



WEATHERHEAD INITIATIVE ON GLOBAL HISTORY

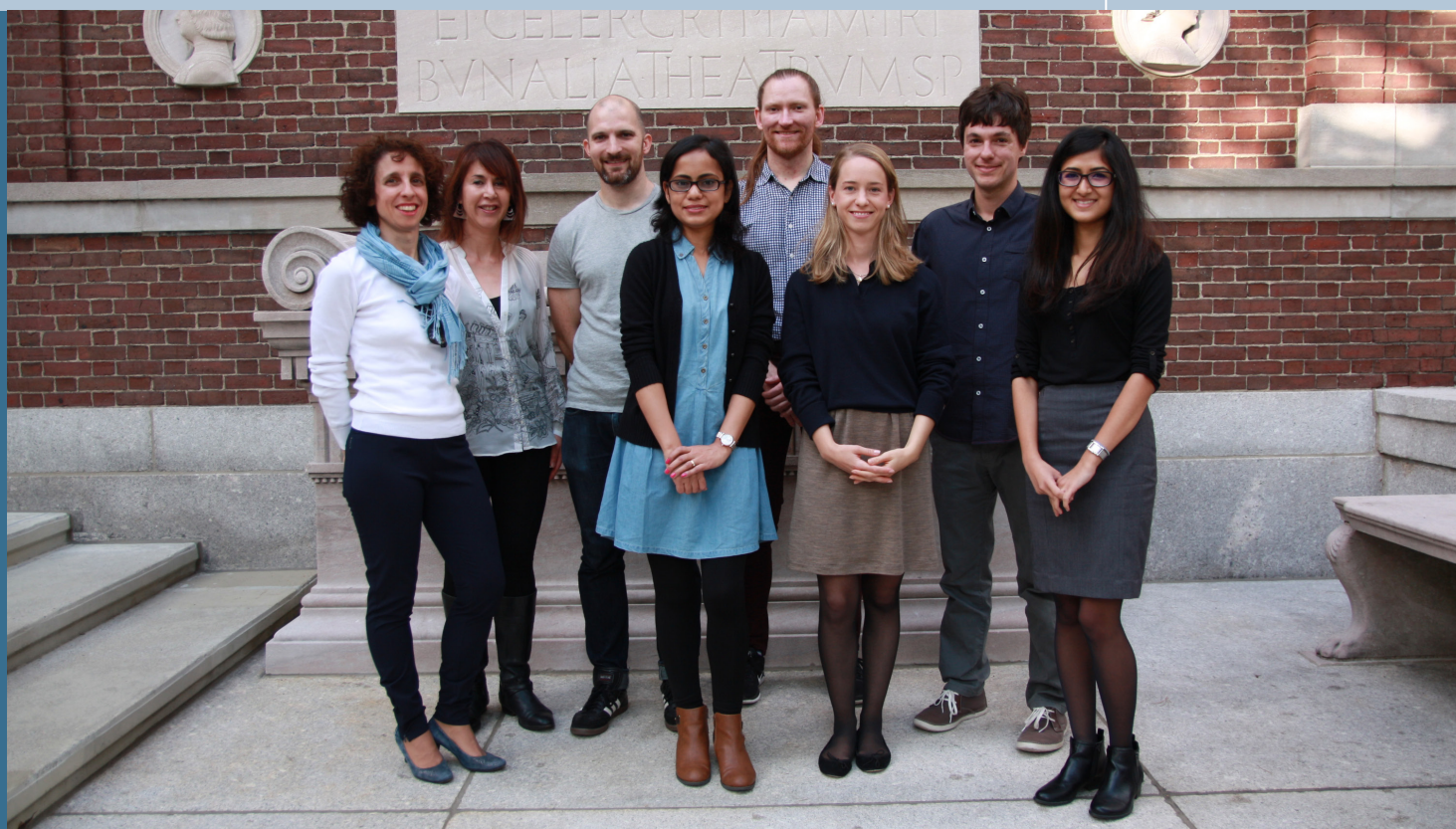
WIGH | A Weatherhead Research Cluster on Global Transformations

WIGH IN REVIEW

Volume 2
Fall 2017

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

HARVARD UNIVERSITY



MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

We are happy to provide you our annual report, which reviews our manifold activities on global history during the past academic year and provides a preview of the exciting program of seminars, conferences, and fellowship competitions that we have organized for 2017/18.

WIGH has continued to play an important role in establishing a vibrant and rapidly growing community of global history scholars here at Harvard, and in building connections with partner organizations on all continents. The past year was one of expansion. Most importantly, our group of co-chairs has grown with the addition of two colleagues: **Jean Comaroff**, Alfred North Whitehead Professor of African and African American Studies and of Anthropology and Oppenheimer Fellow in African Studies; and **Sugata Bose**, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs. Both have played an active and enthusiastic role on our steering committee since the inception of WIGH and bring interdisciplinary approaches to the study of vast areas of the world that are central to many conversations on global history. Sugata Bose also joined **Charles Maier** in co-teaching the graduate seminar in global history during this past year while Sven Beckert was on sabbatical. This coming year, he will co-teach it together with Beckert, while Maier is on leave and working at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin.

