

Beyond Eurocentrism in Intellectual History

Online Colloquium, 2-4 September 2021
UCL Institute of Advanced Studies, London



De Santiago à Mendoza.

PROGRAMME & INFORMATION

Colloquium Description

This colloquium is designed to discuss ideas and methods from intellectual histories outside of a European context, especially how they might stimulate new approaches in the discipline of intellectual history as constituted in the Western academy. We plan to bring together scholars working in and on different regions to start a conversation about how intellectual history is researched, taught and configured in different places, bringing into stark relief the politics of knowledge of the field. We hope that all intellectual historians, whatever their specific area of research, will be interested in joining us to rethink the endeavour of intellectual history in a global context.

Over the last few years, since the publication of Moyn and Sartori's landmark collection of essays *Global Intellectual History* (2013) and the launch of the journal *Global Intellectual History* (2016), there have been many discussions about the orientation and scope of this new perspective on the life of ideas. For all the strengths of these events and debates, more attention has been paid to the empirical implications of the term "global"—i.e., extending the reach of the subject to include the intellectual histories of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, or thinking about canonical Europeans in a wider transnational, trans-imperial or entangled context—than to the conceptual and methodological challenges posed to the whole field by a "global" approach to the study of ideas.

Such challenges include who intellectual historians recognise as thinkers, where they look for ideas, and how they analyse the effects of inequalities on intellectual life. If a lot of work has been done to deconstruct geopolitical dualisms such as centre/periphery or metropole/colony, there are other dichotomies (arguably just as Eurocentric) that remain prevalent e.g. the assumed oppositions between ideas and practices, the universal and the local, or pure and applied knowledge. And changes in method that seem desirable in post-imperial societies may be deemed less so in post-colonial ones: for example, few Western historians accept diffusionism nowadays, but for some historians in other parts of the world it can be an explanation for colonial dispossession on an epistemological level. Now that more historians are exploring thought from a social history archive, or through material culture, by adopting ethnographic techniques or by 'provincializing' European thought, we convene this colloquium to debate the cumulative effects of these approaches on thinking about what intellectual history can be.

Time-Zone

All times listed on the Programme are British Summer Time [=GMT +1]

Organizing committee:

Chloe Ireton (UCL), Humeira Iqtidar (KCL), Nicola Miller (UCL), Sara Marzagora (KCL), Chris Moffat (QMUL)

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PROGRAMME

Thursday September 2, 2021

11.30-12.15 Gather online meeting space opens for informal meet & greet. *Colloquium assistants, Aleksandra Kaye & Stephanie Ashton-Sanchez, will be present in the virtual space to welcome everyone and to assist with any tech issues, queries, or logistics.*

11.45-12.00 Virtual Tour / Training for Gather, hosted by Stephanie and Aleksandra. *If you would like to join, please meet in the lobby.*

12.15-12.30 Welcome. Nicola Miller & Chloe Ireton. *Blue Room.*

12.30-14.00 Opening Roundtable: What does the “global” bring to intellectual history? + open discussion. *Blue Room.*

Chair: Nicola Miller, University College London.

1. Leslie James. Queen Mary, University of London.
2. Yonas Ashine Demisse. Addis Ababa University.
3. Humeira Iqtidar. King’s College London.
4. Herman Bennett. The Graduate Centre, City University of New York.

14.00-14.30 Break, & Informal Meet & Greet in Virtual Gather Space

14.30-16.15 Panel 1: Justice. *Blue Room.*

Chair: Leslie James, Queen Mary, University of London.

Individual Paper Discussions

14.30-14.45 Priyanka Jha, Banaras Hindu University, *Towards a non-Eurocentric Discourse: Ambedkar and Lobia on Equality and Justice*

14.45-15.00 Giuseppe Grieco, Queen Mary, University of London, *Mediterranean Geographies of Civilization: Commerce and Empire in Southern Italian Political Thought (1830-1845)*

15.00-15.15 Mélanie Lindbjerg Guichon, Aarhus University, *“More at stake than the question of who cooked the dinner or changed the baby”:* exploring

the writings of Ghanaian women's activists Annie R. Jagge and Florence A. Dolphyne

15.15-15.30 Bryan Wagner, University of California, Berkeley, *Hokum: Law and Performance from Slavery to the Civil Rights Movement*

Open Discussion

15.30-16.15 Open Discussion on emerging themes from Panel 1 Justice, chaired by Leslie James, QMUL

16.15-16.45 Break & Informal Meet & Greet in Virtual Gather Space

16.45-18.30 Panel 2: Sovereignty. Blue Room.

Chair: Humeira Iqtidar, King's College London.

