment: Ion Budai Deleanu's *De originibus populorum Transilvaniae*.

Leonor Alvarez Frances - Spanish Commanders as Heroes or Criminals in Chronicles: a Transnational and Comparative Approach to the Eighty Years' War.

Giacomo Girardi - The French Revolution, Bonaparte and the Fall of Venice. Ancient and New Republic from 1789 to 1797.

Anniken Hareide - Creating a European Legal System. The Case of Norway, 1948-64.

Atdhe Hetemi - Serb - Albanian Relations in Kosovo: From the Public's Perspective.

Richard Maher - Identity and Integration: A Comparative Study of two Irish Émigrés in Early Bourbon Spain, Daniel O'Mahony & Charles Wogan.

Barbara Molas - Confronting the Russian Revolution in Spain: The Impact of the Spanish Second Republic on the Conservative Press and its Anti-Communist Backlash (1931-1932).

Marius Oosterheld - The Measure of a Man: Normative Approaches to Selfhood in Translation

Avi Mizrahi - Re-framing Popular Culture: Comparative Study of Cultural Policies in Interwar Turkey and Italy.

Oscar Louis Norris-Broughton - Between Anarchism and Nationalism: The Case of Gustav Landauer.

Charitini Petrodaskalaki - The Greeks in Egypt: Alternative Ethnic Strategies (1919-1952).

Lenka Rudová - Paris in the French, Czech and American Tourist Guidebooks (1918-1939).

Yorim Spoelder - Colonial Archeology and Nehruvian State Symbolism: The Making and Appropriation of Asoka's Heritage.

Paola Verhaert - The Belgian Trade Unions in the Solidarity Campaigns for Chile and Argentina (1970-1990).

Jovana Vukcevic - Consuming Socialist Heritage: Nostalgia, Political Negotiation and Disneyfication of the Socialist Memorial Sites in Former Yugoslavia