

Global Histories

A Student Journal

Editorial Letter/Acknowledgements

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DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.17169/GHSJ.2023.626>

Source: Global Histories, Vol. 9, No. 1 (November 2023), pp. 1-2.
ISSN: 2366-780X

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Publisher information:

Global Histories: A Student Journal is an open-access bi-annual journal founded in 2015 by students of the M.A. program Global History at Freie Universität Berlin and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. *Global Histories* is published by an editorial board of Global History students in association with the Freie Universität Berlin.

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DEAR READERS,

With the start of a new academic year at German universities, we are excited to present our latest edition of *Global Histories*. As global historians, we cannot be indifferent towards the latest outbursts of international military conflicts worldwide, and we do not stand with any violence that takes innocent lives. Advocating for a more just and peaceful world, our current issue acknowledges and salutes the legacy of those who have fought against systems of oppression, about whom the reader can learn in the following pages.

Our first issue of the ninth volume of *Global Histories* is themed on postcolonial activism and colonial reflections. Leon Julius Biela's methodology opens our issue with a thoughtful reflection on the use of "region" as a defining term in the practice of global history and the related problems of such use. Loïc Folton's research on the Oxbridge rowing culture follows by employing a rich collection of primary sources to explore how rowing competitions manifested within the British colonial hierarchy, and provided a site for South-Asian students to integrate in terms of race and body politics. In contrast to the previous discussion on masculinity and sports, Quincy Mackay focuses on women's role as caretakers and humanitarian work in the colonial context. Representing the colonial organisation *Équipes médico-sociales itinérantes*, the French women in Algeria actively engaged with the local populations through medical aid and social contacts during the Algerian War of Independence. Ananya Agustin Malhotra then provides an opposite perspective of French colonial history by revealing the growing transnational anticolonial consciousness among the left-wing student groups in post-WWI Paris with an extensive study of the lives and works of the Martinican surrealist René Ménil and Vietnamese phenomenologist Tran Duc Thao. Echoing Ananya's discussion on transnational anticolonial movements, Edward Yuan shows us a close-up examination of the Bandung Conference and its grassroots networks of Afro-Asians' decolonisation attempts. Despite the failure of the Bandung project, the Bandung Spirit has been a revolutionary concept preoccupied with redemptive violence, and its legacy is still relevant in today's decolonisation projects. Closing our issue are the two book reviews written by Clara Leeder and Lennart Vincent Schmidt. Clara evaluates the history of the Silk Road in Medieval Armenia, while Lennart provides his commentary on the ever-changing Indian-Bangladeshi borderland.

Additionally, our Global Histories team is proud to have successfully continued the Global History Student Conference. From June 30 to July 2, 2023, over 30 students travelled worldwide to Berlin to present their fruitful research projects and exchange insights about global history. We managed to host our first-ever student salon, a safe space for students to share their learning and research challenges in relation to gender, racial, and social class inclusion and diversity. Over the conference weekend, we were delighted to see students connecting and forming a supportive young historian community. We wish all the success to our conference participants and authors who contributed to this issue, and to our readers, we hope you enjoy reading our latest issue.

With best regards,

Phoebe Ka Laam Ng

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 Leon Julius Biela, Loïc Folton, Quincy Mackay, Ananya Agustin Malhotra, Edward Yuan, Clara Leeder, and Lennart Vincent Schmidt. Their work throughout the months was intensive, and it paid off in their excellent contributions to this issue. We are also grateful for their patience with our delays, as it was particularly challenging for us to put together this issue while also working hard in organising the Global History Student Conference!

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, particularly those who devoted extensive time and effort to reviewing and editing the published pieces. These members include Janina Abts, Baillie Bell, Cecilia Burgos Cuevas, Miguel Cadórniga Martínez, Hannah Jane Casey, Seth Crosland, Ruby Guyot, Kieran Isaacs, Lukas Jung, Zaza Jung, Zoë Klos, Evan Liddle, Anna Nesterova, Oliver Ryan, and Sarah Wulbrecht. The attention and dedication these members provided towards the pieces they worked on during the arrival of another semester ensured this issue's high quality. We once again thank Cecilia Burgos Cuevas for her incredible work in the layout and design of our journal, delivering another visually appealing issue.

Finally, 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.