MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Seven years ago, we launched a new academic initiative at Harvard University, the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History (WIGH). When we began thinking about this project, its urgency seemed to derive mostly from within scholarly debates, as historically minded researchers began to push ever more against the national boundaries that had framed so much of their field for the past century.

The world has changed since then. While global history has won a place as an innovative approach in the larger discipline, a resurgent nationalism in many parts of the globe has favored again national and even nationalist approaches to history. Such invented histories and their often ill-fated political impact has given an entirely new urgency to our work here at WIGH. Histories of states and nations will remain a rich tradition, but our societies have always developed within broader movements of peoples, technologies, ideas and environmental change. If there is one idea that is the very core of global history it is the notion that the experiences of different states, cultures, and societies exert a continuing influence and impact on each other. Historical experience is porous and the connections between various groups of people, and between distant places, are just as important as the things that kept them apart. Moreover, the historians of these diverse experiences must all have a voice in constructing an inclusive and encompassing narrative. We continue to be committed to advancing such a history and we continue to seek ways to facilitate scholarly conversations on such approaches, bring together researchers in Cambridge and cooperating with
Message from the Co-Chairs

In 2018-19, under the leadership of Steve Ortega, the Global Sports Initiative continued to work on the issues that were covered in the three sports and society conferences that were held between 2016 and 2018.

A collected volume is being assembled on the impact of globalization on sports. The volume will examine on how issues such as gender, migration, race and social responsibility relate to the growth of the sports industry after the end of the Cold War.

Work also commenced on the athletes and democracy workshops, which are scheduled to take place in June, 2020.

Left: Steve Ortega with Carolina Panther safety and activist Eric Reid at a fundraiser for Ubuntu Football.
The “Global Cities in Global Perspective” conference was held between December 10th to 12th, 2018, in Saint-Louis, Senegal. It brought together a broad and diverse range of scholars and students to discuss the history of colonial cities, and their relation to the contemporary world. This conference followed meetings in São Paulo (2016) and Delhi (2017), and was the third in a series held by the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History of Harvard University.

It is fitting that several of the conference papers dealt with the history of the city in which the conference was held, Saint-Louis, once the capital (1673–1902) of French Senegal. Scholars from Senegal and the USA discussed the impact of French colonial rule on the city, with topics ranging from policing, slavery, the built environment, and religion. Alpha Amadou Sy, the Academic Inspector of Saint Louis, made the notable claim that the city allowed for the synthesis of African, Arab-Islamic, and Western cultures which has resulted in, what he claimed, is the city’s strong tradition of openness and inclusion. This claim of inclusion was contested by an address by Larissa Kopytoff of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, who compared the history of the indigenous populations’ acquisition of political rights in the two colonial areas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although the application of the French civil code led to enfranchisement, colonial officials increasingly doubted whether the indigenous peoples were truly French and should be given political rights.

One aspect that has long received limited attention within the scholarship on colonial cities, is the study gender and socio-spatial transformation. Sarah Zimmerman of the Western Washington University, interrogated this topic through her presentation on the evolution of gendered public life on Gorée Island between 1700 and 1860. In the 18th century, women of color transformed the island into a slaveholding society. However, the prominence of women on the Island, even though as slaveholders, declined after 1848, following changes in French citizenship laws, as women were also gradually removed from historical documents produced by the state.

The conference covered diverse contexts, and was successful in highlighting the significant role of African urbanization in global economic and geopolitical contexts. Brandon Finn of the Harvard University, discussed “Lubumbashi, Congo: Global City,” and used the capital city of the Katanga Province, an important mining area for copper, uranium, and cobalt, to support the argument for the utilization of ‘Theory from the South’ to inform our understandings of global capitalism over the longue durée. This session also highlighted the importance of understanding urbanization as a process that includes city-building, but is still deeply connected to hinterlands and global modes of production and extraction. Not only
Colonial Coastal Cities Conference continued

were the effects of colonialism on cities up for debate, but the very concept of the ‘colonial city’ received scrutiny and careful discussion.

