

Global Histories

A Student Journal

Editorial Letter/Acknowledgements

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Dear Readers,

The year 2025 is coming to a close and it has been a difficult time for students and schools worldwide. From defunding and active censorship, especially from those corners that once loudly proclaimed their commitment to freedom of expression, to targeted destruction in warzones around the world, institutions of learning and their pupils are under immense pressure. In this context, our team brings you another issue of *Global Histories*, a journal for and by students, for young scholars to meet and share their ideas on the page and to further explore the contours of global history as a field, free from official interference. The issue presented to you now represents the cumulative work of numerous student researchers, reviewers, and editors, without whom, this issue would not be possible.

This issue will focus on the concepts of periphery and encounter. Greta Marie Stripp in her work examines the influence of British and French colonies as sites of local agency in the development of birth control campaigns. Antoine Grépin discusses how the outermost regions of the European Community would shape the later Maastricht Treaty and European Union. Leon Blohm investigates how the employment of colonial subjects as police and security personnel in German Samoa created situations which both challenged and reinforced colonial hierarchies. Anna Zoë Klos explores how descriptions of magic and the supernatural further reinforced colonial binaries in missionary writings. Finally, Christos Kollias-Dakoff will demonstrate the ways in which emotional language influenced the reception of Chinese-style gardens in Europe.

Complementing these themes, this issue includes four book reviews. Continuing a trend from previous issues, *Global Histories* is helping further explore the boundaries of global history scholarship by introducing reviews of non-English works to a broader audience. Of course this new direction brings new challenges, from finding native speakers to edit the review, to sorting out formatting. Nevertheless, if the classic critique is that global history is an Anglophone field, then we would like to help combat this. Vasileios Plaitis reviews a new global history of Greek Communism, placing Greek Communists on the global stage and Han Yutong reviews a new study of the role of mercenaries in European History, providing the reader the fresh perspective of Chinese scholarship on an old topic. Additionally, Ankit Chowdhury reviews a new book on post-colonial industrial development in eastern India, questioning older paradigms of development, and both Bela Hubenstorf and Natalie Tongue review a new history of the concept of sovereignty.

In addition, there are two conference reviews. Imogen Sadler brings us the long awaited 8th Global History Student Conference. Former chief editor Phoebe Ka Laam Ng and myself attended the European Social Science and History Conference in Leiden to discuss the roles of journals like *Global Histories* in shaping the field of global history.

Our *Global Histories* team is proud to have successfully continued the Global History Student Conference. From June 6th to June 9th, 2024, over 30 students travelled from 12 different countries to present their research projects. Spanning from brewing to bees, from the medieval to the medical, this conference never ceases to amaze attendees and provides opportunities to exchange insights about global history. The team is now working on the 10th Anniversary 2026 conference which we hope will be the first step to future decennial celebrations.

Finally this will be my last issue as I will be departing the university and leaving the team in the capable and experienced hands of Margaret Slevin who joined the team in 2023. I have every faith and confidence that she will continue the traditions of the journal and conference and take them to new heights. My tenure as head editor and conference organizer will count as one of the best learning experiences I have yet had. It was a pleasurable, if sometimes stressful, part of my time in this program and I was glad to have contributed to the continued growth of these two indelible institutions, the journal and the conference. I thank everyone who helped to make it possible. The team and I wish good fortune to our conference participants and authors who contributed to this issue, and to our readers, we hope you enjoy reading our latest issue.

Wishing the best for you and your families, and all your future endeavours,

Regards,

Evan Liddle
Editor in Chief

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the interest and work of all students who submitted an article, essay, or review during the last call for papers. We are incredibly grateful to the authors published in this issue for their fruitful contributions and efforts in revision. These authors include Christos Kollias-Dakoff, Antoine Grépin, Leon Blohm, Greta Marie Stripp, Anna Zoë Klos, Vasileios Plaitis, Bela Hubenstorf, Natalie Tongue, Ankit Chowdhury, Han Yutong, Imogen Sadler, Phoebe Ka Laam Ng, and Evan Liddle. Their work throughout the months was intensive, and it paid off in their excellent contributions to this issue. In addition, we would like to extend our immense gratitude to the students on the *Global Histories* journal team and students in our Global History MA program, who devoted extensive time and effort to reviewing and editing the published pieces. These members include, Willow Allen, José Manuel Blanco Goldar, Miguel Cadórñiga Martínez, Lillian Graham, Bela Hubenstorf, Amen Imran, Kieran Isaacs, Marios Karavasilis, Evan Liddle, Monalisha Mallik, Vasileios Plaitis, Anna Rohrmoser, Carla Schmidt, Margaret Slevin, Andy Hin Lam Tsang, and You Wu. The attention and dedication these members provided towards the pieces they worked on throughout this semester ensured this issue's high quality.

Our team's graphic designer You Wu, continues to deliver amazing visuals and professional design work which continues to make *Global Histories* not only shine academically, but also aesthetically.

Finally, we are grateful for the continued support and assistance for this project by the Freie Universität Berlin, particularly the guidance provided by Camilla Bertoni, the Global History faculty, chaired by Prof. Dr. Sebastian Conrad, and the Online Journal Systems team at CeDiS.