



WEATHERHEAD INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL HISTORY

WIGH | A Weatherhead Research Cluster on Global Transformations

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NEWSLETTER OF THE WEATHERHEAD INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL HISTORY
A RESEARCH CLUSTER ON GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

The Weatherhead Initiative for Global History (WIGH) enjoyed a vigorous 2017-2018 academic year, with notable events in Cambridge, Delhi, and Athens. Under the aegis of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, we carried on our activities as the research cluster for Global Transformation and widened our leadership: Jean Comaroff and Sugata Bose have joined Sven Beckert and Charles Maier. The core seminar included bi-weekly presentations and lively discussions, many focused on the work of our outstanding group of fellows, including Quinn Slobodian (Wellesley), Justin Jackson (Bard), Shubhankita Ojha (Delhi University), Ablaye Diouf (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal), Ritesh Jaiswal (Delhi University), Christy Thornton (Johns Hopkins), and Judith Froelich (University of Zurich, Switzerland.) Our current and former fellows continue to publish important and widely discussed works in many parts of the world, and alumni have begun creating their own initiatives. Julia McClure, Omar Gueye and Norberto Ferreras began their global history of poverty network during their time as WIGH fellows and have just organized an important conference in Scotland. We are delighted to see that WIGH is having such a lasting and global impact.

We also took our work out into the world. WIGH sponsored three major conferences over the past year: “Empires: Toward a Global History,” hosted by our University of Delhi partner in December 2017, and two conferences on the global reach of soccer, the first in Athens in September 2017 and the second in Cambridge in May 2018. The Athens meeting featured the participation of notable world-class players as well as a scrimmage between a team of refugees on the one side and our historians and the pros on the other. A notable feature of these conferences – and of the upcoming meeting on colonial cities hosted by the Cheikh Anta Diop University in the colonial capital of Saint-Louis,

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Cover: 2017–2018

Fellows Ritesh Jaiswal,
Ablaye Diouf, Christy
Thornton, Justin Jackson,
Quinn Slobodian, and
Shubhankita Ojha. Photo
credit: Kristin Caulfield

Senegal this coming December – was the fact that our calls for papers attracted huge numbers of proposals from all corners of the world. This ensures that our conferences are truly global conversations that feature speakers from all continents and it lets us make good on one of the promises we made when we started WIGH: to provide scholars from all corners of the world a voice in the dynamic and exceedingly important conversations on global history.

The Weatherhead Initiative will mark its seventh anniversary in the coming year. The original directors look back on a rich record of seminars, conferences, and most important, the creation of a lively network of younger and older scholars. We share a motivating vision of studying history as a record of global participation and agency across national and social boundaries and remain committed to continuing this enterprise at a time so many political currents must find its premises unwelcome and threatening.

With best wishes,

Sven Beckert, Sugata Bose, Jean Comaroff, and Charles Maier



This page top: “Charles Murray and the Alt Right as History” panelists **Kirsten Weld** (Harvard), **Adam van Arsdale** (Wellesley), **Quinn Slobodian** (WIGH), **Stuart Schrader** (Warren Center, Harvard), and **Janet Helms** (Boston College).

Bottom: **Jeremi Suri** (University of Texas) speaks on “The Rise and Fall of the American Presidency in Historical Perspective” with commentator **Arne Westad** (Harvard Kennedy School.) Photo credit: *Jessica Barnard.*



Second Global Network Conference Meets in Delhi, India

Empires: Towards a Global History

Top: Group photo of conference presenters.
Photo credit: T.C.A. Achintya
Bottom: Prabhu Mohapatra, Sunil Kumar, and Sven Beckert deliver inaugural remarks. Photo credit: T.C.A. Achintya



Since 2012, the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History has played a key role in creating the world's first network of institutions dedicated to global history. With our partners in Dakar, São Paulo, Amsterdam, Shanghai, and Delhi, we have built a vibrant community stretching across five continents that exchanges PhD students and scholars, and organizes an annual conference on key themes in global history.

Our 2017 conference was dedicated to the global history of empires. Organized and hosted by the History Department at Delhi University under the leadership of Professors **Prabhu Mohapatra** and **Amar Farooqi**, the meeting featured a wide-ranging collection of papers that explored the ways in which imperial interactions stamped the ideological, cultural, and commercial projects of colonial powers and connected the colonized across imperial boundaries and often vast distances. The conference, made possible by generous support from the University of Delhi and the Volkswagen Foundation, began to suggest the outlines of a truly global history of empire.

Attended by 150 scholars from across India and the world, the event opened with remarks from Professors **Sunil Kumar** and Prabhu Mohapatra (University of Delhi) and Professor **Sven Beckert** (Harvard). Their introductory comments posed broad questions about the temporal, spatial, and political priorities of global history as a subfield of historical study and about how global history provides new ways to think about the study of empire.