The second change is an administrative one. Within the overarching structure of the Weatherhead Center, the WIGH has been designated by its director, **Michèle Lamont**, as one of three research

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Top Right: Norberto Ferreras, Jessica Barnard, and Tamis Parron at the WIGH offices. *Photo credit: Shubhankita Ojha*
Bottom Right: Ben Goossen and Charles Maier. *Photo credit: Jessica Barnard*
Cover: 2016–2017 Fellows Sara Lorenzini, Liliana Obregon, Casey Primel, Shubhankita Ojha, Sebastian Conrad, Mareike Bues, Tamis Parron, and Shubhankita Ojha. *Photo credit: Kristin Caulfield*

clusters, the Weatherhead Cluster in Global Transformation. As a research cluster, we will be presenting one of the director's seminars, and our fellows are slated to take part in the other seminars that link the scholars and researchers of the WCFIA community. Our own disciplinary mission remains the same—to study, research, and explain the great currents of change that global societies have undergone collectively and individually—whether in terms of economic regimes (including the organization of labor, networks of credit and debt, control of capital and markets) or collective demography and migration, political ideas and institutions, or legal and cultural systems. Global history implies entanglement; developments in one group of societies ramify across geographical regions; adequate explanation of the local requires taking account of impulses from far beyond the borders of given national states. As historians we track these impulses over significant periods of time, convinced that only by following their causal unfolding can we fully comprehend complex change. Our own particular starting premise remains the conviction that such historical investigation cannot privilege the perspectives of the “center” over the “periphery,” or Europe and North America over the so-called global South. We do not want to reproduce in our analyses the hierarchies and perspectives of empire: although vast inequalities have characterized societies and peoples, their historical experience and perceptions claim equal recognition and voice.

We have now said good bye to another extraordinary cohort of fellows who were with us during 2016-17. These exchanges benefited from our network of allied global history centers in São Paulo, Delhi, Dakar, Shanghai and Amsterdam as well as the competitions for affiliation that we could run. We are just as delighted to welcome a new cohort of fellows, whom we will introduce at greater length in this newsletter on page 12. They will join our seminar on Global History, which promises an exciting array of papers, and lively discussions.

This year we are also looking forward to two large international conferences. In September we met in Athens, Greece for “Reinforcing, Crossing, and Transcending Borders: Soccer in a Globalized World,” a continuation of our global history of soccer project under the leadership of **Stephen Ortega** and **Cemal Kafadar**. In December our network partners in Delhi will host “Empires: Towards a Global History.”

We can only engage in these activities thanks to the generosity of our supporters, and we want to thank especially the Volkswagen Foundation, and our anonymous donors.

Looking forward to seeing you at many of our events.

Sven Beckert, Sugata Bose, Jean Comaroff, Charles Maier

Community News

Volkswagen Global Fellow **Tâmis Parron** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History at Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil. He will join 2013–2014 Fellow **Norberto Ferreras**, who is now chair of the History Department. Tâmis also received the 2016 Capes Thesis Award in History for his dissertation “The Politics of Slavery in the Age of Freedom: United States, Brazil and Cuba, 1787–1846.” The award is given each year to the most outstanding History PhD dissertation in all of Brazil.

Fellow **Sebastian Schmidt** received a postdoctoral fellowship in Architecture and the Humanities at Rice University, where he will be affiliated with the School of Architecture and the Art History Department.

Volkswagen Fellow **Casey Primel** is completing his book on the impact of the British on cultivation and credit networks in Egypt.

Sven Beckert's *Empire of Cotton* was awarded won the Chandler Book Award in Business History. The Chandler Award is given once every three years to the best work in the field of business history published in the United States. It also won the Cherasco Prize for best history book published in Italy in 2016. *Empire of Cotton* has continued to win praise since publication, including recently from former President Bill Clinton and Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk.

