



Envisioning the Global South(s)

Max Weber Programme Multidisciplinary Research Workshop

February 10 & 25, 2021

March 25, 2021

April 15 & 28, 2021

May 14, 2021

June 9, 2021

June 10, 2021

Organisers: Roberta Biasillo (MWF RSC), Matteo Capasso (MWF RSC), Wanshu Cong (MWF LAW), Lillian Frost (MWF RSC), Maria Gago (MWF HEC), Maria Dyveke Styve (MWF HEC)

How has the Global South been perceived and crafted in historical sources, colonial legacies, legal frameworks, international relations and policies? What crucial elements and issues have contributed to such visions? How can post/de-colonial approaches within humanities and social sciences unsettle long-lasting understandings of the Global South? How can they enhance novel geographies and interpretations? How is the recent scholarship addressing this interpretative shift?

This multidisciplinary workshop aims at exploring strategies, processes and narratives through which Western gazes have contributed to the creation and making of the Global South. The workshop critically examines the ways in which knowledge is produced on Asian, African, Middle East and Latin American regions. It does so to look at the social, environmental, political, legal premises and consequences of those views. The contributors reflect on many of the questionable policies and practices born of these imaginaries and related histories that have been utilized in the regions since the colonial period. They further reveal how power, in the form of development programs, notions of nationalism, expert knowledge, landscape transformation and human right discourses, for instance, relates to Western and European-originated knowledge production systems.

Location: Zoom.us (the link will be disseminated by email) and Refectory, Badia Fiesolana (Final Roundtable only)

Housekeeping:

- The meetings will be started around 5 minutes before the beginning of each session. Please, for security reasons do not circulate the zoom link without prior authorization.
- Video and audio: we strongly encourage everyone to keep their video on in order to retain a feeling of presence and community; however, everyone but the presenter should mute their microphones. The presenter should open their presentation on their laptop and share their screen.
- Questions: only clarification questions should be asked during a presentation; more general questions should be asked during the Q&A or privately to the presenter. You can write your question in the chat during or after the presentation; alternatively, use the “raise hand” feature of Zoom (by clicking on “participants” in the bottom of your screen and then on “raise hand” in the bottom right corner), wait for the acknowledgement by the presenter (during the presentation) or the chair (during the discussion), then unmute your microphone, and speak up.

Program

Opening Session

Visions of/from the Global South(s): Historical, Legal and Political Imaginaries

Wednesday, 10 February 2021 | 3:00-5:00 PM

Based on our researches and disciplinary perspectives and departing from a visual input, we will open the workshop with a roundtable in which we address the making and unmaking of specific regions of the Global South.

The idea is to start this workshop with visions of the Global South coming from non-scholarly communities: to what extent artists, activists, practitioners and other actors of civil society actors can help us think about our themes, concerns and research agendas?

Registration: Please register [here](#)



Interview Series

Perspectives of/from the Global South(s): Historical, Legal and Political Imaginaries

Thursday, 25 February 2021 | 4:00-5:30 PM

Lillian Frost interviews Jillian Schwedler (CUNY, Hunter College)

Protesting Jordan: Geographies of Power and Dissent

Protesting Jordan argues that protests and other public acts of rebellion provide an ideal entry point for understanding politics in the Hashemite Kingdom, while also being worthy of greater theorization in their own right. More than an aesthetic choice, this book shows how claim-making and spatial dynamics of protests play a central role in the construction of both state and society. It offers the first in-depth study of protest and rebellion in Jordan, turning the conventional narrative of Hashemite state-making on its head.

Protesting Jordan demonstrates that protests, in the form of demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins, have been part of routine politics in Jordan throughout its history, and they continue to play a vital role today in shaping Jordan's future.

Registration: Please register [here](#)

Thursday, 25 March 2021 | 3:00-4:30 PM

Wanshu Cong interviews Luis Eslava (University of Kent)

Broken Worlds: New Poverty, Law and Youth Violence

Global poverty is increasingly experienced as living just above the poverty line. Although this rise in 'new poverty' can be witnessed worldwide, young people in conflict-ridden contexts, particularly in the Global South, are among its most obvious victims.

Broken Worlds: New Poverty, Law and Youth Violence uses ethnographic fieldwork undertaken over more than a decade in Colombia to engage with this changing nature of poverty in the 21st century. Bringing together insights from anthropology, history, political economy and legal theory, it offers a novel reading of this relationship between 'new poverty', youth and violence in the South, and in the increasing number of 'Souths' now emerging in the developed world. Broken Worlds points to the pressures placed on both institutions and individuals by the ground operation of today's global economic order and its radical decoupling of growth and global life.