The three days of thought-provoking presentations by eighteen scholars featured vibrant discussions with a large audience that engaged deeply with the implications of this new work. Panels included "Commodities and Empire;" "Technologies of Empire;" "Peripheries, Frontiers, Crossings;" "Ideas in Movement;" "Dwelling in the Imperial City;" and "Empire and Anti-Colonialism." Professor **Sugata Bose** of Harvard University's keynote presentation "Between Empire and Nations: Changing Meaning of Sovereignty and Borders," was enthusiastically received at the India International Centre where it was followed by a reception for Delhi's community of historians.

The Delhi conference also provided an opportunity to continue discussions initiated at our 2016 network conference in São Paulo, Brazil about approaches to teaching global history that would catalyze dialogues among the wide variety of intellectual traditions worldwide. To be sure, challenges remain. The problem of language restricts the readings that can be assigned, and institutions constrain the way history is taught. Curricular requirements and standardized syllabi, for example, can limit opportunities to implement truly global approaches in the classroom.

In final comments, faculty and students observed the common threads in the papers presented at the Delhi meeting – ways in which commodities, ideas, knowledge, educational and labor systems, architectural forms, and social movements flowed between colonies and imperial centers and across political boundaries. Many participants pointed out that in the present moment of rising nationalism, divisive attitudes, and fear of difference, scholars of global history have an important role in researching and teaching a history that emphasizes connections across national and imperial boundaries. Another point that came up was the necessity of working not just on the forces that produce mobility, but on those that create immobilities as well. In response, it was suggested that global history's ability to identify entanglement and connectivity among distant places and diverse societies could be harnessed to shed light on the structures, technologies, and kinds of relationships that produce both flows and blockages. Meanwhile, as we continue the work of dismantling metanarratives that privilege narrow empire-centric perspectives, we will use the ideas about inter-imperial connections and influences from the colonized world discussed here to expand our vistas.



Global History Seminar

Right photo: Seminar with
John Tutino and **Christy
Thornton**. Photo credit:
Jessica Barnard



As always, the core activity of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History is the annual workshop “Approaches to Global History.” In 2017/18 Professors Sven Beckert and Sugata Bose co-taught 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. Harvard PhD students play a crucial role by delivering formal comments on the papers. In addition, we organize reading sessions in which we discuss core works in global history to refine graduate students’ understandings of the field’s methods, themes, and major cases and debates. In further meetings we guide graduate students’ own first arrays into writing archivally based and methodologically rich and complex papers in global history, many of which form the basis from which dissertations are launched. This year’s program included:

Quinn Slobodian, Visiting Fellow, WIGH; ACLS Burkhardt Fellow; Associate Professor, Department of History, Wellesley College
“The Road to the Alt Right: How Race and Culture Split the Neoliberal Movement”
Commentators: **Charles S. Maier**, Harvard University; **Marino Felipe Auffant**, PhD Candidate in History

Justin Jackson, Visiting Fellow, WIGH; Assistant Professor of History, Bard College at Simon’s Rock
“Introduction: The Imperial Politics of Everyday Sovereignty”
Commentators: **Omar Gueye**, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal; **David Sadighian**, PhD Candidate in History of Art and Architecture

Christy Thornton, Assistant Research Professor, Johns Hopkins University; Fellow, WIGH
“A Mexican International Economic Order: Tracing the Hidden Roots of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States”
Commentators: **Arne Westad**, Harvard University; **Angelica Marquez-Osuna**, PhD Candidate in the History of Science

Julia Stephens, Assistant Professor of History, Rutgers University
“Governing Islam: Law and Ritual in Imperial Contexts”
Commentators: **Cemal Kafadar**, Harvard University; **Mitchell Bacci**, PhD Candidate, History and Middle Eastern Studies

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”

Commentators: **Alex Keyssar**, Harvard Kennedy School; **Quinn Slobodian**, Wellesley College

Tariq Omar Ali, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois 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**, Harvard University
Graduate Student Commentator: **Mou Banerjee**, PhD Candidate in History

Judith Froehlich, Lecturer, University of Zurich, Switzerland; Thyssen Postdoctoral Fellow, WIGH
“A History of Opium in Japan, 1800s–1930s”
Commentators: **Andrew Gordon**, Harvard University; **Jesus Solis**, PhD Candidate in History

John Tutino, Professor of History and International Affairs; Director, Americas Initiative, Georgetown University
“The Americas and the First Global Capitalism: Power Integrating Diversity, 1500–1810”
Commentator: **Christy Thornton**, Johns Hopkins; Fellow, WIGH; **David Sadighian**, PhD Candidate in History of Art and Architecture

Mae Ngai, Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History, Columbia University
“The Chinese Question in Late-Nineteenth Century Global Politics”
Commentators: **Erez Manela**, Harvard University; **Bohau Wu**, PhD Candidate in History

Interview: Julia McClure and the Poverty Research Network

What is your background and your field of research?