Individual Paper Discussions

16.45-17.00 Christian Christiansen, Aarhus University, *From Welfare to Self-Help System: Re-describing International Politics in the late 1970s*

17.00-17.15 Sarath Pillai, The University of Chicago, *Possible Histories: Federalism, Reinhart Koselleck, and a Conceptual History for Late Colonial India*

17.15-17.30 Manjeet Ramgotra, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, *The languages of republicanism: self-rule and the public thing*

17.30-17.45 Alexander Chaparro-Silva, The University of Texas at Austin, *Tocqueville in the Tropics: Readings of Democracy in (Spanish) America*

Open Discussion

17.45-18.30 Open discussion on emerging themes from Panel 2 Sovereignty, chaired by Humeira Iqtidar, KCL

18.45-19.45 Evening Reception. Garden.

In lieu of an in-person evening reception, everyone is welcome to meet and chat informally in our virtual garden, and join different conversations as they emerge, or follow-up on earlier discussions with authors.

Friday September 3, 2021

10.30-10.45 Virtual Tour / Training for Gather Space, hosted by Stephanie and Aleksandra. *If you would like to join, please meet in the lobby.*

11.00-13.00 Panel 3: Conceptualising the Global. *Blue Room.*

Chair: Sara Marzagora, King's College London.

Individual Paper Discussions

11.00-11.15 Thomas Lindner, Freie Universität Berlin, *Tricoontinental Thinking and Intellectual History: Anti-imperialist Perspectives from Mexico City, 1910-30*

11.15-11.30 Peter Morgan, University College London. *Contested landings. How ideas are moved (and kept in place)'*

11.30-11.45 Kelvin Ng, Yale University, *Other Universalisms: Historical Time, Revolutionary Subjects, and Indian Ocean Epistemologies, 1920-1925*

11.45-12.00 Pascale Siegrist, German Historical Institute in London, *Escaping Eurocentrism? Anarchist Geographers, Global Consciousness, and the Problem of Civilisational Hierarchy, c. 1870-1905*

12.00-12.15 Julian Strube, University of Vienna, *(Anti-)Colonialism in Bengal from the Perspective of Global Religious History*

Open Discussion

12.15-13.00 Open discussion on emerging themes from Panel 3 Conceptualising the Global, chaired by Sara Marzagora, KCL

13.00-13.30 Break & Informal Meet & Greet in Virtual Gather Space

13.30-15.15 Panel 4: New Archives, New Methods. *Blue Room.*

Chair: Chloe Ireton, University College London.

Individual Paper Discussions

13.30-13.45 Kristie Flannery, Australian Catholic University, *Can The Devil Cross the Deep Blue Sea? Imagining the Spanish Pacific and Vast Early America From Below*

13.45-14.00 Sushmita Banerjee, University of Delhi, *A Theologian as Public Intellectual? The Making of an 'Alim, 'Abd al-Haqq Muhaddis Dehlawi in Early Modern South Asia*

14.00-14.15 Santiago Muñoz Arbaláez, University of Connecticut, *Don Diego de la Torre: An Indigenous Intellectual at the Heart of the Empire*

14.15-14.30 Jeremy Dell, University of Edinburgh, *A Family Affair: Printing Families and Textual Authority in the 20th-century Muridiyya*

Open Discussions

14.30-15.15 Open discussion on emerging themes from Panel 4 New Archives, New Methods, chaired by Chloe Ireton UCL

15.15-15.45 Break & Informal Meet & Greet in Virtual Gather Space

15.45-17.30 Panel 5: For and Against Global Intellectual History. Blue Room.

Chair: Angus Gowland, University College London.

Individual Paper Discussions

15.45-16.00 Milinda Banerjee, University of St Andrews, *Decolonize Intellectual History! An Agenda for the Capitalocene*

16.00-16.15 Zeyad el Nabolsy, Cornell University, *The Limits of the Concept of 'the Master's Tools': Olaudah Equiano's Narrative as a Case Study*

16.15-16.30 Natalia Gándara Chacana, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, *Rethinking hierarchies of knowledge. The transfer of ideas about the effects of earthquakes, Britain 1830s – Chile 1910s*

16.30-16.45 Martin Ruehl, University of Cambridge, *Against Global Intellectual History*

Open Discussion

16.45-17.30 Open discussion on emerging themes from Panel 5 For and Against Global Intellectual History, chaired by Angus Gowland, UCL

17.30-18.00 Break & Informal Meet & Greet in Virtual Gather Space

18.00-19.30 Closing Round Table: Rethinking Epistemologies of Intellectual History + open discussion. Blue Room.