Following a similar theme, Chikouna Cissé of the University of Houphouët Boigny de Cocody, highlighted the strategic importance of Grand-Bassam as a coastal city for the imperial economic project, and argued that the city passed from local to global by positioning itself as the epicenter of European and African trade at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. This continued a central theme of the conference, as colonial cities were positioned within both national and global framings, rather than simply as pre-given bordered entities.

Isaïe Dougnon of the Fordham University and the University of Bamako, offered a perspective on colonial urbanization turning inland, as colonial cities spread across the continent, expanding beyond the presence of only coastal cities. Similarly, Ayan Meer of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, argued that a model of “rural urbanization” and demographic colonization, developed in the wetland of Agro Pontino, would subsequently be replicated in the 1930s in Italy’s Libyan colony. Meer proposed that the relationship between internal and external colonization helped bolster the spatial ideology of fascism, and established the connections between nation-building and empire-building.

There was also discussion of colonial cities in India, the meeting place of the Global History Network in 2017, where, as Abhishek Mishra of the University of Delhi showed, the English and Portuguese colonial influence on policing in the city of Bombay remains stark and strong. Many of the presentations highlighted how urbanization and colonialism resulted in, and continues to impact the intersection of institutions, and governance strategies of control. Lorelle Semley of the College of the Holy Cross, focused on the history of the thousands of women and men of color, African and Antillean, enslaved or free, who lived in the southwestern city of Bordeaux that was deeply involved in the French Atlantic slave trade since the eighteenth century.

These impacts featured throughout one of the keynote addresses, by Sven Beckert of Harvard University, who discussed the far, and long-reaching impacts of violence and coercion in the global cotton industry, which is a bedrock upon which contemporary global capitalism is built.

The ‘colonial city’ was the starting point from which scholars presented their perspectives on global history. Despite the heterogeneity of research themes, interactions between speakers and the audience created a healthy and fruitful environment to debate theoretical and methodological approaches to the field. Through this rigorous debate and discussion, the ongoing question on what defines a ‘colonial city’ remained an open-ended one. Indeed, the very definition of the ‘city’ within the broad process of colonial urbanization merited much discussion.

This is, perhaps, why a spatial framework on global history and urbanization emerged as a fundamental theme throughout the conference. There is much scholarly promise in linking micro-historical studies of colonial cities to broader global history, just as broader dimensions of society, politics, and economics can be utilized to better comprehend ‘local’ experiences. It is within these different temporal and

Right Network partners’ meeting.
spatial scales that the study of cities and urbanization holds so much promise, both as a theoretical imperative, and an empirical necessity.

This study of scale resulted in a complex debate on its implications on agency and structure. Despite the contributions made by methodological individualism and the "history from below" approach, many global historians insist on the importance of analyzing broader economic systems and the state. The promise, and indeed the challenge of better understanding the history, and historical lineages of colonial cities perhaps lies in the simultaneous application of these two methodological approaches, across both time and space.

Therefore, a new agenda emerged from these discussions. Global historians should understand the political implications of their research in relation to the recent conservative and nationalist resurgence across the world. As the study and debates on colonial cities brought out, there are significant political implications for the methodological approach of global history to colonial cities and urbanization. Therefore, there is a renewed emphasis and imperative for global historians and the Global History Network to assert, and convey that their theoretical approach is more than a fashionable brand, but a fundamental and lasting tool to understand human experiences, past, and present.

Global History Fellows 2018–2019

EDWIN F. ACKERMAN
Visiting Fellow (spring 2019). Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University. Political parties; dispossession; state formation; comparative-historical sociology; and Latin America.

MURARI JHA
Visiting Fellow. Assistant Professor, School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University. Early modern south Asia; Mughal Empire; political economy; historical geography; Ganga River; Indian Ocean; and the Dutch East India Company.

FELIPE ALFONSO
Volkswagen Global Fellow. PhD Candidate in History, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Brazilian slavery; labor; and coffee production.

