

SVEN BECKERT
Department of History
Robinson Hall
35 Quincy St.
beckert@fas.harvard.edu
Room 119, Monday, 4-6 pm

SUGATA BOSE
CGIS South
1730 Cambridge St.
sbose@fas.harvard.edu
Room S436, Monday 2-4 pm

Course Coordinator:
Mou Banerjee
moubanerjee@fas.harvard.edu

History 2950hf

APPROACHES TO GLOBAL HISTORY: SEMINAR
PROFESSORS SVEN BECKERT AND SUGATA BOSE
Alternate Mondays, 4–6 pm, fall and spring semesters 2017-18
Lower Level Library, Robinson Hall, 35 Quincy Street

Global History — the search to understand how human societies have developed as an interactive community across the world—has come into its own as a scholarly enterprise at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Spurred by ongoing processes of globalization, drawing on students and researchers better trained in languages and social science methods than ever before, it flourishes as one of the most important developments in the discipline of history today. Examining processes, networks, identities and events that cross the boundaries of modern nation states, this venture to push the study of the past, remote and recent, beyond the compartmentalized approach most older historians grew up with has mobilized scholars in faculties and research centers across the world.

This seminar will introduce students to the literature on and practice of global history today. Toward that end, the graduate-faculty research seminar is structured to bring together interested faculty and students on a continuing basis. The course will include both reading sessions designed for graduate students and research sessions during which students and faculty participants will present current research. Faculty participants will be drawn from a number of schools, and, most especially, from the group of fellows in global history who are spending the academic year 2017/18 at the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History. Students will be expected to write a research paper on a topic in global history.

REQUIREMENTS

The course will consist of two parts. First, students will be expected to attend our bi-weekly meetings, where scholars interested in global history will present their works-in-progress. Active participation in these discussions is required, as is reading the main

paper to be discussed and any background readings for these sessions. Students are expected to deliver a **formal comment** on one of the papers to be presented by the guest speakers. Second, students are expected to complete an **article-length piece of writing**, based on original research and related to the theme of the course. To help guide such research, the instructors will periodically schedule additional meetings with students who are taking the course for credit.

Students who take the seminar for credit are expected to develop a topic for their research on the following timeline. They should be ready to hand in a one-page proposal outlining their topic, its significance, and their proposed methodology on **October 9, 2017**. These will be discussed in small group meetings in the second half of October. By **January 15, 2018** participants will submit an extended research proposal (5 pages) that explains their research problem in some detail, discusses the relevant secondary literature, and lists the (locally accessible) primary sources they will consult. The final draft of an article-length paper is due on **May 2, 2018**. The final seminar session will offer an opportunity for students to present their research to the wider group.

Readings will be available from the course website.

COLLABORATION POLICY STATEMENT

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your *own* research and writing and that it reflects your *own* approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and *properly cite* any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Seminar Meeting Schedule

Fall 2017

Wednesday, August 30 — Introduction

Sept. 18 — Reading Session 1: What is Global History?

- Arrighi, Giovanni. *The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power, and the Origins of Our Times*. London, UK: Verso, 1994: 27-74.
- Bayly, Christopher A. *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914: Global Connections and Comparisons*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004: 1-22, 49-85.
- Beckert, Sven and Dominic Sachsenmaier, "Introduction," *Global History, Globally*, London: Bloomsbury, 2018 (forthcoming).
- Bender, Thomas. *A Nation Among Nations: America's Place in World History*. New York, NY: Hill & Wang, 2006: 3-14.
- Bose, Sugata. "Different Universalisms, Colorful Cosmopolitanisms: The Global Imagination of the Colonized." In: *Cosmopolitan Thought Zones: South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*, edited by Sugata Bose and Kris Manjapra, 97-111. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- Buschmann, Rainer F. "Oceans of World History: Delineating Aquacentric Notions in the Global Past." *History Compass* 2, no. 1 (2004): 1-10.
- Gueye, Omar. "African History and Global History: Revisiting Paradigms." In: Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds., *Global History, Globally*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018 (forthcoming).
- Marquese, Rafael, and João Paulo Pimenta. "Latin America and the Caribbean: Traditions of Global History." In: Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds., *Global History, Globally* (forthcoming).
- Osterhammel, Jürgen. *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014: xv-xxii; 49-67.