I am interested in the global history of poverty, charity, and inequality, specializing in the Americas and the Atlantic World. I am currently working on my second monograph, *The Poor Atlantic: Poverty and Charity in the Making of the Spanish Empire*, which explores how empires made poverty and how poverty made empires. For me, poverty is not only an economic condition, but a set of social relations with cultural meanings. I came to my interests in the global history of poverty through my early work on the Franciscan Order, a mendicant religious movement of people who renounced their possessions and travelled the world. They became the first global religious order, but following their ideology of poverty, they nominally opposed the materials and processes we normally see as the driving forces of global connections, namely money and markets. My first book, *The Franciscan Invention of the New World*, explored the Franciscans' attempt to translate their local conception of poverty into a global project. This led to my current project, which looks more broadly at the role of poverty in the making of the modern world.

How did your time at WIGH influence your current work?

WIGH gave me the essential training and ambition I needed to develop my career as a global historian. It encouraged me to develop macro-analysis through the rigors of archival research. WIGH developed the model of "doing global history globally," and this brought me into contact with a great team of scholars from around the world. My colleagues at WIGH became members of the Poverty Research Network I established, and they have helped me organize workshops around the world to explore local visions of global poverty. Local and global histories meet at the site of poverty. The global history of poverty and the Poverty Research Network examine the productions and re-productions of asymmetries of power and resources through analysis of the micro-experiences of poverty as well as the macro-processes through which they are governed. Global history also brings into focus the fragility of the human condition and our interdependencies not only with each other, but our environment. This acknowledgement of our entangled interdependencies promotes a discussion of global politics that challenges the neoliberal agenda that has sought change through the empowerment of autonomous individuals. By emphasizing the interconnectedness of our social relations and the importance of our natural environment, the global history of poverty could help us create a less impoverished future.

You recently organized a round table on inequality and poverty as the future of global history. What are some key insights that surfaced out of that discussion?

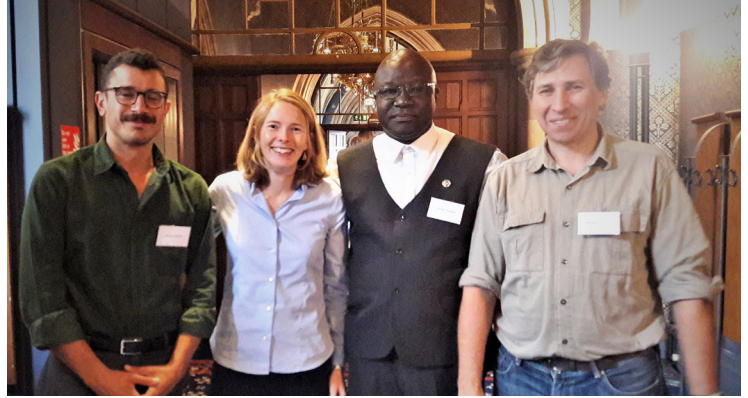
The round table took place in conjunction with my poverty research network workshop "Beyond Development: The Local Visions of Global Poverty," an international project that focused on poverty, its immobilities and mobilities, and that used poverty as a framework to understand the global. At the round table, we discussed the ways that the inequalities that shape global history relate to power, wealth, and knowledge. Global history involves a repositioning of perspective, and the global history of poverty has the potential to reorient perspectives still further by questioning both the categories and value systems we use and how they were produced. Focusing on inequalities also highlights the need to understand our dependencies, which draws us more deeply into the logic of social bond formations and more broadly into our natural environment.

We also discussed methodological questions, including what a global history from below might look like and how it might redraw the boundaries and coordinates that govern the ways we conceptualise the globe as a unit of analysis. We will shortly publish a report of this round-table discussion in the *Journal of Indian Ocean Studies*.

What do you have in the works? How do you hope to shape the direction and priorities of the study of global history?

Poverty Research Network members have committed to expanding the network and its research agenda of global poverty studies in their localities around the world. Members in Brazil, Senegal, Mexico, and the Indian Ocean world will continue to develop our international and interdisciplinary collaborations, our understandings of local meanings and experiences of poverty, and how these shape and are shaped by global processes. We are in the process of organizing future events in each of these locations.

Each of the Poverty Research Network's global partners have incorporated activists along with academics, in order to think about the question of how history can be used as a tool of social justice. We are working with our grassroots partners to co-produce the histories of community action groups and solidarity networks as a new methodology for producing global history from the bottom up.