JOHANNES KNIERZINGER
Visiting Fellow. Postdoctoral Researcher, L’Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD). Extractive industries; west Africa; raw material crises; shrinking cities; global production networks; and governance.

MARTA GRZECHNIK
Visiting Fellow. Assistant Professor, Institute of Scandinavian Studies, University of Gdansk, Poland. Colonial history beyond the traditional colonial powers; history of the Baltic Sea region and northern Europe; and regional history.

STEPHEN ORTEGA
Visiting Scholar (spring 2019). Associate Professor, Department of History, Simmons College. Mediterranean and world history; the history of emotions; collective memory; and digital humanities.

MARTINE JEAN
Visiting Fellow. Social, institutional, and legal history of crime and punishment in nineteenth-century Brazil and the Atlantic World; global history of prisons; and race and citizenship in the emancipation process.

FRANCESCA VIANO
Visiting Scholar American/European transnational exchanges; ideological and material construction of the Statue of Liberty; origins of the US through the Federalist’s party’s engagement with the world.
As always, the core activity of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History is the biweekly seminar. In 2018/2019 Professors Charles Maier and Sugata Bose co-chaired the seminar, which brought together graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from institutions around the world. The seminar aims to place established global history scholars in dialogue with each other and emerging scholars in order to build on past scholarship and pave the way for new insights. “Approaches to Global History” is built around two intertwined elements. Its year-long speaker series brings invited faculty and Global Fellows every other week to present their work-in-progress. This year’s program included:

Charles Maier, Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History, Harvard University
“The New Spirit of the Laws: Rethinking Political History Since the World Wars”
Commentator: Andrew Gordon, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History, Harvard University

Murari Jha, WIGH Fellow; Assistant Professor, School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, India
“Ganga Global: Implications of the Ganga (Ganges) River’s Integration with the Global Maritime Economy during the Early Modern Period (c. 1600–1800)”
Commentator: Sunil Amrith, Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies and Professor of History, Harvard University

Marta Grzechnik, Fellow at WIGH and Center for European Studies; Assistant Professor, Institute of Scandinavian Studies, University of Gdansk, Poland
“The Missing Second World: On Poland (and Eastern Europe) and Postcolonial Studies”
Commentator: Charles Maier, Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History, Harvard University

Martine Jean, Visiting Fellow, WIGH and Afro-Latin American Research Institute at the Hutchins Center, Harvard University
“Slavery, Nation, and Prison Building in Postcolonial Brazil”
Commentator: Sidney Chalhoub, Professor of History and of African and African American Studies; Faculty Affiliate, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Steffen Rimner, Assistant Professor of the History of International Relations, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Book Talk: Opium’s Long Shadow: From Asian Revolt to Global
Drug Control
Co-Sponsored International and Global History/WIGH Seminar

Edwin Ackerman, WIGH Visiting Fellow; Assistant Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University
“Dispossession and the Party Form: The Case of the MNR in Post-revolutionary Bolivia”

Weatherhead Forum: Global Cross-Currents
Martine Jean, Visiting Fellow, WIGH and Afro-Latin American Research Institute at the Hutchins Center, Harvard University
Murari Jha, Fellow, WIGH Fellow; Assistant Professor, School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University, India
Francesca Viano, Visiting Scholar, 2017–2019, WIGH

Cristina Florea, Academy Scholar, The Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. Assistant Professor, Department of History, State University of New York at Albany
“Agents of Empire: Peasant Migration from Austrian Bukovina and Galicia to the New World”

Jamie Martin, Postdoctoral Fellow, Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University; Assistant Professor, Department of History and School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
“The ‘Ottomanization’ of Europe: The Politics of International Financial Control in the 1920s”

Felipe Alfonso, WIGH Global Fellow; PhD Candidate, University of São Paulo, Brazil
Commentator: Sidney Chalhoub, Professor of History and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University

Michael Homberg, Visiting Fellow Spring 2019, Weatherhead Research Cluster on Global Transformations; Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Cologne
Commentator: Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University
What is your background and your field of research?
I am a historian of the United States. My research covers slavery and emancipation, the Civil War and Reconstruction, medical humanities and gender and sexuality studies. I earned my BA in English from the University of Pennsylvania, and my MA in American Studies from Columbia University, where I also earned my PhD in History. I did postgraduate work in medical anthropology at Harvard University.

