



European
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DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY
AND
CIVILIZATION

Max Weber Presentations

10 and 24 October 2018

PROGRAMME

10 October 2018, sala degli Stemma, Villa Salviati

1st panel Chair: Ann Thomson

- 9:30** **Benoît Maréchaux:** *Naval Institutions and International Finance: The Genoese Galley Contractors at the Service of the Spanish Empire (16th-17th centuries)*
- 10:00** **Rémi Dewièr:** *Diplomacy, State Administration and Textuality in Islamic West Africa (XVI-XX c.)*
- 10:30** **John Boonstra:** *A Mandate to Protect: Imperial Encounters and Affective Ideologies between France and Lebanon, 1860-1931*
- 11:00** *Coffee Break*

2nd panel Chair: Federico Romero

- 11:30** **Ágoston Berecz:** *Unequal Official Multilingualism in the Eastern Half of Dualist Hungary*
- 12:00** **Grace A. Ballor:** *Agents of Integration: Multinational Firms and the European Union, 1970-2000*
- 12:30** **Corina Mavrodin:** *A Maverick in the Making: Romania's de-Satellization Process and the Global Cold War*

24 October 2018, sala degli Stemma, Villa Salviati

1^o panel: Chair: Corinna Unger

- 9:30** **Pascale Siegrist:** *Putting Anarchism in Its Place: Reclus, Kropotkin, Mechnikov and the Case of Nineteenth-century 'Anarchist Geography', c. 1870-1905*
- 10:00** **Sakiko Kaiga:** *War Against War: the Pro-League of Nations Movement in Britain and the Intellectual Origins of the League of Nations, 1914-18*
- 10:30** **Danilo Scholz:** *From Colonialism to Third Worldism? Alexandre Kojève and the Developing Nations (1945-1968)*
- 11:00** *Coffee Break*

2nd panel Chair: Alexander Etkind

- 11:30** **Amparo Fontaine:** *Musical Harmony in Eighteenth-century France: From Celestial Spheres to the New Public Sphere*
- 12:00** **Shiru Lim:** *Philosophy, Truth, and Politics in Enlightenment Europe*
- 12:30** **Alessandro Bonvini:** *Adventurers, Exiles, Volunteers. Atlantic Histories of the Risorgimento*



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ABSTRACTS

Benoît Maréchaux

Naval Institutions and International Finance: The Genoese Galley Contractors at the Service of the Spanish Empire (16th-17th centuries)

To date, the literature on mercantilism has highlighted the development of fleets and chartered companies from a nation-state perspective. In this manner, Venice or England have been considered as successful archetypes of fiscal-military states that achieved their commercial hegemony thanks to their naval power and maritime expansion. However, little attention has been paid to the multiple institutional arrangements that relied on naval entrepreneurs, transnational systems and other hybrid forms of naval organizations. Without a thorough consideration of this historical phenomenon, we neglect numerous European experiences and assume that only one type of naval organization could enhance economic performance. This assumption contributes to a misleading understanding of the institutional differences that shaped the European political economies in the past.

The planned research remedies this gap by analyzing the Genoese naval entrepreneurs who administrated galleys for the Spanish Monarchy during the 16th and 17th centuries. Their warships were used for military purposes but also for long-distance trade. Between the 1560s and the 1640s, the Genoese merchant community dominated European finances relying on these galleys for the transport of silver in the Mediterranean. By crossing Spanish public documentation with Italian private records (mostly merchant letters and accounting books), this research attempts to write a transnational economic history of a long-term Public-Private Partnership. It has three main objectives: 1) to explore the untold story of the Genoese galley enterprises by analyzing their organization and operations from a Business History perspective, with a special interest for the use of forced labor (slaves and convicts); 2) to analyze the naval foundations of Genoese financial capitalism by showing how the control of the silver flows in the Mediterranean enabled the Genoese bankers to dominate European credit markets; 3) to develop a new comparative analysis between different European naval institutions with the aim of emphasizing the diversity of economic institutions that coexisted in the pre-industrial era.

Rémi Dewièrè

Diplomacy, State Administration and Textuality in Islamic West Africa (XVI-XX c.)