Julia McClure was a WIGH Fellow in 2013-2014 and is now Lecturer in Late Medieval and Early Modern History at University of Glasgow. The Poverty Research Network is based at the University of Glasgow and aims to bring together different scholars working on poverty and social justice. Its members examine the politics of poverty at both the global and the local levels and interrogate some of the paradigms of globalization. Julia's cohort of WIGH Fellows are involved in the network. Pictured above: Steven Serels (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg), Julia McClure, Omar Gueye (Université Cheikh Anta Diop University Senegal), and Norberto Ferraras (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil).

Two Conferences on the Global History of Soccer Launch Global Sports Initiative

Top: **Dario Brentin** (University of Graz, Austria) presents at Conference Panel 1 on Citizenship and Belonging. The other panelists left to right were **Daren Graves** (Simmons College), **Mike Hopps** (Development Services Group), and **Gijsbert Oonk** (Erasmus University, the Netherlands). Photo credit: *Jessica Barnard*

Bottom: The conference ended with a friendly scrimmage between an Olympiacos-sponsored team of refugees (blue) versus a motley assortment of academics and former professional players (stripes). Despite the efforts of Sven Beckert, Steve Ortega, and the rest of the team, the blue team won a decisive victory. Photo credit: *Olympiacos FC*

As readers of this newsletter will remember, in 2016 WIGH launched a conference series dedicated to exploring the history of the world's most popular sport—soccer. Last year, we organized two more meetings on this endlessly fascinating subject, and then we announced a new WIGH research initiative—The Global History of Sports Initiative, chaired by Professor **Stephen Ortega**.

We convened in Athens, Greece in September 2017 for “Reinforcing, Crossing, and Transcending Borders: Soccer in a Globalized World,” organized in partnership with Olympiacos FC of the Greek city of Piraeus and Simmons College of Boston.

Recognizing the importance of borders and border crossings to soccer’s growth and the way it relates to cultural, economic, political and social issues, the conference examined how borders, boundaries and international movement have influenced the sport’s development. We discussed topics such as community-building through fandom, looking at, for example, the organizing efforts of members of the Turkish diaspora in Berlin, where Besiktas fans have created a vibrant, diverse community. Other papers looked at the complexities of players as international laborers, including the history of exploiting young African players hoping to play abroad, and extended Brazilian families who pooled their resources to give the youngest child the opportunity to play professionally. The conference focused on these issues to better understand how soccer’s institutional framework, governing practices, and international reach have facilitated border crossings, reified boundaries, and created global spaces.

A panel of former players, including **Temryss Lane**, **Lilian Thuram**, **Christian Karembeu**, and **Nikopolidis Antonis** discussed soccer’s role in transcending borders. Thuram observed that “skin is a border that limits many individuals.”

A keynote talk by former U.S. Senator **George Mitchell** at the Acropolis Museum was a highlight of the three days. In a stunning setting overlooking the Parthenon, Senator Mitchell shared his inspiring life story as well as his support for broadening sports participation.

The Athens Principles, which ask sports organizations around the world to guarantee that as many people as possible are allowed to participate in the sports and games that they love, were introduced by **Horst Hannum** and **Amanda de Toro Alimoda** and signed by Olympiacos FC President **Evangelos Marinakis**.





Top: Keynote speaker **Josep Maria Bartomeu**, President of FC Barcelona, is introduced by conference co-convenor **Stephen Ortega**. Mr. Bartomeu gave a moving keynote on Barcelona's commitment to inclusion. Photo credit: Rose Lincoln.

Bottom: **Leeanne Doherty** (Simmons College) chaired a roundtable discussion on Inclusion and Exclusion with **Susie DeLellis Petrucci** (Warrior Women Project), **Kely Nascimento-DeLuca** (Warrior Women Project), **Maya Mendoza-Exstrom** (Seattle Sounders), and **Samantha Harvey** (Boise State). Photo credit: Daren Graves.

Participation, Inclusion, and Social Responsibility in Global Sports

The third and final soccer conference "Participation, Inclusion, and Social Responsibility in Global Sports" convened at Harvard May 31-June 2, 2018, to coincide with the lead up to the World Cup in Russia. Focusing on participation and inclusion in global sports from a historical perspective, the conference looked to better understand who gets included in sports and who does not. Our scope expanded beyond soccer/football into a range of sports and included lively discussions about what is currently being done to address these inequalities.

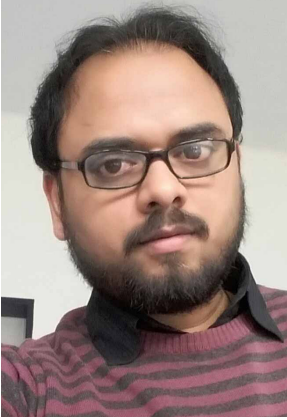
The conference opened with a screening of **Adam Sobel's** documentary "The Workers Cup: Inside the Labor Camps of Qatar, A Tournament for Workers."