Did you always consider yourself a global historian? What aspects of the field drew you to it?
I was finishing my dissertation on the medical crises that developed during the Civil War and Reconstruction, which devastated the lives of formerly enslaved people, when The Chronicle of Higher Education published a feature article on Tom Bender’s book, A Nation Among on Nations. The book called for historians to examine the United States beyond traditional geographic parameters. I panicked. I had just finished my dissertation that focused on the postwar South and had not considered emancipation or the Civil War globally.

I spent several months trying to figure out how to place my research in a broader global framework. First, I began to explore if medical crises accompanied emancipation in other slave societies across the Atlantic World. An initial search for secondary literature quickly revealed that no one had conducted a full-length study on the relationship between health issues and emancipation in the Caribbean or South America. I realized that placing my study in a global framework would essentially mean replicating my dissertation process in another geographical location. While that seemed daunting, I found Bender’s historiographical imperative compelling. It shaped my project and made me more sensitive to clues that I encountered in primary sources that referenced other parts of the world.

This led to two findings in my book, Sick From Freedom. First, I uncovered interesting parallels about how disease results more from abrupt changes in the social and economic order than from the natural world. Secondly, Sick From Freedom charted the outbreak of both a smallpox epidemic and a cholera epidemic. Smallpox hopscotched across the postwar South and disproportionately affected formerly enslaved people, leaving white Southerners – even poor, dispossessed white people – unscathed. This epidemic did not spill beyond the United States. The cholera epidemic, however, originated in the Middle East, spread to the Mediterranean, through Europe to British ports, and across the Atlantic Ocean into Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, and parts of South America. The archival evidence I uncovered surrounding this pandemic provided me with a logical justification to study global history as I explored how disease connected various parts of the world.

What is your current project, and how does it pertain to global history? What are the advantages of using a global lens to examine this topic?
My current project, The Laboring Dead: From Subjugation to Science in Global History, which is under contract with Harvard University Press, grew out of my archival discovery of the 1866 cholera pandemic. My first book showed how the federal government blamed the spread of smallpox on formerly enslaved people’s natural susceptibility to disease, their unsanitary living conditions, and, by their own admission, the inability of the government to deploy physicians and resources to stop the epidemic. Officials in various offices within the federal government claimed they couldn’t do anything to stop the epidemic. But when cholera arrived a year later, they managed to develop an efficacious response system: they deployed doctors, created medical protocols, and mapped the presence of cholera throughout the U.S. These discoveries made me want to know how the government knew how to stop cholera. Was there contact with other nations about the movement of cholera throughout the world? Did officials exchange notes on prevention and treatment? I began research at the British National Archives, in medical journals and manuscripts at the Wellcome Institute on the History of Medicine, and in the Indian Office Records at the British Library. There, I developed a global lens to interrogate the cholera pandemic.

British medical officials deployed around the world offered me a panoramic view of disease outbreaks and
medical discourses, and also inspired me to do research in archives in Hungary, Ireland, Malta, and Spain.

As the result of exploring these avenues, The Laboring Dead argues that slavery, imperialism and war placed subjugated populations onto crowded plantations and battlefields, which unwittingly led doctors to develop new theories about disease transmission. The project explains how slavery, colonialism and war led to the advancement of epidemiology. The study of infectious disease underwent a major transformation in 1780–1866, which coincided with the rise of the international slave trade, the growth of colonialism and imperialism and the Crimean and Civil Wars. Recent scholarship argues that slavery advanced the development of capitalism; my research argues that slavery and colonialism advanced the development of science.