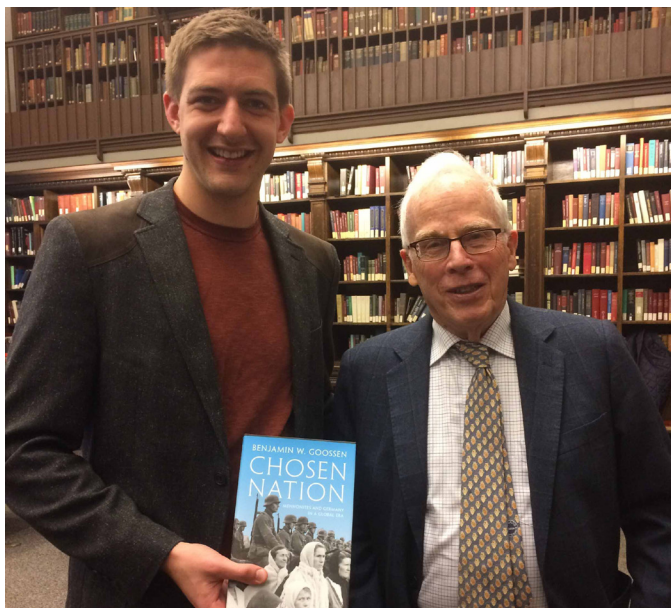
Before returning to her native Italy, WIGH Fellow **Sara Lorenzini** completed the first draft of the English version of her book *A Global History of Development: A Cold War Project that Still Governs the World*.

Global History graduate student and former course coordinator **Joan Chaker** welcomed baby girl Dunya in January. Congratulations to Joan and her husband.

Congratulations to WIGH co-chair **Charles Maier** on his summer wedding to **Anne Sa'adah**.

WIGH graduate student **Aden Knaap** was named Executive Director of the Toynbee Prize Foundation and will assist them with their mission of promoting scholarly engagement with global history.

Global Fellow **Heena B. Mistry** from Queen's University won a Canada Graduate Scholarships Michael Smith Foreign Study Award, and spent the spring semester traveling and doing research in India.



Global History graduate student **Benjamin Goossen** published his first book in May 2017, *Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era*. Ben did much of the research for his book as a graduate student in the 2015–2016 Global History seminar. The book was launched with a reading at the Harvard Book Store, followed by a reception in Robinson Hall.

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the global Mennonite church developed an uneasy relationship with Germany. Despite the religion's origins in the Swiss and Dutch Reformation, as well as its longstanding pacifism, tens of thousands of members embraced militarist German nationalism. *Chosen Nation* is a sweeping history of this encounter and the debates it sparked among parliaments, dictatorships, and congregations across Eurasia and the Americas.

Global History Seminar

Right photo: Seminar with Timothy Mitchell (Columbia) and E. Roger Owen (Harvard). Photo credit: Kristin Caulfield



The core activity of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History is the annual seminar “Approaches to Global History,” co-taught in 2016-17 by Professors Charles Maier and Sugata Bose. The seminar, which gathers graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty from institutions around the world, aims to place established figures in global history in dialogue with each other and with emerging scholars in the field, transmitting the fruits of past scholarship while paving the way for new insights. “Approaches to Global History” is built around two intertwined elements, the first being a year-long speaker series. Every other week, both invited faculty and a group Global Fellows who spend the year with the Initiative present their works-in-progress, with each student having the opportunity to deliver a formal comment on one of these papers. At the same time, through these meetings and readings discussed in the first two meetings, students and other seminar participants learn and refine their understandings of the methods, themes, and major cases and debates of the field. The students also prepare a research paper, developed in consultation with the course instructors and coordinators, which they have the opportunity to present to the seminar at the end of the spring semester. This year’s faculty presenters and their corresponding commentators were as follows:

Shubhankita Ojha (WIGH Fellow; South Asia Institute Fellow, Harvard University; Department of History, University of Delhi):
“Embracing Waterfronts: Dock Worker Solidarities in International Perspective”

Faculty Commentator: **Sugata Bose**

Graduate-student commentator: **Rudi Batzell**

Sebastian Schmidt (WIGH Fellow: Department of History, Massachusetts Institute of Technology):
“Global History of Global Cities”

Faculty Commentator: **Eve Blau**, Adjunct Professor of the History and Theory of Urban Form and Design, Harvard University

Graduate-student commentator: **Jacob Anbinder**

Liliana Obregón (WIGH Fellow; Faculty of Law, University of the Andes):
“Writing International Legal History: An Overview”

Faculty Commentator: **Samuel Moyn**, Jeremiah Smith, Jr., Professor of Law, Harvard University

Graduate-student commentator: **Aden Knaap**

William C. Kirby (Department of History, Harvard University):
“The World of Universities in the 21st Century: Two Case Studies”

Faculty Commentators: **Charles S. Maier** and **Sugata Bose**

Graduate-student commentator: **Aniket De**

Tâmis Parron (Volkswagen Global Fellow, WIGH; Department of History, University of São Paulo):
“Capitalism and Slavery: The British Empire and the

Suppression of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to Brazil”

Faculty Commentator: **Walter Johnson**, Winthrop Professor of History and Professor of African-American Studies, Harvard University

