

[Global Histories]

A student journal

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Editorial Note

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your interest in this fifth edition of *Global Histories: A Student Journal*. In this, our first 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. Thematically, the explorations into the dynamics of international relations from a decentralized perspective—widening the range of considered actors and re-balancing their influences—as well as the analysis of discourses in the international realm surely stand out as a strong focus of this edition. These contributions show international affairs to have been shaped by unlikely interventions of ‘southern’ or civil society actors as well as economic connections, whose ramifications have not yet been adequately taken into account. At the same time, they present international politics not just as a crude struggle for power, but as a complex of translations, appropriations, and transformations of meaning. The multi-sided impacts of these discursive constructions are ably discussed across time periods and locations by several articles. Taken together, we hope that the reader gains a concrete idea of the common threads of the ways how we practice 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—and a museum review giving a glimpse of how ‘global histories’ currently play out in European publics.

The first research article of this volume is John Bagnall’s ‘*Not Britain’s Cause Alone*’: *The Commonwealth, Britain, and the Falklands Crisis, 1982–1989* which points to the importance of the support that the post-colonial states of the British Commonwealth offered to the United Kingdom.

In the second article of this edition, Kevin-Niklas Breu’s ‘*No Time for National Solutions*’: *ACT UP/San Francisco and the Politics of Border-Crossing*, the author examines activism against the US travel ban on HIV-positive foreigners in the 1980s and 90s. Breu points out how the protesters shed light on US border politics before an international audience and how they collectively challenged the state practice of interlinking welfare and security policies.

Daniel J. Haverty Jr.'s *'Positive Neutrality': Revisiting Libyan Support of the Provisional IRA in the 1980s* reconsiders the existing historiography on the shifts in the balance of power within the Irish republican movement. Haverty shows the far-reaching consequences of this unlikely international partnership as the supply of Libyan weapons was counter-intuitively used by politically minded Irish republicans to abandon the militants' core principle of abstention from parliament.

The fourth article of this edition is Lea Kröner's *'Indian Brethren in English Clothes': The Praying Indian Figure in the Eliot Tracts, 1643–1675*. Focusing on these descriptions of British missionary work in New England, Kröner shows how the figure of the 'Praying Indian' was constructed as a response to different pressures within the colonial context, notably providing a benevolent Christian definition of the colony's purpose and countering accusations about a lack of missionary zeal.

The fifth article is Felipe Souza Melo's *Contract Enforcement and Risk Reduction: The Luso-Brazilian Companies in the last Quarter of the Eighteenth Century*. Meticulously analyzing contracts of merchants in Lisbon, Melo highlights how long-distance traders mitigated the connected risks and demonstrates the hierarchies between the marketplaces of Brazil and Portugal, casting doubts on assertions of Brazilian predominance.

In the sixth article, *Global Concepts and the Semantics of Social Spaces: Fascism and National Socialism in the Political Language of Subhas Chandra Bose*, Miguel Ohnesorge examines how 'Fascism' and 'National Socialism' were conceptually incorporated by the Indian nationalist through his cooperation with the Axis powers. Ohnesorge thereby focuses on the context of the relationships between globally circulating concepts and the political semantics of a specific social space, Congress politics, where these concepts were articulated and obtained practical functions.

The seventh article is Carlos E. Flores Terán's *'The Small Family Lives Better': Population Policy, Development, and Global-local Encounters in Mexico, 1974–1978*, which discusses the discursive power of the 'modernization' paradigm through the implementation and debate surrounding the first comprehensive population policy in Mexico in 1974. The article points out how Mexican actors intervened in family structures, appropriating and transforming the global discourse of 'development' and 'modernization.'

Finally, the eighth article, *The Amelia Framers, 1817: Farce as a Historical Model* by Charlie Zaharoff, reconsiders the attempt of a group of privateers to establish an independent nation-state on an island to the south of the United States. Zaharoff argues for the utility of narrativizing this event as a farce, due to the discrepancy between performances and intentions present in the conflict, and thereby to recognize how the privateers consciously manipulated the notion of nation-statehood to serve their particular ends.

