

# Global histories

a student  
journal

## Editorial Letter/Acknowledgements

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Dear reader,

Now more than ever, the world is cognizant of what it means to live in the 'global'. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront questions of the benefits and drawbacks of transnational movement, be it that of people, ideas, technologies, or pathogens. Indeed, the extent of our collective globality cannot go unnoticed, as people around the planet have been forced to contend with the consequences that arise from these connections. The worldwide mandates of public health, embodied through lockdowns, face masks, and distancing guidelines have been attempted nearly everywhere, from the halls of global political organizations to the streets frequented by commuters to the refugee camps in abysmal conditions. It is impossible to completely ignore or go unaffected by the pandemic and its problems, regardless of one's nationality, class status, or health. It is truly, in some of the worst ways imaginable, a global moment.

But the pandemic has not been the only globally explosive moment this year, either. Protests from Berlin

to Bogotá following the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd in the US highlighted how national racism could be connected to a larger global narrative of violence against Black communities. The recent United States presidential election drew critiques and commentary in a litany of languages, evoking anxiety and apprehension across the world as final vote counts were tallied and scrutinized. The climate crisis, too, although nearly taking a back seat to the tidal waves of current affairs, has continued to draw activists together from remote communities to larger cities, all with the shared goal of taking the world to task for a lack of effort to reverse the damage we as a species have done to our planet. Each of these moments from 2020 carry unique features and impacts, but the fact that they share the global stage points to the unavoidable hold that globality has on us.

How can we as scholars—and to a greater extent, as citizens—concur with the global, in times as challenging as these? How does the local intersect with the global, and vice versa? Moreover, what does it mean to be a member of

a global community amidst monumental instability and rapid change? The answers to these questions may still be ongoing, as is the pandemic, but we may begin to confront them from their roots in the past. The field of history can always provide insight into the conditions surrounding a contemporary moment; even the 1919 influenza pandemic served as a comparison point for our current crisis. While this issue of *Global Histories* does not address the pandemic directly, it does consider questions around global and local connections, the movement of people and ideas, and the power dynamics which inevitably shape and alter our present reality. The value of global history in a global moment can thus be continually reinforced.

This issue features three research articles, all contending with, coincidentally, questions of gender within differing historical settings. Katherine Carberry begins by looking at the global history of the Kashmiri shawl, investigating its rise within Victorian British high society and its implications for women as agents of colonization. Anna Smelova continues with her

article on the global nature of temperance movements in Russia prior to the First World War, examining how nationhood and gender roles were transmitted and translated between temperance activists. Clara Fechtner concludes with her work on women's political organizations during the Global Cold War, illustrating their attempts to connect women's rights to the socialist projects of the 'Second World' with women from the 'Third World', and the varying practices of solidarity that emerged as a result.

In addition, this issue contains three methodological pieces, presenting relevant topics of inquiry within the field of global history. Friedrich N. Ammermann begins by examining the lack of a global history of technology sub-field, solidly making the case for the integration of both studies as a truly global and non-Eurocentric endeavor. Emma Gattey then considers British imperial history and its evolution over the decades, arguing that the recent environmental turns in the field must play a larger role in future studies of empire and colonization. Finally, Dennis Kölling

interrogates capitalist realism, placing it as a genre within a global context and ultimately arguing for the incorporation of literary fiction into the historian's canon of primary sources.

The publication of this issue was many months in the making, with our team being equally affected by the pandemic. We faced numerous setbacks, with extended shutdowns and the indefinite move of our universities to an online-only format changing the nature of the journal's normally social atmosphere—and cancelling our annual Global History Student Conference for 2020 altogether. We also encountered a more expected change, as our former Editor-in-chief Alina Rodríguez finished her MA thesis and thus stepped down from the role. Although a saying oft-repeated, Alina's shoes as editor and conference organizer will be hard to fill, and I am immensely honored to have the opportunity to take over the roles she worked so hard to promote over the past two years. Therefore we have come together, across time zones and from the home office, to present you with what we hope is a thoroughly engaging and

intriguing issue. On behalf of the *Global Histories* editorial team, I invite you to continue questioning the role of the global, both in the past, as these articles and methodologies do, and in the present.

With best regards,

Ruby Guyot  
Editor-in-chief



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to acknowledge the interest and work of all students who submitted an article or essay during the last call for papers. We are especially grateful to the authors published in this issue, for both their fruitful contributions and efforts in revision, as well as their understanding and flexibility during the unique circumstances of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which affected the publication of this issue, among other things. These authors include Katherine Carberry, Anna Smelova, Clara Fechtner, Friedrich N. Ammermann, Emma Gattey, and Dennis Kölling; their extensive collaboration and enduring patience is what ultimately made this issue possible.

In addition, we would like to extend our immense gratitude to the students on the *Global Histories* journal team who devoted extensive time and effort to reviewing and editing the published pieces. These team members include Alina Rodríguez, Joshua Rossetti, Sarah Gubitz, Daniela Greca, Anna Nesterova, Yulia Kudryavitskaya, Sylvia N Roper, Bella Ruhl, Simone Steadman-Gantous, Jorge Varela Perera, Diego Dannemiller, and Paul Sprute. The attention and dedication these members provided towards the pieces they worked on allowed both for each piece to grow and improve in collaboration with the author, but also truly made this issue exceptional. The work of Natasha Klimenko on the issue's graphic design can also not be understated, as the issue's aesthetically pleasing final pages would not be possible without her.

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

Finally, we would like to extend a special thank you to Alina Rodríguez, who stepped down as Editor-in-chief following her completion of her MA. Her work on the journal and the annual Global History Student Conference over the past two years have allowed for both endeavors to flourish as platforms for students to contribute to the field in numerous ways, and her oft-unsung efforts have time and again demonstrated her excellent work. She was and still is a highly valued member of our team, and we greatly appreciate all that she has done during her tenure as Editor-in-chief.