Graduate-student commentator: **Aniket De**

Casey Primel (Volkswagen Postdoctoral Fellow, WIGH; Department of History, Columbia University):
 “Through a Camera Obscura: Economic Science and the Emergence of the Market in Colonial Egypt”
 Faculty Commentator: **Roger Owen**, A. J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History, Emeritus, Harvard University
 Graduate-student commentator: **Lydia Walker**

Sara Lorenzini (WIGH Fellow; International Studies, University of Trento): “Global Development? Competing Visions of North-South Relations in the 20th Century: The Case of European Development Aid”
 Faculty Commentator: **David Ekbladh**, Associate Professor of History, Tufts University
 Graduate-student commentator: **Jacob Anbinder**

Ilham Khuri-Makdisi (Department of History, Northeastern University): “al Bustani’s Arabic Encyclopedia (1870s-1880s) and the Global Production of Knowledge in the Late Ottoman Levant”
 Faculty Commentator: **Leila Fawaz**, Issam M. Fares Professor of Lebanese and Eastern Mediterranean Studies, Tufts University
 Graduate-student commentator: **Joan Chaker**

Timothy Mitchell (Department of History, Columbia University):
 “Durability: A History of the Future, 1869-1912”
 Faculty Commentator: **Roger Owen**, A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History, Emeritus, Harvard University
 Graduate-student commentator: **Aden Knaap**

Additionally, the following Global Fellows presented their work at seminar lunch meetings:

Heena Mistry (PhD Candidate in History, Queen’s University, Canada)
 “Indian Nationalists and Indians Settlers in the British Empire after the Abolishment of Indenture in 1917”

Finally, the following students presented their research at the end of the seminar:

Jacob Anbinder, “Selling the World: General Motors and the Making of a Global Brand, 1922-1935”
Aniket De, “An Enclosed Empire: Lord Curzon and the Re-configuration of Imperial Borders”
Aden Knaap, “Empire of Law: The New International Law of the World Court”



Above: Dinner following seminar with Timothy Mitchell. Photo credit: Shubhankita Ojha



Center: Tâmis Parron speaks at the WIGH Seminar. Photo credit: Jessica Barnard



Below: Heena Mistry presents her work. Photo credit: Jessica Barnard

Global History Events at Harvard and Beyond

Right: Julia McClure and Norberto Ferraras at the “Poverty, Inequality, and Forced Labour” Workshop in Brazil.

Below: Tommy Jamison, Harvard University, delivers the 2017 CON-IH opening remarks.



Fomer Fellows Come Together with the Poverty Research Network

As 2013–2014 Fellows at WIGH, **Julia McClure** (University of Glasgow), **Norberto Ferreras** (Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil), and **Steven Serels** (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin) hoped to someday mesh their individual projects into a joint undertaking. Working on Franciscans in the early Atlantic world, contemporary global slavery, and food security in the Southern Red Sea region, respectively, they imagined collaborating on a project to study the global history of poverty. Their dream has recently come together in The Poverty Research Network, which aims to bring together different scholars working on the theme of poverty and social justice. The participating partners, including universities from Europe, Asia, Africa, and North America, are concerned with the politics of poverty at both the global and the local level, and interrogating some of the paradigms of globalization. The network provides a forum for inter-disciplinary and global discussions on different approaches to poverty research and connections to current issues. This includes investigating the cultural and historical contexts of attitudes towards poverty, wealth, and charity around the world, and contemporary global debates on inequality and humanitarian strategies.

Dr. McClure says, "WIGH brought together people from different parts of the world with shared interests in the historical formations of global inequalities. This initiated the conversations and connections that facilitated the formation of the Poverty Research Network."

Recently, the Poverty Research Network held their first workshop “Poverty, Inequality, and Forced Labour” for its members, hosted by Norberto Ferreras at Universidade Federal Fluminense. This workshop explored the historic connections between forced labour regimes and poverty and inequality in Brazil. It took a *longue durée* approach, considering the changing attitudes around poverty and labour from the formation of the Iberian empires in the sixteenth century to the present day. It also considered historic fights against poverty and forced labour and contemporary challenges. The Poverty Research Network website is: www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc/research/poverty

Graduate Conference on International and Global History: “Immigration, Migration and Diaspora”



On March 9th and 10th 2017, Harvard hosted the 2017 Graduate Conference on International and Global History. This year's topic was "Immigration, Migration and Diaspora." We received a record number of submissions from every inhabited continent. Through the generosity of the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History and our other backers we were able to fund the travel of twelve exciting, young scholars to Cambridge in order to present their work. Our keynote speaker, **Paul Kramer**, Vanderbilt University, discussed the long history of race and U.S. immigration policy while our plenary—**Emma Teng** (MIT), **Sunil Amrith** (Harvard) and **Genevieve Clutario** (Harvard)—provided a stimulating discussion on human movement across borders and oceans. —*Rephael Stern, conference co-organizer*

Asian Borderlands: A Graduate Student Research Project

WIGH Graduate Student **Aniket De** is one of the organizers of Asian Borderlands, a research colloquium of history graduate students. It meets every spring at a member institution, and organizes forums for intellectual exchange around issues of states and borders in Asia. The participating universities in this network are Harvard University, the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and Cornell University.