The conference was organized into four sessions on race, gender, immigration, and social responsibility in global sports. Each session featured a panel of leading scholars on sports' relationship to economics, history, social structures, and the fabric of global life. These panels were then followed by a roundtable of practitioners discussing the same topic, including former soccer stars **Lilian Thuram**, **Christian Karembeu**, and **Emilio Butragueño**, and representatives from an international roster of teams and clubs including the Boston Red Sox Foundation, FC Barcelona, UEFA, and the Seattle Sounders Foundation, of the women's soccer team by the same name. Nonprofits like the Right to Dream Academy and writers and filmmakers also featured on panels. This unique format created a conversation between a variety of stakeholders who rarely have the chance to speak to each other.

A book that will include papers from all three conferences is forthcoming.



Fellows Interviews: Ritesh Jaiswal



Ritesh Jaiswal is a Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship and a PhD Candidate in History at University of Delhi, India. His research interests include history of South and Southeast Asian migration in global perspective; labour history; and Kangani and Maistry systems of migration.

What is your background, and how did you come to WIGH?

I completed my Undergraduate, and M.Phil degree in History at the University of Delhi. Currently, I'm a Doctoral candidate in the Department of History there. I was selected for the 2017-18 Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Fellowship, which allowed me to come to the Weatherhead Initiative at Harvard University as a Doctoral Fellow.

What is your project, and how does it pertain to global history? How does a global lens affect your argument or what are the advantages of this particular approach?

My project, "Aspects of Indian Labor Migration to Ceylon, Malaya and Burma: A Study of the Kangany and Maistry System (c. 1880-1940)," uses the global paradigm in three ways: 1) In exploring the key facets that circumscribed the migrant labor regime (i.e. mediations, formal/informal regulations, advances and contracts), the work creates a comparative performative index that relates the Kangany and Maistry systems to other prominent world migration systems; 2) The work interrogates interactions and interconnectedness among the colonies across the Indian Ocean's Bay of Bengal rim and the trans-Atlantic economies by analyzing the effects of twentieth-century political and economic upheavals on migrants, materials, and mobility; 3) The research also attempts to challenge and complicate Eurocentric perceptions of non-European migration within the framework of global migration studies. The global approach helps make connections and comparisons across world migration systems. It allows me to contextualize immigration laws of various nation-states to better understand their ethnographic compositions, racial and religious politics, cultural diversity, and socio-economic divisions.

Global history has become increasingly popular in recent years—did you always consider yourself a global historian? If not, when did you come to see yourself as one?

Thanks to my supervisor Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra, I was familiar with the work of Sven Beckert, Charles Maier, Sebastian Conrad, Marcel van der Linden, Alessandro Stanziani, and Dominic Sachsenmaier, among others who use a global history approach. But it was the WIGH-organized Global History Workshop at São Paulo in March 2016 that brought me closer to Global History. There I heard many of these historians speak and had the opportunity to present my work to them. After the workshop, the cohort of doctoral and post-doctoral scholars from Harvard, USP and University of Delhi who had met at São Paulo initiated a Skype book club. We wanted to critically engage with works that made crucial contributions to global history and to understand the strengths and limitations of this approach. As one of the organizers, I felt it was an exemplary demonstration of a key tenet of global history's emphasis on the many possible interconnections of time, space, and people.

How has your time at Harvard influenced your project?

I had an enthralling time at Harvard, both professionally and personally. The biweekly "Approaches to Global History" seminar led by Professors Sven Beckert and Sugata Bose was exuberant, edifying and informative. It introduced me to the history of times, spaces, events and communities of which I knew little, and broadened my understanding of global connections and comparisons. Moreover, I was amazed by scope of Harvard's libraries: it was easy to get hold of rare texts I needed for my research that I hadn't been able to locate elsewhere. I was also lucky to have the chance to present my research to the scholars and professors at Harvard as well as other U.S. universities. It introduced me to scholars with expertise in my area of research and those from other field interested in my project. I also cherished the formal and informal interactions with the co-fellows at WIGH. Being a Fulbright scholar at Harvard was the icing on the cake, as it gave me a network of friends from all around the globe. In interacting with the Fellow Fulbrighters at our monthly meetings, I learned about different cultures and practices, national and global political-economic concerns and developments. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed my time here, and I feel more confident, optimistic, and bolder as both an individual and an academic.

Christy Thornton

What is your background and your field of research?