In addition to the research articles, we have reviewed recently published books as well as an ongoing book series that are of interest to (global) history students. Philipp Kandler reviews *The Making of International Human Rights: The 1960s, Decolonization, and the Reconstruction of Global Values* by Steven Jensen, part of a growing historiography on human rights as a prominent topic in the field. His book review is followed by Peder Østebø's review of Steven Hyland Jr.'s *More Argentine Than You: Arabic-Speaking Immigrants in Argentina*, bringing a so far underexposed migration to the attention of the reader. Daria Tashkinova has reviewed the edited volume *Luxury in Global Perspective: Objects and Practices, 1600–2000*, which productively continues the tradition of reconsidering and decentralizing the historiographies of certain cultural concepts. Maximilian Vogel gives us a glimpse into the ongoing *Edible* series of Reaktion Books by introducing the *Global History of Rice*, by Renee Marton, as well as the one of *Herring* by Kathy Hunt, both entertaining volumes to particularly accessible commodity histories. Sam Wiszniewski has reviewed *Asia's Reckoning: The Struggle for Global Dominance* by Richard McGregor as a presentist example of international history with immediate political relevance. This section is closed by Kelvin Yudianto's review of *World War One in Southeast Asia: Colonialism and Anticolonialism in an Era of Global Conflict* by Heather Streets-Salter who follows the capillaries of World War I as a 'global' phenomenon.

We close this spring edition of our journal with reports from several conferences and workshops that have taken place over the past months. TCA Achintya opens the section with his review of the conference *Empires: Towards a Global History* that took place as an international collaborative event at the University of Delhi in September 2017. Eric Jeswein and Tamara Pataki then review last month's *Annual Conference* of the *International Students of History Association*, which was held in Maribor, giving an insight into the possibilities of independently organized student activity. This review is followed by Daniel R. Quiroga-Villamarín's of a major conference on international law in Latin America, *Repen-sando y Renovando el Derecho Internacional dentro, desde, y sobre la América Latina*, which was held by three universities of Bogotá last September and lets us consider the benefits of transcending our own disciplinary boundaries. Chase Caldwell Smith gives another example of a graduate student conference in his review of the *Geographies of World History Graduate Conference*, held at the University of Cambridge in September 2017, highlighting how the academic discussion can benefit from smaller settings. Finally, Daria Tashkinova reports back from the conference *Constructing 'the Soviet'? Political Consciousness, Everyday Practices, New Identities*, organized by students of the European University at St. Petersburg this April for the 12th time. She gives insight into their continued success in holding a conference aimed at young scholars, yet highlights that its

future installments are threatened by the fragile political situation of the European University.

Lastly, Alina Rodriguez has reviewed the reopened *Weltmuseum* in Vienna for us, the former ethnographic museum, and thereby addresses a new concern of this journal, public representations of ‘global histories,’ that we would like to follow over coming editions as well.

Reflecting on the production of this issue of *Global Histories* over the past months, it was extremely gratifying to have a considerably larger editorial team than in previous editions contributing to this collaborative project and allowing us to publish our most extensive edition yet, while also trying out certain changes in our editorial process. Over the justified praise for our editorial team we still 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 the necessarily hard editorial choices that we had to make from time to time. Looking on this edition, the uneven gender balance of published authors is more than a grain of salt, that does not reflect previous editions, nor the composition of our student team for that matter; we will come to a more even balance again in our next issue.

Looking ahead, we will continue to develop our journal so that it adequately reflects our own academic interests as well as the perplexing diversity of tremendous global history scholarship by students worldwide. We also constantly attempt to increase the visibility of the journal and equally seek to establish different cooperations to include an even greater variety of different kinds of content after having published conference reviews from students outside the Berlin global history program for the first time in this edition.

On 9th and 10th of June, the fourth Global History Student Conference will be held in Berlin and hopefully stimulate many of its 40 participants from institutions in 19 different countries to submit their work to the journal as it has in the past. We also hope to welcome many of our readers as members of the audience to take part in this event dedicated to the production of new ‘global histories.’

Your Editorial Team

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