The first meeting of this colloquium was hosted at Harvard University on March 24-25, 2017, with WIGH as a co-sponsor and participation by co-chair Sugata Bose. Participants had a broadly historical approach to "borderlands" in terrestrial and maritime Asia. The group was particularly invested in interregional conversations on common thematic interests, beyond given categories of nation-state and area studies (such as "East Asia" or "South Asia"), while being critically attentive to context and local textures. The two days witnessed intimate and vibrant exchanges on several concerns shared across Asia, including ecological and spatial history, political sovereignty, economic and legal history and socio-cultural interconnections.





HARVARD
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
ASIA CENTER

Asian Borderlands

THE FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 25, 2017
1 PM - 6 PM
CGIS-S020
1730 CAMBRIDGE ST
HARVARD UNIVERSITY







Harvard Weatherhead Distinguished Faculty Lectures in Global Affairs



The Harvard Weatherhead Center Distinguished Faculty Lectures in Global Affairs was established and are moderated by **Mazen J. Jaidah** (MPP '96, PhD '08). The lecture series brings distinguished members of Harvard's scholarly community to Qatar to share their research on global affairs with scholars and policymakers. WIGH plays a primary role in inviting speakers for the lecture series.

Above: Mazen J. Jaidah and Michael Sandel in conversation onstage.

In February 2017, **Michael Sandel**, Ann T. and Robert M. Bass Professor of Government, Harvard University, spoke to the group on "What Money Can't Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets."

Previous speakers include **Joseph S. Nye, Jr.**, University Distinguished Service Professor, Harvard Kennedy School.

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Graduate Conference on the History of Capitalism: "Capitalism in the Countryside"

Aaron Bekemeyer, Joan Chaker, Balraj Gill, Samantha Payne and **Rachel Steely**, graduate students in the Department of History, organized the 2017 Graduate Conference on the History of Capitalism with the support of WIGH. This year's theme was "Before the City / Beyond the City: Capitalism in the Countryside," and the conference questioned teleological narratives in which liberal industrialism is the ultimate outcome of capitalist development. Twelve presenters from North and South America and Europe explored questions of race- and class-formation, moral economy, dispossession and repossession, and political-economic imaginaries in a variety of non-urban settings. Professor **Claudio Saunt** of the University of Georgia delivered the keynote address, and the conference concluded with a plenary panel discussion among Professors **Tania Li** of the University of Toronto, **Sarah Phillips** of Boston University, and **Sven Beckert** and **Walter Johnson** of Harvard University.

Fellows Interviews: Shubhankita Ojha



Shubhankita Ojha is WIGH fellow at Harvard University (2016-18) and a 2016-2017 Fellow at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University. She has received her PhD from Department of History, University of Delhi in 2016. Her research interests include labour, maritime history and urban history. She particularly works on Bombay dock labour and is interested in a comparative study of dock workers globally.

What is your background and your field of research?

I was trained in labour history at the University of Delhi. My doctoral research was about the dock workers in Bombay and I focused on the dock labour regime, labour markets, recruitment patterns and how the social space of the city affected dock workers' lives.

Global history is a fairly new field- did you always consider yourself a global historian? If not, when did you come to see yourself as one?

My PhD supervisor at University of Delhi, Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra has been a strong advocate of the global approach to doing labour history. I had been introduced to the field by him through his lectures and other conversations. However, it was the Global History Conference at São Paulo in 2016 that I got to attend which really got me interested in this perspective. Here I met Prof. Sven Beckert whose pioneering work *Empire of Cotton* has itself inspired a lot of us at University of Delhi to constantly broaden the scope of our projects. He was extremely encouraging about adding a global dimension to my work on dock workers. The conference also provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with other researchers from universities within the Global History Network. Listening to so many diverse projects and their perspectives on what global history is and can be, further motivated me to think about connections and comparisons globally.

How has your time at Harvard affected your project? Is there anything you hope to bring back to Delhi, or hope that Harvard will adapt?

My work has really benefitted from my time at Harvard. My interactions here with faculty members and fellow researchers have widened my perspective and added a comparative dimension to my research. It has also helped me understand that global history is not only about connections and about looking for similar processes, though both of that is important. Rather, it encouraged me to appreciate the importance of a comparative frame in which even a local event or process can be analyzed from a global perspective. This is especially important when I try to analyze international solidarities between dock workers.

There is a need for both Delhi University and Harvard to continue such exchanges as it will bring South Asia and researches taking place in universities here further into conversation with one another and with the rest of the world. This would indeed help in building a very rich community of global historians and strengthen the Global History Network.