I am a Latin Americanist by training, and though I hold a PhD in history from NYU, I have an interdisciplinary background: my BA is in political science, and my Master's degree is in international affairs. I also spent considerable time outside the academy: before coming back to graduate school, I was the Executive Director at the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), a 50-year-old research and advocacy group that works on U.S. relations with the region. It was while working at NACLA that I met the faculty at NYU, great historians like Greg Grandin, Barbara Weinstein, and Sinclair Thomson who convinced me that history could be a good fit for my interests. So I brought my concerns with international development and global political economy to the study of history.

The book I'm writing now, *Revolution in Development: Mexico and the Governance of the Global Economy*, grows out of my interest in the role of actors from the Global South in the history of international development. When I started my research, I was intrigued to learn that Mexico had played a leadership role at the Bretton Woods conference—which famously created the World Bank and IMF. I wanted to figure out how a country like Mexico ended up at the head of the table at which the plans for the post-war international economy were drawn up. I discovered a consistent pattern of Mexican intervention in the international organizations where diplomats, economists, and politicians sought to reform the infrastructure of the international economy to make it fairer for poorer countries. Over a period of more than a half-century, Mexican state representatives fought repeatedly to distribute the returns from global capitalist development more equitably. The book demonstrates how Mexican representatives and others from the Global South worked to set an agenda for international development well before what we conventionally consider the post-war "birth" of development.

Although you are trained as a historian, you have accepted a position in the Sociology Department at Johns Hopkins. How do you think an interdisciplinary approach can illuminate the study of global history?

Historical sociologists look to the past to discern patterns in social behavior that can tell us something about causes and consequences. Sociologists often look to build theories about why and how things happen, and I think those theories can be very illuminating for the study of global history, as that approach necessitates understanding things in comparative and connected perspectives and uses theory to shape the drawing of those comparisons and connections. In most history—but perhaps even more so in global history—how we understand causality, chronology, and context are deeply influenced by theoretical frameworks (even if historians sometimes leave them off the page). I always go back to the famous debate between Immanuel Wallerstein and Steve Stern about how to understand colonial Latin America's place in the development of global capitalism. We need both their perspectives—the focus on deep local specificities and on broad, generalized patterns—to make sense of why capitalism developed the way it did in Latin America. And because social scientists frequently rely on the work of historians to construct their data about the past, new historical scholarship that brings more diverse actors into stories of global connections, highlighting the contributions of people from the Global South, for example, will provide important new data and new kinds of connections for social scientific studies.

How has your time at Harvard influenced your project?

My year at Harvard was so important for my work—not least because of the incredible resources at Harvard. During my first week on campus, for example, I found the undergraduate thesis of a former Mexican president in the library catalog, and I went on to find dozens of rare Mexican primary sources. But even more important was the fact that opportunities for engagement across geographic subfields are surprisingly rare: as a Latin Americanist, I find myself most frequently talking to other Latin Americanists, left to wonder how the phenomena I'm studying have played out in—and might have connections to—other parts of the world. The Global History Seminar provided an incredible venue for this kind of cross-regional thinking, bringing together scholars who work on places all over the world and come from all over the world. Breaking out of our geographic silos allows us to see precisely the kinds of patterns and connections that make the interdisciplinary study of global phenomena so exciting. (Continued on page 10)

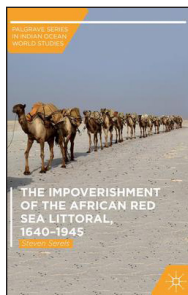


Christy Thornton is the 2017-2018 Postdoctoral Fellow at WIGH. She will join the faculty of Johns Hopkins as Assistant Professor of Sociology and serve as core faculty member for the Latin America in a Globalizing World Initiative.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY WIGH AFFILIATES

The Impoverishment of the African Red Sea Littoral, 1640-1945

by Steven Serels



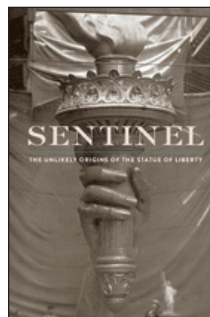
The African Red Sea Littoral, currently divided between Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, is one of the world's poorest regions. But the pastoralist communities indigenous to this region were not always poor—at times

they had access to a variety of resources that allowed them to prosper in the harsh, arid environment, an access mediated by a robust moral economy of pastoralism that acted as a social safety net. Steven Serels charts the erosion of this moral economy, a long process that began during the Little Ice Age mega-drought of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and continued through the devastating famines of the twentieth century. By examining the mass movement from nomadism to a settler culture after the Second World War as merely the latest manifestation of an inter-generational environmental and economic crisis, this book offers an innovative lens for understanding poverty in northeastern Africa. (Palgrave Macmillan 2018)

Steven Serels was a WIGH Fellow in 2014. He is Research Officer at the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien (ZIRS) at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

