



Departmental Seminar

Fall 2010

Prof. Jorge Flores and Prof. Antonella Romano

Tuesday, 3.00-5.00pm, Belvedere

GLOBAL HISTORY: THEMES AND APPROACHES

The present seminar aims to discuss the nature, methodology, scope and limits of Global History vis-à-vis neighbouring and/or “competing” models and practices, from World, Comparative and Transnational histories to some recent formulas (“Connected Histories”, “histoire croisée”, “mondes mêlés”, etc). The first (October 12, 19, 26) and last (December 14) sessions specifically deal with this set of problems, while the middle section of the seminar will *a)* address the multiple articulations between global history and the ongoing debate on globalization (especially the so-called first globalization); and *b)* explore possible relevant topics for “practitioners” of Global History: the Eurocentric-economic approach, maritime history and global history, science and knowledge.

Each session will be introduced by a brief presentation of the readings by one or two participants to the seminar. The researchers are also expected to take actively part to the discussion based on the comment of these readings.

Presentation

I. The Framework

October 12 and October 19. Introduction. Words and concepts: Global History, World History, “Connected histories”, “Histoire Croisée” and other “labels”

Readings for both sessions:

- Bruce Mazlish and Akira Iriye eds, *The Global History Reader*, Routledge, 2005, p. 16-21.
- Michael Werner and Bénédicte Zimmermann, “Beyond Comparison: Histoire Croisée and The Challenge Of Reflexivity”, *History and Theory*, February 2006, vol. 45, p. 30-50.
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “Holding the World in Balance: The Connected Histories of the Iberian Overseas Empires, 1500–1640s”, *American Historical Review*, December 2007, p. 1359-1385.

October 26. Global History: time and space, methods and scopes

Readings:

- Jerry H. Bentley, “Cross-cultural Interaction and Periodization in World History”, *American Historical Review*, June 1996, p. 749-770.
- Matthias Middell and Katja Naumann, “Global history and the spatial turn: from the impact of area studies to the study of critical junctures of globalization”, *Journal of Global History*, March 2010, p. 149-170.

II. Global History and Globalization

November 9. First session

Readings:

- Jürgen Osterhammel and Niels P. Peterson, *Globalization: a short history*, Princeton University Press, 2005, p. 13-29.



- Dennis O. Flynn and Arturo Giráldez, "Path dependence, time lags and the birth of globalisation: A critique of O'Rourke and Williamson", *European Review of Economic History* (2004), vol. 8, n° 1, p. 81-108.

November 16. Second session

Readings:

- Frederick Cooper, "What Is the Concept of Globalization Good for? An African Historian's Perspective", *African Affairs*, Vol. 100, No. 399 (Apr., 2001), pp. 189-213.
- Jackie Assayag and C.J. Fuller ed., *Globalizing India : perspectives from below*, Anthem, 2005, p 17-46.

III. Issues, Approaches and Case Studies

November 23. Global History, the "Diffusionist-Eurocentric" Model and the hegemony of the Economic approach

Readings:

- James Morris Blaut, *The colonizer's model of the world: geographical diffusionism and Eurocentric history*, Guilford Press, p. 1-48.
- Kenneth Pomeranz, *The great divergence: China, Europe, and the making of the modern world economy*, Princeton University Press, 2001, p. 3-27.

November 30. Maritime as Global: Mediterranean, Atlantic and Indian Ocean studies

Readings:

- W.V. Harris ed., *Rethinking the Mediterranean*, Oxford University Press, 2005, p. 64-93.
- Jack P. Greene, Philip D. Morgan ed., *Atlantic history: a critical appraisal*, Oxford University Press, 2009, p. 317-336.

December 7. Science and Knowledge. The paradigm of modernity under discussion

Readings:

- G. Basalla, "The Spread of Western Science", *Science*, 156, p. 611-622.
- Paula De Vos, "The Science of Spices: Empiricism and Economic Botany in the Early Spanish Empire", *Journal of World History*, 17.4 (2006), p. 399-428.

IV. Global History: Limits and Wider Implications

December 14.

Readings:

- Pamela Kyle Crossley, *What is global history?*, Polity, 2008, p. 102-121.
- Lynn Hunt, *Measuring time, making history*, Central European University Press, 2008, p. 47-135.