You are an active participant in a Skype book club between students at University of São Paulo and Delhi University. How do these kinds of international conversations enrich the field of global history?

I thought the book club between University of São Paulo and University of Delhi was a remarkable example of how technology can aid classrooms and intellectual exchanges. It was fascinating how the virtual media connected time, place and people discussing a single text and it was a great demonstration of all the wonderful possibilities the idea of the 'global' carries. I personally believe these virtual exchanges can really motivate students to be inquisitive and be interested in the field. It can provide a constant and continuous exchange of perspectives on global history between different universities even beyond the annual Global History Conference.

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

What is your background and your field of research?

I completed a bachelor's degree in political science at Baylor University and a master's degree in history from Purdue University before coming to Harvard in 2013. It was through my MA coursework that I first encountered recent historiographical angles that invite forms of broad, border-crossing inquiry that I find both intellectually stimulating and exigent in terms of the politics of scholarly praxis. I study the social, economic, and environmental history of commodities, and my dissertation is a history of soy as a global commodity.

Global history is a fairly new field – did you always consider yourself a global historian? If not, when did you come to see yourself as one?

During my MA degree, I worked primarily through a U.S. in the World lens. Much literature in that field does important work examining the development of norms and institutions within an international system of states. Part of what drew me toward global history was my interest in economic phenomena that not only transcend national boundaries, but that comprise an evolving systemic whole. Coursework and interactions with my peers at Harvard initially fed my engagement with the field. The mentorship of my advisor, Professor Sven Beckert, has been invaluable. It was he who encouraged me to spend a semester in Brazil with LabMundi at the University of São Paulo (USP) during 2017, one of the partners in our global history network.

Among the strengths of the field is the fact that the global historian can study the tools of state power, while at the same time nimbly mapping historical change as it unfolds in interactions across local, sub-national, international, and worldwide scales. The nature of my research on soy commodity frontiers has made this flexibility particularly valuable. One could, of course, study the history of soy by examining social change in a highly-textured way on a microscale. Indeed, skilled anthropologists and sociologists have done exactly that. My interest is not simply to expand the geographical scope of analysis, but also to integrate local transformations and experiences in places like the plains of Iowa, Northeast China, the savannahs of the Brazilian cerrado, and the Argentine Pampas as part of broader historical processes, and to show how sites such as these were both transformed by and transformative of those processes. Following soy frontier expansion reveals the multifaceted interconnectedness of these spaces, and shows how relatively local changes in one rural site can set off cascading effects around the globe.

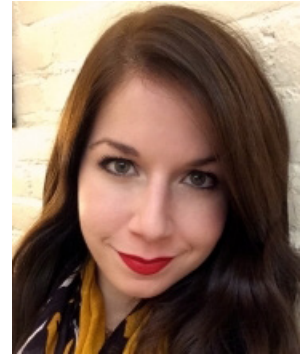
How has your time at USP affected your project?

As a participant in the Weatherhead Initiative on Global History at Harvard, my work already had a global orientation prior to my time in Brazil. The experience of living abroad, conducting archival work in Brazil, and being part of LabMundi meetings at the University of São Paulo gave me opportunities to refine my theoretical lenses, learn about the kinds of projects my peers are undertaking, and engage with mentors at USP like Professor Rafael Marquese.

More concretely, during my time at USP, I also transformed the first chapter of my dissertation on the origins of soy as a global commodity. Initially with a heavy U.S. focus, this piece of the project now locates the early industrialization of soy within its proper context – the global economic disruptions of the mid-to-late-nineteenth century that spurred imperial contests over territory and resources in East Asia. Systemic upheavals brought Chinese merchants and intraregional trade circuits into clashes with European merchants, colonial agents, and invading armies. Throughout, soy cultivation and trade fueled the occupying military forces, sustained settler colonialism, and supported railway imperialism.

How do these international conversations sparked by student exchange enrich the field of global history?

Student exchanges conducted through the Global History Network provide opportunities for interaction that are enriching in and of themselves, that enable participants to tilt their head at research questions in new ways, and that provide launching pads for further inquiry. Through opportunities for research and dialogue, discussion and critique of works in progress, and making new contacts, the Global Fellows program provides space for the kinds of conversations that set in motion further intellectual production. In my case, these discussions have sparked further conversations, for example with agronomists at Brazilian institutions and with historians of China who work at universities on multiple continents. The experience also redirected my research path toward archives in London, and helped me to generate material for a chapter, a draft of which I will present at LabMundi when I return to Brazil later this year.