Sentinel: The Unlikely Origins of the Statue of Liberty

by Francesca Lidia Viano



Our protagonists are the French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and his collaborator, politician and intellectual Édouard de Laboulaye. Viano draws on an impressively wide

range of sources to follow the pair across a global stage dominated by imperial rivalry and ideological ferment. The tale stretches from the cobblestones of northeastern France through the halls of international exhibitions in London and Paris, to the copper mines of Norway and Chile, the battlegrounds of the Franco-Prussian War, the deserts of Egypt, and the streets of New York. It features profound technical challenges, hot air balloon rides, secret séances, and grand visions for Franco-American partnership in the coming world order. As Viano shows, the irrepressible collaborators brought high ideals of liberalism and republicanism to their project, along with crude calculations of national advantage and eccentric and orientalist notions adopted from freemasonry and Saint-Simonianism. (Harvard University Press, 2018)

Francesca Lidia Viano is a 2017-2018 Fellow at WIGH.

Una storia di confine: Frontiere e lavoratori migranti tra Messico e Stati Uniti (1836-1964)

By Claudia Bernardi



Una storia di confine tells the story of the border space between Mexico and the United States by focusing on the braceros, Mexican migrant workers. They are the protagonist not only of the turbulent

migrations to the north and the deportations south of the border, but the workforce and mobility management program known as Programa Bracero. He is simultaneously a symbol of modernization and the object of discrimination. A racialized and low-cost temporary worker who is almost devoid of rights, the bracero, as Bernardi shows here, is not just a victim but can, at times, escape from the regimes of work and mobility that have generated and transformed the border spaces. (Carocci editore, 2018)

Claudia Bernardi was a WIGH Fellow in 2015. She is a researcher and lecturer on 20th century Latin America at the University of Roma Tre, Italy where she is currently at work on a textbook on global history that will be published in many European countries.

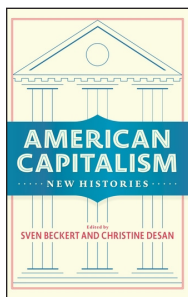
Christy Thornton (continued)

You are currently starting an initiative on 'Latin America in a Globalizing World' at Johns Hopkins. What are some of the goals for this new initiative?

In many ways, this initiative, funded by a Dean's Interdisciplinary Project Grant at Johns Hopkins, seeks to promote the same kind of cross-regional conversation that the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History does—and the rationale for it draws directly on my time at Harvard. I'm working with other Hopkins junior faculty in history, anthropology, and German and Romance languages to help build connections between Latin American studies and scholars working on other regions. We're hoping to get people who might not otherwise talk to each other into the room—linking a historian working on neoliberalism in the U.S. with an expert in Latin American political economy, or a sociologist studying dispossession in India with an anthropologist working on agricultural change in Brazil. We're hoping to overcome disciplinary, chronological, and geographic divides to better understand how Latin America has fit into and influenced global patterns over time.

American Capitalism: New Histories

Edited by Sven Beckert and Christine Desan



The United States has long been seen as the epitome of a capitalist country, but a deep understanding of the history of American capitalism is as elusive as it is urgent. What does it mean to make capitalism a subject of historical in-

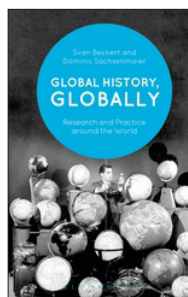
quiry? What is its potential across multiple disciplines, alongside different methodologies, and in a range of geographic and chronological settings? And how does a focus on capitalism change our understanding of American history?

American Capitalism offers broad-minded, rigorous essays from prominent scholars that provide new angles on, among other topics, finance, debt, and credit; women's rights; slavery and political economy; the racialization of capitalism; labor beyond industrial wage workers; and the production of knowledge, including the idea of the economy. Read together, the essays suggest emerging themes in the field: a fascination with capitalism's political authority, the ways capitalism is claimed and contested by participants, and how it spreads across the globe. The book demonstrates the breadth and scope of the work that the history of capitalism can provoke. (Columbia University Press, 2018)

Sven Beckert is Laird Bell Professor of History, Harvard University, and co-chair of WIGH. Christine Desan is Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School.

Global History, Globally

Edited by Sven Beckert and Dominic Sachsenmaier



In recent years, historians in many different parts of the world have sought to make their perspectives on the past more transnational and globalized. Despite these efforts to gain new global historical visions, however, the de-

bates in this historical movement tended to remain rather provincial. Global History, Globally addresses this lacuna by surveying the state of global history across a range of locations.