What was the nature of your involvement with WIGH? How did your time at WIGH change the way you thought about your project?
While conducting this research, I had the good fortune of winning an Andrew W. Mellon New Directions fellowship, which allowed me to return to graduate school and get training in Harvard’s medical anthropology program. During my year at Harvard, I participated in the Global History Seminar as a WIGH Visiting Fellow. I was taking courses in medical anthropology at the time, and global history coursework complimented that study. In the course, I was exposed to not only Sven’s incisive ability to frame the readings but I also learned a lot from the students. I felt like I was then formally trained in global history. It gave me the confidence to continue to conduct research in archives around the world and led me to adding global history to my areas of study.
La OIT y los países del Conosur en el período de entreguerras
by Norberto Ferraras

Our protagonists are the publication of this book, which relates to the initiatives of the Fundación Electra. It covers the centenary of the creation of the OIT. The book brings together four of the articles the author had published in various academic journals from the Americas, about the origins of the relationship between the OIT and Latin America. Although evaluation can be considered virtuous, it cannot be considered linear, with advances and setbacks, tensions, disagreements and meetings, but without doubt, after a century of history, the balance is highly positive for all interested parties. Ferreras is recognized as one of the most prominent figures in the historiography of the OIT. (Montevideo, 2019)

Norberto Ferraras was a WIGH Fellow in both 2013-2014 and 2019-2020. He is Associate Professor of Contemporary Latin American History at Universidade Federal Fluminense (Brazil).

Work: The Last 1000 Years
by Andrea Komlosy

Say the word “work,” and most people think of some form of gainful employment. Yet this limited definition has never corresponded to the historical experience of most people—whether in colonies, developing countries, or the industrialized world.

That gap between common assumptions and reality grows even more pronounced in the case of women and other groups excluded from the labour market.

In this important intervention, Andrea Komlosy demonstrates that popular understandings of work have varied radically in different ages and countries. Looking at labour history around the globe from the thirteenth to the twenty-first centuries, Komlosy sheds light on both discursive concepts as well as the concrete coexistence of multiple forms of labour—paid and unpaid, free and unfree. From the economic structures and ideological mystifications surrounding work in the Middle Ages, all the way to European colonialism and the industrial revolution, Komlosy’s narrative adopts a distinctly global and feminist approach, revealing the hidden forms of unpaid and hyper-exploited labour which often go ignored, yet are key to the functioning of the capitalist world-system. (Verso, 2018)

Andrea Komlosy was a WIGH Fellow in 2014-2015. She is Associate Professor of Economic and Social History, University of Vienna, Austria.

Global Development: A Cold War History
by Sara Lorenzini

In the Cold War, “development” was a catchphrase that came to signify progress, modernity, and economic growth. Development aid was closely aligned with the security concerns of the great powers, for whom infrastructure and development projects were ideological tools for conquering hearts and minds around the globe, from Europe and Africa to Asia and Latin America. In this sweeping and incisive book, Sara Lorenzini provides a global history of development, drawing on a wealth of archival evidence to offer a panoramic and multifaceted portrait of a Cold War phenomenon that transformed the modern world.

Taking readers from the aftermath of the Second World War to the tearing down of the Berlin Wall, Lorenzini shows how development projects altered local realities, transnational interactions, and even ideas about development itself. She shines new light on the international organizations behind these projects—examining their strategies and priorities and assessing the actual results on the ground—and she also gives voice to the recipients of development aid. Lorenzini shows how the Cold War shaped the global ambitions of development on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and how international organizations promoted an unrealistically harmonious vision of development that did not reflect local and international differences. (Princeton University Press, 2019)

Sara Lorenzini was a WIGH Fellow in 2016-2017. She is Associate Professor of International History at the School of International Studies of the University of Trento (Italy)
Martine Jean will remain at Harvard for 2019-2020 as Marc Claster Mamolen Fellow at the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research. Martine will complete her book manuscript tentatively entitled Routine Imprisonment, Race, and Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century Brazil, 1830–1890 under contract at the University of Texas Press. The research probes the transformation of punishment in nineteenth-century Brazil and its intersections with global transformations in the labor regime of the Atlantic World.

