

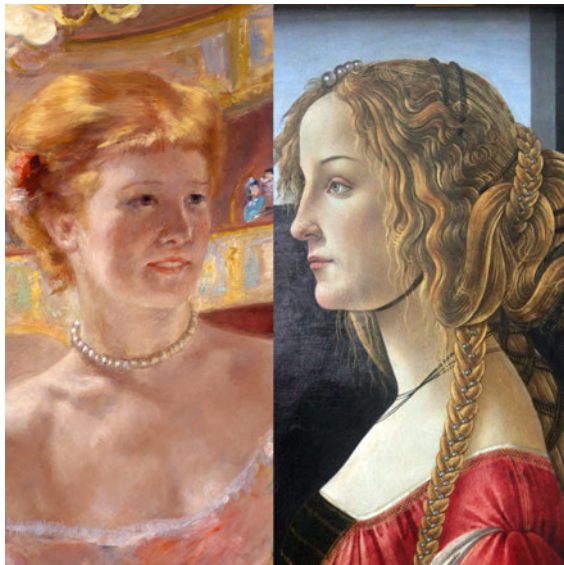
International Conference

Beyond modernity

Transepochal perspectives on spaces, actors and structures

November 28 – 29, 2014, Basel

Basel Graduate School of History
Institute for European Global Studies



Location

Department of History
Seminar Room 1
Hirschgässlein 21
CH - 4051 Basel

Registration

Your participation is welcome. We would be pleased to receive your registration latest by November 15, 2014:

bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch/registration

Information

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The conference is organized within the context of the Annual Meeting of the Basel Graduate School of History.



In recent decades, gradually but constantly, several paradigm shifts have shaped international historiography. New approaches—such as discourse analysis or those invoked by the linguistic and spatial turns—have led to the rediscovery of historical subjectivity and praxeological perspectives. While cultural history has gained more and more strength, social history still seems to be stuck in a crisis. At the same time, postcolonial studies and the new global history have been eroding classical historical assumptions still related to Eurocentric perspectives. “Modernity”, the main historical narrative of the 20th century, has been at the center of critique in both fields. On the one hand, modernization theory depended on the structuralist approaches developed by social history and historical sociology. On the other, it suggested that Europe and the “West” anticipated and dominated world history. In many respects, the downfall of modernity represents a major achievement as it was an expression of problematic theoretical approaches as well as this Westernization discourse. However, its decline has favored another development that might result in a significant loss for historiography, i.e. the decline of long-term historical analyses, which constituted a main feature of modernity narratives. By looking at the interplay between historical change and historical spaces, this conference raises the question of whether *transepochal perspectives* can be rediscovered without adopting the normative assumptions that deeply affected the tale of modernity. By focusing on Europe, Asia and Africa, it looks at the consequences of long-term scales for global history.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2014

2.00 pm – 2.15 pm Welcome

Benjamin Schenk, Madeleine Herren-Oesch

2.15 pm – 2.30 pm Introduction

Susanna Burghartz, Roberto Sala

2.30 pm – 4.45 pm Panel I

Spaces of Movement and Interaction

Peregrine Horden (London): An Absurdly Small Sea? Mediterranean Connectivity Viewed Comparatively

Dirk Hoerder (Bremen): How Do Migration Systems and Migrants Construct Spaces

Kapil Raj (Paris): Contemporising Epochs: The Encounter between Mughal and British Imperial Spaces in the late 18th Century

Discussant: Matteo Sanfilippo, Viterbo

Chair: Lucas Burkart, Basel

4.45 pm – 5.15 pm Coffee Break

5.15 pm – 7.15 pm Workshop A (Seminar Room 3)

“Transepochal Perspectives” in the Work of

Congolese Historian Jacques Depelchin

Organisers: Melanie Boehi, Anna Vögeli Litelu (Basel)

5.15 pm – 7.15 pm Workshop B (Seminar Room 4)

Anachronic Times: Reading Texts & Images

beyond the Linear Narrative

Organisers: Nicolai Kölmel, Michael Schaffner, Sarah-Maria Schober, Maria Tranter (Basel)

7.30 pm - 8.15 pm Key Note

Madeleine Herren-Oesch (Basel):

Decolonizing Epistemologies at 90° 0' N →...? Floating Territories, Shrinking Times Frames and a Global Rescue Mission

8.30 pm Conference Dinner

Restaurant **Aeschenplatz** - Aeschenplatz 4, 4052 Basel

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

9.00 am – 11.15 am Panel II

Anthropological Spaces

Richard E. Lee (Binghamton): Understanding in the Historical Sciences: Lessons from the Longue Durée

Katherine A. Lynch (Pittsburgh): The Long History of Civil Society in the European Past

Alessandro Stanziani (Paris): Bondage, Labor and Rights in Eurasia, 18th-20th centuries

Discussant: Roland Wenzlhuemer, Heidelberg

Chair: Benjamin Schenk, Basel

11.15 am – 11.45 pm Coffee Break

11.45 am – 12.45 pm Roundtable

Did the Crisis of the Modernity Paradigm Kill

Transepochal Perspectives?

Susanna Burghartz (Basel), Katherine A. Lynch (Pittsburgh), Kapil Raj (Paris), F. Benjamin Schenk (Basel)

Chair: Roland Wenzlhuemer, Heidelberg

12.45 pm – 2.15 pm Lunch Buffet

2.15 pm – 4.15 pm Panel III

Spaces of Sovereignty

Isabelle Surun (Lille): A Bridge Over the Colonial Gap: African Sovereignty in the Light of Euro-African Diplomatic Encounter

Valeria Piacentini Fiorani (Milan): Sovereignty and Power in the Eurasian Context between Early Modern and Modern Period

Elvira Vilches (Raleigh): Accounting for Silver: Spaces of Capital in Imperial Spain

Discussant: Benedikt Stuchtey, Marburg

Chair: Patrick Harries, Basel

Questions at the center of current research and debate at the [Basel Graduate School of History \(BGSH\)](http://bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch) include the relationship between the local and global, the nexus of micro and macro perspectives and the significance of mediality for historical events, structures and developments. The dissolution of boundaries and shift of focus for historical spaces are also of current interest, as are transepochal questions of continuity and change, and the connected issues of the exploration of historical dimensions of depth and analysis of the structuring of time.

bgsh.geschichte.unibas.ch

The [Institute for European Global Studies](http://europa.unibas.ch) is a research institute of the University of Basel. It regards the development of Europe from a global perspective and thus contribute to answering central questions of our time. In their research, which focuses on Europe, Asia and Africa, the institute members develop concepts and methods to reveal Europe's global entanglements in society, history, law and economy.

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