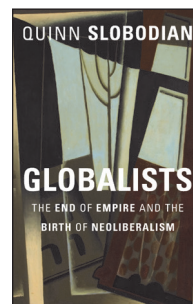
Divided into three distinct but interwoven sections, the articles provide regional surveys of the practice of global history, review some of the research in four core areas of the field, and consider a number of problems that global historians have contended with in their work. The authors hail from around the world and are themselves leading global historians. Collectively, they provide an unprecedented survey of one of the most dynamic fields in the discipline.

As one of the first books to discuss the international dimensions of global historical scholarship and the wealth of questions practitioners face, this is an important book for students and scholars of global history. (Bloomsbury, 2018)

Sven Beckert is Laird Bell Professor of History, Harvard University, and co-chair of WIGH. Dominic Sachsenmaier is Professor of Modern China at Georg-August-University Göttingen, Germany

Globalists: The End of Empire and the Birth of Neoliberalism

By Quinn Slobodian



Neoliberals hate the state. Or do they? In the first intellectual history of neoliberal globalism, Quinn Slobodian follows a group of thinkers from the ashes of the Habsburg Empire to the creation of the World Trade Organization to show

that neoliberalism emerged less to shrink government and abolish regulations than to redeploy them at a global level.

Slobodian begins in Austria in the 1920s. Empires were dissolving and nationalism, socialism, and democratic self-determination threatened the stability of the global capitalist system. In response, Austrian intellectuals called for a new way of organizing the world. But they and their academic and governmental successors, from famous economists like Friedrich Hayek and Ludwig von Mises to influential but lesser-known figures such as Wilhelm Röpke and Michael Heilperin, did not propose a laissez-faire regime. Instead they used states and global institutions—the League of Nations, the European Court of Justice, the World Trade Organization, and international investment law—to insulate the markets against sovereign states, political change, and demands for greater equality and social justice.

Far from discarding the regulatory state, neoliberals wanted to harness it to their grand project of protecting capitalism on a global scale. It was a project, Slobodian shows, that changed the world, but that was also undermined time and again by the inequality, relentless change, and social injustice that accompanied it. (Harvard University Press, 2018)

Quinn Slobodian is a Visiting Fellow, WIGH; ACLS Burkhardt Fellow; and Associate Professor, Department of History, Wellesley College.

COMMUNITY NEWS

A warm congratulations to our co-chair **Charles S. Maier** on receiving an honorary degree in European Studies from the Università di Padova, Italy, in January 2018. We agree with the university's statement that "Charles S. Maier si conferma eccezionale maestro del delicato strumento della comparazione storica, offrendo ai più giovani un grande esempio di creatività interpretativa e rigore metodologico," or, "Charles S. Maier has demonstrated that he is an exceptional master of the demanding instrument of comparative history, offering young scholars a great example of interpretive creativity and methodological rigor."

Our colleague at the Global History Initiative at Queen's University, **Amitava Chowdhury**, along with his co-editor **Donald Harmen Akenson**, was awarded the 2017 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title recognition for *Between Dispersion and Belonging: Global Approaches to Diaspora in Practice* (McGill-Queen's University Press). Amitava was a WIGH Fellow in 2014.

Grad student affiliate and integral member of our community **Lydia Walker** will be a 2018-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College. She will then move to University of London as a Past & Present Fellow, Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study. Her article "Decolonization in the 1960s: On Legitimate and Illegitimate Nationalist Claims-making" is forthcoming in *Past & Present* in February 2019.

Mou Banerjee, course coordinator of the Global History seminar this past year, will join the History Department at Clemson University, SC, as an assistant professor. Mou received her PhD from Harvard in May 2018 and received the Harold K Gross Dissertation Prize, given to the student whose dissertation shows the greatest promise of a distinguished career of historical research.

Former Global Fellow **Shaun Nichols** will be Assistant Professor of History at Boise State University, starting this fall.

Ruodi Duan will be the first WIGH Global Fellow to spend a semester at East China Normal University. Ruodi is a PhD Candidate in History, and her research focuses on the various strands of Third World, Pan-Africanist, and Afro-Asian ideas and movements that took shape during the Cold War.

Samantha Payne will be a WIGH Global Fellow at the University of Sao Paulo in the spring of 2019. Samantha is a PhD Candidate in History, and her research focuses on post-emancipation labor regimes in the United States, Cuba and Brazil.

For the latest WIGH news, follow us on Twitter!
@GlobHistHarvard

NEW AFFILIATES FOR 2018-2019



EDWIN F. ACKERMAN

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



FELIPE ALFONSO

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



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; regional history.



MICHAEL HOMBERG

Visiting Fellow. Research Fellow, UC Berkeley. History of working migration and "innovation cultures" in the early computer industries in Europe, the United States and India, 1960s to 1990s.



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; race and citizenship in the emancipation process.



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; the Dutch East India Company.



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; governance.



STEPHEN ORTEGA

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