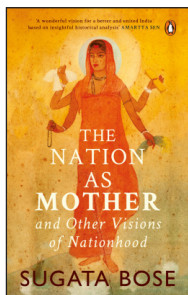


Rachel Steely is a PhD candidate in History at Harvard University. She is currently writing her dissertation on “From Bioprospecting to Biodiesel: Soy Commodity Frontiers in the Twentieth Century.” She was a Global Fellow at Lab-Mundi at the University of São Paulo, Brazil.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY WIGH AFFILIATES

The Nation as Mother And Other Visions of Nationhood

By Sugata Bose



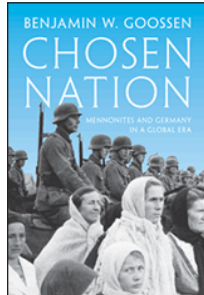
"History matters in contemporary debates on nationalism," Sugata Bose contends in *The Nation as Mother*. In this interconnected set of deeply researched and powerfully argued essays and speeches

Bose explores the relationship between nation, reason and religion in Indian political thought and practice. Offering a subtle interpretation of the ways of imagining the nation as mother, the book illuminates different visions of India as a free and flexible federal union that have acquired renewed salience today. Breaking out of the false dichotomy between secular nationalism and religious communalism, the author provides incisive analyses of the political legacies of Tagore and Gandhi, Nehru and Bose, Aurobindo and Jinnah, and a range of other thinkers and leaders of the anti-colonial movement. The essays question assumptions about any necessary contradiction between cosmopolitanism and patriotism and the tendency among religious majoritarians and secularists alike to confuse uniformity with unity. The speeches in Parliament draw on a rich historical repertoire to offer valuable lessons in political ethics. In arguing against the dangers of an intolerant religious majoritarianism, this book makes a case for concepts of layered and shared sovereignty that might enable an overarching sense of Indian nationhood to coexist with multiple identities of the country's diverse populace. *The Nation as Mother* delves into history on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of freedom to evoke an alternative future of a new India based on cultural intimacy among its different communities." (Penguin Random House, 2017)

Sugata Bose is the Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University, and co-chair of WIGH.

Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era

By Benjamin W. Goossen



During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the global Mennonite church developed an uneasy relationship with Germany. *Chosen Nation* is a sweeping history of this encounter and the debates it sparked among parliaments, dictatorships, and congregations across Eurasia and the Americas.

Offering a multifaceted perspective on nationalism's emergence in Europe and around the world, Benjamin Goossen demonstrates how Mennonites' nationalization reflected and reshaped their faith convictions. While some church leaders modified German identity along Mennonite lines, others appropriated nationalism wholesale, advocating a specifically Mennonite version of nationhood. Examining sources from Poland to Paraguay, Goossen shows how patriotic loyalties rose and fell with religious affiliation. Individuals might claim to be German at one moment but Mennonite the next. Some external parties encouraged separatism, as when the Weimar Republic helped establish an autonomous "Mennonite State" in Latin America. Still others treated Mennonites as quintessentially German; under Hitler's Third Reich, entire colonies benefited from racial warfare and genocide in Nazi-occupied Ukraine. Whether choosing Germany as a national homeland or identifying as a chosen people, called and elected by God, Mennonites committed to collective action in ways that were intricate, fluid, and always surprising.

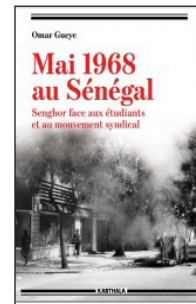
The first book to place Christianity and diaspora at the heart of nationality studies, *Chosen Nation* illuminates the rising religious nationalism of our own age.

(Princeton University Press, 2017)

Benjamin W. Goossen is a PhD Candidate in History at Harvard University.

Mai 1968 au Senegal: Senghor face au étudiants et au mouvement syndical

By Omar Gueye



The wave of social protest that swept the world in May 1968, from Paris to Prague via Rome and Chicago, also swept over Africa. Senegal was shaken by this emancipation movement "by the street" and Dakar experienced violent protests from students and unions whose intensity wavered power.

Eight years after independence, the students of what was still called, the "18th French University" of Dakar, were the detonator of one of the deepest political crises in the country. Quickly supported by high school students, workers, and part of the population, the protest movement gained momentum. Starting from the capital, it spread to the whole country, expressing a real mistrust of the regime of President Léopold Sédar Senghor.

Based on unpublished archives and numerous testimonies of actors from the events of May 1968, the author recounts in detail the event that has put Senegal at the heart of the world. Gueye explains the balance of power between the different actors - students, unions, politicians, Christian, and Muslim clerics - and the internal causes of Senegalese society that have led to this surge of revolt. After placing the movement of Dakar students within the context of world social movements, the author shows the face-to-face confrontation between President Senghor and the trade union opposition, in a context of ideological tension and paradigmatic reconfigurations in 1960s Africa.

This book is essential to grasp the complexity of these political events that shook Senegal, and President Senghor strategy to ultimately retain power.