Chair: Nicola Miller, University College London / Chloe Ireton, University College London.

1. Sara Marzagora. King's College London.
2. Haydée Bangerezako. University of Cheikh Anta Diop.
3. Emma Hunter. The University of Edinburgh.
4. Herman Bennett. The Graduate Centre, City University of New York.

Saturday September 4, 2021

The symposium site will remain open today to give participants an optional opportunity to connect in our virtual space and follow up conversations and ideas from the previous two days.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Roundtable Keynote Speakers:

1. **Haydée Bangerezako.** University of Cheikh Anta Diop.
2. **Herman Bennett.** Graduate Centre, City University of New York, and Director of the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC).
3. **Yonas Ashine Demisse.** Addis Ababa University.
4. **Emma Hunter.** The University of Edinburgh.
5. **Humeira Iqtidar.** King's College London.
6. **Leslie James.** Queen Mary, University of London.
7. **Sara Marzagora.** King's College London.

Authors of pre-circulated papers for discussion:

1. Milinda Banerjee, University of St Andrews, *Decolonize Intellectual History! An Agenda for the Capitalocene*
2. Sushmita Banerjee, University of Delhi, *A Theologian as Public Intellectual? The Making of an 'Alim, 'Abd al-Haqq Mubaddis Dehlawi in Early Modern South Asia*
3. Alexander Chaparro-Silva, The University of Texas at Austin, *Tocqueville in the Tropics: Readings of Democracy in (Spanish) America*
4. Christian Christiansen, Aarhus, University, *From Welfare to Self-Help System: Re-describing International Politics in the late 1970s*
5. Jeremy Dell, University of Edinburgh, *A Family Affair: Printing Families and Textual Authority in the 20th-century Muridiyya*
6. Kristie Flannery, Australian Catholic University, *Can The Devil Cross the Deep Blue Sea? Imagining the Spanish Pacific and Vast Early America From Below*
7. Natalia Gándara Chacana, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, *Rethinking hierarchies of knowledge: The transfer of ideas about the effects of earthquakes, Britain 1830s – Chile 1910s*

8. Giuseppe Grieco, Queen Mary, University of London, *Mediterranean Geographies of Civilization: Commerce and Empire in Southern Italian Political Thought (1830-1845)*
9. Priyanka Jha, Banaras Hindu University, *Towards a non-Eurocentric Discourse: Ambedkar and Lohia on Equality and Justice*
10. Mélanie Lindbjerg Guichon, Aarhus University, *“More at stake than the question of who cooked the dinner or changed the baby”: exploring the writings of Ghanaian women’s activists Annie R. Jigge and Florence A. Dolphyne*
11. Thomas Lindner, Freie Universität Berlin, *Tricoontinental Thinking and Intellectual History: Anti-imperialist Perspectives from Mexico City, 1910-30*
12. Peter Morgan, University College London, *Contested landings. How ideas are moved (and kept in place)*
13. Santiago Muñoz Arbaláez, University of Connecticut, *Don Diego de la Torre: An Indigenous Intellectual at the Heart of the Empire*
14. Zeyad el Nabolsy, Cornell University, *The Limits of the Concept of 'the Master's Tools': Olaudah Equiano's Narrative as a Case Study*
15. Kelvin Ng, Yale University, *Other Universalisms: Historical Time, Revolutionary Subjects, and Indian Ocean Epistemologies, 1920-1925*
16. Sarath Pillai, The University of Chicago, *Possible Histories: Federalism, Reinhart Koselleck, and a Conceptual History for Late Colonial India*
17. Manjeet Ramgotra, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, *The languages of republicanism: self-rule and the public thing [swaraj]*
18. Martin Ruehl, University of Cambridge, *Against Global Intellectual History*
19. Pascale Siegrist, German Historical Institute in London, *Escaping Eurocentrism? Anarchist Geographers, Global Consciousness, and the Problem of Civilisational Hierarchy, c. 1870-1905*
20. Julian Strube, University of Vienna, *(Anti-)Colonialism in Bengal from the Perspective of Global Religious History*
21. Bryan Wagner, University of California, Berkeley, *Hokum: Law and Performance from Slavery to the Civil Rights Movement*

Panel Chairs

1. Angus Gowland, University College London.
2. Chloe Ireton, University College London.
3. Humeira Iqtidar, King’s College London.
4. Leslie James, Queen Mary, University of London.
5. Sara Marzagora, King’s College London.
6. Nicola Miller, University College London.

Graduate Student Assistants:

1. Aleksandra Kaye, PhD Candidate, University College London.
2. Stephanie Ashton-Sanchez, PhD Candidate, University College London.