Congratulations to WIGH Visiting Scholar Francesca Viano, whose book Sentinel: The Unlikely Origins of the Statue of Liberty, received an honorable mention for the Gilbert Chinard Prize, which recognizes achievement in the history of French-American relations; or the comparative history of France and North, Central, or South America. Sentinel examines the contradictory mix of ideologies and values behind the iconic statue.

Congratulations to our 2015 Fellow Claudia Bernardi, whose book Una storia di confine. Frontiere e lavoratori migranti tra Messico e Stati Uniti (1836–1964) won the SISSCO (Italian Society of Contemporary History) prize for first work.

Congratulations to 2018 WIGH Fellow Quinn Slobodian on winning the The George Louis Beer Prize in European international history since 1895 for Globalists: The End of Empire and the Birth of Neoliberalism (Harvard Univ. Press, 2018)

Mou Banerjee is now Assistant Professor of History at University of Wisconsin–Madison. Mou is currently working on a book on the intellectual and political history of the creation of the Indian political self.

2017 Global Fellow Heena Mistry (Queens University) successfully defended her dissertation, “Reconfiguring Empire Gently: Indians and Imperial Reform, 1917–1947,” and is now Dr. Mistry!

Volkswagen Global Fellow Felipe Alfonso (U. of São Paulo) was accepted into Harvard’s History PhD program to continue his research on Campinas, Brazil’s slave economy. We are delighted to keep him as part of the WIGH community!

Congratulations to 2018-19 Fellow Murari Jha, who has joined Ahmedabad University’s School of Arts and Sciences as Assistant Professor.

**JOURNAL ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS**


LOOKING AHEAD: ACCEPTED AFFILIATES FOR 2019-2020

DANIELLE N. BOAZ
Visiting Fellow. Assistant Professor, Department of Africana Studies, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Colonial history; legal history; African and African diaspora religions; British Empire; Atlantic world; witchcraft; and race and ethnicity.

THOMAS DAVID
Visiting Scholar (fall 2019). Professor of International History, Institute of Political Studies, University of Lausanne. Global history; sociology of elites; colonial and postcolonial history; history of capitalism; transnational networks; and philanthropy.

MARCELO FERRARO
Global Fellow (fall 2019). PhD Candidate, Department of Social History, Universidade de São Paulo. Slavery; punishment; penal regimes; and nineteenth-century Brazil and United States.

NORBERTO FERRERAS
Visiting Fellow. Associate Professor, Department of History, Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil. Global contemporary forms of contemporary slavery; and forced labor legislation on Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

MANDEY IZADI
Postdoctoral Fellow. Broadbent Junior Research Fellow, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University. Indigenous history; environmental history; African American history; and race and ethnicity.

ANDRÉ ROBERTO DE A. MACHADO
Visiting Fellow. Professor, Department of History, Universidade Federal de São Paulo. Compulsory labor; Brazil; the nineteenth century; indigenous history; free labor; and global labor history.

VANESSA OGLE
Visiting Fellow (spring 2020). Associate Professor, Department of History, University of California, Berkeley. Capitalism; political economy; globalization; empire and colonialism; rights and legal regimes; natural resources; and the environment.

STEPHEN ORTEGA
Visiting Scholar. Associate Professor, Department of History, Simmons College. Mediterranean and world history; the history of emotions; collective memory; and digital humanities.

ZACH SELL
Visiting Fellow (spring 2020). Visiting Assistant Professor, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ), Brown University; Associate Producer, Firelight Films. US slavery; race and racism; British Empire; and capitalism.

ISRAEL G. SOLARES
Visiting Fellow (fall 2019). Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, San Diego (as of January 2020). History of capitalism; technical expertise; twentieth-century Americas; labor history; and environmental conflicts.

FRANCESCA VIANO
Visiting Fellow. PhD, History of Political Thought, University of Perugia. The origins of the United States in light of the Federalist party’s engagement with the world.

KAI-CHENG ZHANG
Global Fellow. PhD Candidate, Department of History, East China Normal University. Urban, environmental, and global history; and post-World War II America.

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