Oct. 2 — Reading Session 2: Themes and Cases in Global History

- Barbier, Edward. *Scarcity and Frontiers: How Economies Have Developed Through Natural Resource Exploitation*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011: 1-46.
- Beckert, Sven. "From Tuskegee to Togo: The Problem of Freedom in the Empire of Cotton." *Journal of American History* 92 (2005): 498-526.
- Linden, Marcel van der. *Workers of the World: Essays Toward a Global Labor History*. Leiden:

- Brill, 2008: 1-14.
- Maier, Charles S. "Dis/Relocating America: The Practice of Global History in the United States," *Internationale Geschichte in Theorie Und Praxis/International History in Theory and Practice*, Verlag Der österreichischen Akademie Der Wissenschaften, Wien, 2017, p. 315-332.
- Mishra, Amit, "Global History of Migration(s)," in *Global History, Globally*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018 (forthcoming).
- Mintz, Sidney W. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. New York, NY: Viking Press, 1985: xv-xxx, 19-73.
- Pomeranz, Kenneth. "Scale, Scope, and Scholarship: Regional Practices and Global Economic Histories." In: Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds., *Global History, Globally*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018 (forthcoming).
- Simo, David. "Writing World History in Africa: Opportunities, Constraints and Challenges." In: Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier, eds., *Global History, Globally*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018 (forthcoming).

*****One-page paper proposal due October 9*****

Oct. 16 - Quinn Slobodian (Associate Professor, Wellesley College, WIGH Fellow)

"The Scanned Sovereigns: Political Risk, Petrodollars, and the Reordering of the World after the 1970s."

Commentator: Charles S. Maier (Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Oct. 30 - Justin Jackson (Assistant Professor, Bard College, WIGH Fellow)

"The Imperial Politics of Everyday Sovereignty"

Commentators: Omar Gueye, (Professor of History, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal)
Roberto Saba (2017-2018 Hench Postdoctoral Fellow, American Antiquarian Society.)

Nov. 13 - Christy Thornton (Assistant Research Professor, Johns Hopkins

University, Volkswagen Fellow, WIGH)

“Rights and Duties: Mexico, the Third World, and the Pursuit of Economic Sovereignty in the 1970s.”

Commentator: Arne Westad (S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Nov. 27 - Julia Stephens (Assistant Professor, Rutgers University)

"Governing Islam: Law and Ritual in Imperial Contexts.”

Commentator: Cemal Kafadar (Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

*****Five page paper proposal due Jan. 15, 2018*****

Spring 2018

Jan. 29 - Pepijn Brandon (Assistant Professor, Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands, WIGH Fellow)

“Forced Labor, Waged Labor and Industrial Work Practices: Naval Shipyards as Laboratories of Capitalism, 1750-1870.”

Commentator: Alex Keyssar (Matthew W. Stirling, Jr., Professor of History and Social Policy, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Feb. 12 - Tariq Omar Ali (Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin at Urbana-Champaign)

“Colonial Capital and the End of Empire: British Business and the Formation of an East Pakistani "National Economy.”

Commentator: Emmanuel K. Akyeampong (Ellen Gurney Professor of History and Professor of African and African American Studies, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

March 5th - Judith Froehlich (Lecturer, University of Zurich, Thyssen Postdoctoral Fellow, WIGH)

“A History of Opium in Japan, 1800s–1930s”

Commentator: Andrew Gordon (Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University)

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Mar. 26 - John Tutino (Professor of History and International Affairs, School of Foreign Service and Director, The Americas Initiative, Georgetown University)

“The Americas and the First Global Capitalism: Power Integrating Diversity, 1500-1810.”

Commentator: TBA

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Apr. 9 - May Ngai (Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History, Columbia University)

“The Chinese Question in Late-Nineteenth Century Global Politics.”

Commentator: TBA

Graduate-student commentator: TBA

Apr. 23 — Graduate Student Paper Presentations & Wrap-Up Discussion

*****Final papers due May 2, 2018*****