Registration: Please register [here](#)



Thursday, 15 April 2021 | 4:00-5:30 PM

Roberta Biasillo interviews Ali Abdullatif Ahmida (University of New England in Maine)

Genocide in Libya: Shar, a Hidden Colonial History

Between 1929 and 1934, thousands of Libyans lost their lives, directly murdered and victim of Italian deportations and internments. They were forcibly removed from their homes, marched across vast tracks of deserts and mountains, and confined behind barbed wire in 16 concentration camps. It is a story that Libyans have recorded in their Arabic oral history and narratives while remaining hidden and unexplored in a systematic fashion, and never in the manner that has allowed us to comprehend and begin to understand the extent of their existence.

Based on the survivors' testimonies, which took over ten years of fieldwork and research to document, this new and original history of the genocide is a key resource for readers interested in genocide and Holocaust studies, colonial and postcolonial studies, and African and Middle Eastern studies.

Registration: Please register [here](#)

Wednesday, 28 April 2021 | 6:00-7:00 PM

Maria Dyveke Styve interviews Jemima Pierre (UCLA)

Anthropology of White Supremacy

To speak of global white supremacy is to point to the racial dimensions of an international power system that includes an ideology of white (broadly defined) racial superiority and its related sets of practices. However, it remains difficult to operationalize the historical reality of white supremacy within anthropological theory and practice. For even as mainstream anthropology has acknowledged the significance of race, it has yet to thoroughly engage the role of white supremacy, especially global white supremacy, as part and parcel of the baseline understanding and functioning of the modern world.

How can we as anthropologists speak of neoliberalism, for example, without keeping in constant view the context of white privilege and power that structure both global capitalism and (post/neo)colonialism?

Extract from Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús and Jemima Pierre's Introduction to Special Section on the Anthropology of White Supremacy, *American Anthropologist*, Vol 122, No. 1.

Registration: Please register [here](#)

Friday, 14 May 2021 | 5:00-6:00 PM

Maria Gago interviews Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago)

The Climate of History in a Planetary Age

For the past decade, historian Dipesh Chakrabarty has been one of the most influential scholars addressing the meaning of climate change. Climate change, he argues, upends long-standing ideas of history, modernity, and globalization. The burden of *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* is to grapple with what this means and to confront humanities scholars with ideas they have been reluctant to reconsider—from the changed nature of human agency to a new acceptance of universals.

Chakrabarty argues that we must see ourselves from two perspectives at once: the planetary and the global. This distinction is central to Chakrabarty's work—the globe is a human-centric construction, while a planetary perspective intentionally decenters the human. Featuring wide-ranging excursions into historical and philosophical literatures, *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* boldly considers how to frame the human condition in troubled times.

Registration: Please register [here](#)

Wednesday, 9 June 2021 | 3:00-4:30 PM

Matteo Capasso interviews Nivi Manchanda (Queen Mary University of London)

Imagining Afghanistan: the History and Politics of Imperial Knowledge

Over time and across different genres, Afghanistan has been presented to the world as potential ally, dangerous enemy, gendered space, and mysterious locale. These powerful, if competing, visions seek to make sense of Afghanistan and to render it legible. In this innovative examination, Nivi Manchanda uncovers and critically explores Anglophone practices of knowledge cultivation and representational strategies, and argues that Afghanistan occupies a distinctive place in the imperial imagination: over-determined and under-theorised, owing largely to the particular history of imperial intervention in the region.

Focusing on representations of gender, state and tribes, Manchanda re-historicises and de-mythologises the study of Afghanistan through a sustained critique of colonial forms of knowing and demonstrates how the development of pervasive tropes in Western conceptions of Afghanistan have enabled Western intervention, invasion and bombing in the region from the nineteenth century to the present.

Registration: Please register [here](#)

Final Roundtable

Methodological and theoretical approaches to the Global South: A Toolkit

Thursday, 10 June 2021 | 3:00-5:00 PM

This roundtable acts as a synthesis of the previous sessions and address the following two questions:

- What are the key takeaways from discussions with leading scholars in the fields, activists, practitioners and artists?
- How can we bridge between those key methodological and theoretical points and our researches?

Registration: The Final Roundtable will take place exclusively in presence and will be open to EUI members only. If you are interested in joining the session in the Refectory (Badia Fiesolana), please contact directly one of the organizers, who you can find [here](#).

