Portals of Globalization: A Perspective in Global History

Lecturer: Dr. Megan Maruschke
E-Mail: megan.maruschke@uni-leipzig.de

Time: Mondays 13-15 (1-3pm)
Place: NSG 213

Course Description:

This seminar introduces the analytical category portals of globalization as a perspective in global history. Portals of globalization allow scholars to locate “globalization in action” in historical and contemporary contexts. It reveals the many actors in many places—even unexpected ones—who contribute to processes of globalization. Therefore, we can see that globalization is not a single, all-encompassing process stemming from the “West to the Rest.”

We will use texts from several disciplines, including work from scholars who overtly use portals of globalization as a research lens; other authors do not use the term but their work still contributes to our understanding of how actors in particular places both react to and are actors in processes of globalization. Some sessions will have a “concept paper” that helps to bring portals into other debates in global history. Some of the texts in this course will overlap with readings from the lecture and tutorial in the global history module. This overlap helps you to engage with these texts and to think about them not just for the content of the story they are telling about globalization and actors in particular places; we are also studying the methodological perspective of the author. How we study and write history is a central focus of this graduate seminar.

Additionally, this seminar is devoted to imparting the “how to” of historical research. What lies behind the texts we read? We will have several sessions dedicated to understanding and analyzing historical sources and how they are used. Furthermore, training in scholarly writing is a focus of this seminar. I will focus on your training for specific aspects of historical and scientific writing, namely conventions such as citations, abstracts, and paper writing. See the course requirements for more details.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to read all required reading before each session. The course is a seminar and therefore the format relies on input from students. Students will find the readings on Moodle and in the course reader. Students should participate actively by posing questions and providing answers, opinions, and analysis.

The seminar participation and grade is based on

1) Presentation of one text to the class. The 15 minute presentation (25% final grade) will:
   a. summarize the author’s main argument;
   b. identify the connection to other texts from our seminar (particularly those in the same session);
   c. critically assess the text;
   d. identify the author’s field of research and the contributions of the text to the field;
   e. discuss the sources

2) Students must write a paper abstract for one text over the course of the seminar. The papers which do not already have abstracts will have an asterisk next to them (*) and there are 7 possibilities. The text selection is the students’ choice. Students must submit their abstracts
by Sunday evening after the week of the session in which the text is presented. Furthermore, students should submit one revised abstract of a paper that already has an abstract, followed by a short critique of the paper’s abstract up to one page total. (25% of final grade).

3) During the final session, students will give brief (5 minute) presentations of their key takeaways from the seminar in the form of one question, one critique, and one inspiring idea taken from the seminar/seminar readings (please specify which sessions/authors these points refer to). This task supports the presentation grade.

4) Essay of 3,000-3,500 words. The essay should be submitted by email by February 28th (50% final grade)
   a. The essay should be based on one of the course sessions, which will draw these texts together with other readings from the seminar. Furthermore, the essay should engage with those from outside our seminar (e.g. from the global history lecture or tutorial, along with readings you have found on your own, potentially other work by the same author or work from the debate in which that author seeks to contribute).
   b. Finally, the essay should of course address portals of globalization within the context of one of these sessions.

Session 1:
15 October 2018

Introduction to our seminar, sign up for presentations, discussion on global history

No readings

Session 2:
22 October 2018

Introduction to Portals of Globalization


Session 3:
29 October 2018

Space and Actors in Portals of Globalization


Session 4:
5 November 2018
Leipzig and Portals of Globalization: A Business History Perspective
Robrecht Declercq, "Transnational Entrepreneurs? German Entrepreneurs in the Belgian Fur Industry (1880 to 1913)," Zeitschrift für Unternehmensgeschichte, 60, 1 (2015), pp. 52-74

Session 4:
12 November 2018
Imperial and Anti-Imperial Learning in the Metropolis: “unexpected” actors in global places

Session 5:
19 November 2018
Imperial learning in the Metropolis as National learning, nation building and its limits
*Coll Thrush, Indigenous London: Native Travelers at the Heart of Empire, 2016, Yale University Press.

Session 6:
26 November 2018
Transfers and positionality within global circuits: Haitian independence as an example


Session 7:

**3 December 2018**,  
SESSION CANCELED

Session 8:

**10 December 2018**  
*Sources in Global History*  
TBD

Session 9:

**17 December 2018**  
*Sources in Global History*  
TBD

Session 10:

**7 January 2018**  
*Globalizing Actors in Unexpected Places*  


Session 11:

**14 January 2018**  
*Contingency in Portals: state-planned portals of globalization and non-state actors*  


Session 12:

21 January 2018

Applications in the social sciences: Institutions managing global and regional knowledge and connectivity


Session 13:

28 January 2018

Remembering globalization


Session 14:

4 February 2018

Reflections on the course

5 Minute presentations: See point 3 of the course requirements