(Karthala 2017)

Omar Gueye is Professor of History at Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Senegal, and Fellow at WIGH in 2013 and 2017.

Commodity Frontiers Initiative

The Franciscan Invention of the New World

by Julia McClure



This book examines the story of the 'discovery of America' through the prism of the history of the Franciscans, a socio-religious movement with a unique doctrine of voluntary poverty. The Franciscans rapidly developed global dimensions, but their often paradoxical

relationships with poverty and power offer an alternate account of global history. Through this lens, Julia McClure offers a deeper history of colonialism, not only by extending its chronology, but also by exploring the powerful role of ambivalence in the emergence of colonial regimes. Other topics discussed include the legal history of property, the complexity and politics of global knowledge networks, the early (and neglected) history of the Near Atlantic, and the transatlantic inquisition, mysticism, apocalypticism, and religious imaginations of place. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017)

Julia McClure, a WIGH Fellow in 2013-2014, is Lecturer at University of Warwick, UK.



Beckert, Bosma, and Vanhaute meeting in Berlin in May 2017.

The transformation of the global countryside has been essential to the emergence and consolidation of capitalism over the past 500 years. Providing raw materials and foodstuffs to satisfy the voracious appetite of city dwellers and machines, the flatlands, valleys, forests, marine spaces and mountains of the world have been transformed at astonishing speed.

WIGH has taken a leadership role in the Commodity Frontiers Initiative, a network of individual scholars, research teams and non-governmental organizations from all over the world. All participants have been working extensively on global commodity production, rural societies, labor history and the history of capitalism, and have published some of the most important books in the field. Together, they are expert on a wide range of global commodities, covering all the principle producing regions of the world, from the early modern period to the present day, employing a range of approaches, including social and economic history, anthropology, economics, sociology, political science, ecology and development studies.

The Commodity Frontiers Initiative aims to systematically catalogue, study and analyze a wide variety of such commodity frontiers over the past 500 years. It strives to understand the role of the countryside and its people in the history of capitalism through an integrated and interdisciplinary research design that combines local in-depth studies with innovative methodologies such as the creation of large data hubs, data visualization and mapping. By providing a long historical perspective on problems that are often assumed to be modern, the Initiative will endeavor to recast our thinking about issues of sustainability, resilience and crisis and thus contribute to the politics of our own times.

CFI will host a workshop on "Commodity Frontiers and Global Capitalist Expansion: Social, Ecological and Resource Policy Implications" in December 2017 at Zayed University, Dubai. WIGH Global Fellow and Harvard PhD student Rachel Steely will present on her work on the global history of soy.

Learn more about the
Commodity Frontiers Initiative:
www.commodityfrontiers.org

NEW AFFILIATES

We have a wide range of graduate students, postdocs, and established scholars visiting WIGH in 2017–2018:



PEIJUN BRANDON

Visiting Fellow. Senior Researcher, International Institute of Social History; Assistant Professor, History Department, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. The

history of Dutch capitalism in global comparative perspective; war and economic development; and slavery.



ABLAYE DIOUF

Volkswagen Global Fellow (fall 2017). PhD Candidate, Ecole Doctorale Etudes sur l'Homme et la Société, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar-Senegal. Youth issues and

youth employment in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa; public policy related to vocational training; and sustainable development.



JUDITH FROEHLICH

Thyssen Postdoctoral Fellow (spring 2018). Lecturer, Department of History, University of Zurich. Japanese premodern and modern history; and transnational history.



Omar Gueye

Visiting Scholar (fall 2017). Professor, Department of History, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar-Senegal. Labor in postwar French West Africa; and

social history in Africa.



JUSTIN F. JACKSON

Visiting Fellow. Assistant Professor of History, Bard College at Simon's Rock. United States in the world; US empire; global labor history; war and society; Cuba; and Philippines.



RITESH KUMAR JAISWAL

Research Fellow. PhD Candidate, Department of History, University of Delhi; Global History Fellow, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Georg-August-Universität

Göttingen. Aspects of Indian labor migration to Ceylon, Malaya, and Burma; the Kangani and Maistry System, c. 1880–1940.



SHUBHANKITA OJHA

Global Fellow. Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard University; PhD, Department of History, University of Delhi. Bombay dock workers; dock

workers from a global comparative perspective.



QUINN SLOBODIAN

Visiting Fellow. Associate Professor, Department of History, Wellesley College. History of international political economy; social movements; and the power of ideas.



CHRISTY THORNTON

Postdoctoral Fellow. Assistant Research Professor, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University. Historical sociology of development; Latin America; Mexico; and global governance.

WWW

The Global History Network now has its own website, www.globalhistorynetwork.net. Please visit to learn more about past and current Global Fellows, participating universities, and international global history events.