

# Global histories

a student  
journal

## Editorial Letter/Acknowledgements

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## DEAR READER,

One of the most contentious global issues of today—not least as a result of the pandemic situation—is that of migration. The mobility of people between national borders, across land masses and open bodies of water, continues to dominate news headlines and inspire calls to action. More than just statistics and categories, however, those who migrate from one place to another are the epitome of what scholars of the global aim to understand. Wherever they migrate, people establish communities, negotiate between identities, and maintain cross-border connections, developing diasporic bases to build upon for generations to come.

The topic of migration and its common themes—hierarchies between national and global borders, restrictions and access to movement, and the transfer of knowledge from one place to another, among the many—are highly relevant to the study of global history. As mobility tends to implicate a move beyond the national, the fixed, or the static, the conditions which make migration possible (or not) can be put into historical perspective. More than just a field of study for those of the academic elite, however, the politics of migration has serious consequences for those who choose—or are forced—to move. In the case of the European migration crisis, for example, the International Organization for Migration estimates that in 2021, 1,654 people attempting to migrate through the Mediterranean Sea have been recorded dead or missing. In order to understand how and why the narratives of migration today have turned out the way they have, it is crucial to investigate migration historically.

This issue of *Global Histories* features two sections of research articles, including a special section on Migration and Diaspora. To this aim, this issue provides an overarching focus on a diverse curation of articles, reviews, and special topics designed to entice the reader towards global historical approaches. The articles begin with Axel Julsrud's examination of the Japanese intellectual Tsuda Mamichi, placing his writings on Confucian thought and Western influence within a broader history of the global Enlightenment. Following this is Toyin Akinkunmi's work on the role of the body in the punishment of enslaved women in the British-controlled Caribbean during the early nineteenth century. The regular article section concludes with Vanesa Medina Godoy's examination of the Black queer South African artist Zanele Muholi's photography, putting their work into the historical context of post-Apartheid South Africa, as well as the development of queer of color critique. A methodological piece by Joseph Beaden also provides an in-depth look at the spatial category of Eurasia, suggesting commonalities between Germany, Japan, and Russia which go beyond previously situated frameworks of spatial understanding.

Readers will then find the special section on Migration and Diaspora, pioneered by several of our colleagues in the Global History MA from their work in the course "Migration and Diaspora in Global History: Perspectives and Intersections" led by Dr. Frederik Schröer. These articles provide transnational glimpses at migratory policy and diasporic legacy within specific regional case studies. Felipe Caroca González, in his study of contemporary

Chilean newspapers, traces the trajectory of racialized anxieties towards migrants from their historical roots. Joseph Duffy, through close readings of speeches and declarations from the Dáil Éireann, explores how the Irish diaspora maintained connections to the Irish nation. Sophie Genske concludes with an examination of the case of Gerson Liebl, the grandchild of a German doctor who has been denied German citizenship as a result of discriminatory citizenship law towards Germany's former colonial holdings.

Finally, this issue contains several critical reviews. George Payne, Adam Dargiewicz, and Amadeus Marzai each discuss recent books in history, providing commentary on critical global moments. In addition, this issue features a museum review of the recently reopened Humboldt Forum in Berlin. Phoebe Ka Laam Ng explores the contentious legacy and global nature of one of the first exhibits to coronate the new Forum, appropriately titled Berlin Global.

For Team Global histories here in Berlin, there has been much to celebrate. The return of some in-person seminars and lectures has allowed for a sense of normalcy and community to return to our journal team. Global histories itself is celebrating more than five years of existence, with 12 journal issues published since December 2015. The future also appears bright in regards to the Global History Student Conference, which is expected to return for its sixth rendition in 2022. Even more special, the Global History MA is also celebrating its tenth year, an endeavor which initially saw a small cohort of students among its first ranks, and now sees hundreds of new applications every year. The program's success is indicative of the fact that even if global history remains a contentious, debatable sub-discipline, that there are many new scholars eager to take up the task of understanding, critiquing, and improving the historical field for generations of histories to come. We therefore hope you enjoy these browsing these pieces and considering the global alongside them.

With best regards,

Ruby Guyot

Editor-in-chief

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