The historical study of pragmatic Literacy in Early Modern Sub-saharan Africa (roughly between 1510 and 1900) is still at its edge (Lydon, 2009; Lefebvre, 2014; Wion *et al.*, 2016; Warscheid, 2017). It is particularly true regarding the diplomatic and administrative documents that were produced in Islamic Sahel, prior to the colonisation. However, the first testimony of a document written by an African ruler dates from the end of the fourteenth century, when the Borno sultan 'Uṭmān ibn Idrīs (1389-1421) sent a diplomatic letter to the Mamluk sultan of Egypt Barqūq (1382-1399), in 1391 (Dewièrè, 2018). At the crossroad of religious, political and intellectual history, I propose to shed a light on these practices, through the diplomatic analysis of more than twenty documents that were produced by the religious and political authorities in Borno, in present day Northern Nigeria, between 1823 and 1918.

I will enhance the visual and textual norms that were mobilized to write a “strong letter” (Reinfandt, 2013), carrying the word and the body of a Sahelian Islamic ruler and integrate this analysis in a larger history of written and reading practices in Early Modern and Modern sub-Saharan African history.

John Boonstra

A Mandate to Protect: Imperial Encounters and Affective Ideologies between France and Lebanon, 1860-1931

My dissertation argued that a gendered ideology of protection shaped Lebanon’s transition from informal French protectorate to colonial mandate after the First World War. France’s imperial relationship with Lebanon, I contend, derived not only from religious, economic, and diplomatic influence, but also from colonial ideals of filial devotion and paternal authority, maternal affection and parental responsibility. These familial premises preceded the onset of formal colonial rule, enabling a range of actors to negotiate the terms of imperial protection in various social, cultural, and political contexts. Drawing from a range of diverse archival sources, my project explored how French and Lebanese men and women—travelers and writers, industrialists and workers, expatriates and local inhabitants, diplomatic and religious officials—reworked notions of attachment and obligation to assert status and privilege, contest improper conduct, and advance individual claims. By bringing together a study of imperial encounters and affective ideologies, my work sheds new light on how logics of empire functioned in “not-quite-colonial” sites of contact. Within an imagined *France du Levant*, the concept of a “mandate to protect,” I suggest, sustained a fantasy of French imperial prestige through the ruptures of the Great War and its colonial aftermath, even as its affective ideals were reconfigured on the ground.

As a Max Weber Fellow, I will begin revising my dissertation into a book manuscript, tentatively titled “Finding France in the Levant: Lebanon in the French Imperial Imagination.” I plan to deepen my project’s engagement with the imperial context of pre-World War I Mount Lebanon, positioned ambiguously between French guardianship and nominal Ottoman sovereignty. I also intend to trace a longer historical, legal, and intellectual genealogy of the concept of protection, which I argue developed from an early modern juridical, commercial, and religious status for Ottoman Christians into a more capacious element of imperial ideology. If logics of protection were bound up in geopolitical spheres of influence, I ask how the multiple threads of this concept came together and came undone.

At EUI, I will also begin work on a second project, which will track the experiences of a uniquely mobile group of soldiers from French colonial North Africa. While fighting in the First World War, hundreds were captured by German troops, sent to the Middle East as conscripts for the Ottoman army, then shipped at the war’s end to prison camps in France, where they were doubly mistrusted as inferior colonial subjects and traitorous enemy soldiers. Through their transnational trajectories, I aim to shed light on the entanglements of imperial politics and individual experiences in a context of global war and unstable empires.

Ágoston Berecz

Unequal Official Multilingualism in the Eastern Half of Dualist Hungary

Dualist Hungary (1867–1918) represented a limiting case in modern Europe as the linguistically most diverse polity to have experimented with nation-state building. Relying mostly on a sampling of extant fonds from eight county branches of the National Archives of Romania, my book manuscript to be written in Florence investigates explicit and implicit state language policies as they unfolded in the eastern part of this polity; the patterns of the official use of Hungarian vs. Romanian and German, two

national standards espoused by non-dominant elites, the factors influencing these patterns and the gradual expansion of Hungarian. It contrasts current knowledge about international trends with the ways these were framed in contemporary debates. As a convenient perspective, it presents my results against the linguistic rights that the Law of Nationalities of 1868 set forth for each domain of the official realm and tries to answer the question of how far various segments of society could get disaffected by limited or no access to services in their national languages.

Grace A. Ballor

Agents of Integration: Multinational Firms and the European Union, 1970-2000

My doctoral dissertation, *Agents of Integration: Multinational Firms and the European Union, 1970-2000*, analyzed the role of large corporations in the process of European integration. While most scholarship on the relationship between the private sector and the EU has focused on the influence of business on Brussels through organized interest group lobbying, my work explored the ways in which multinational corporations facilitated the practical achievement of Europe's common market through their cross-border business activity. Drawing from both corporate and EU archival sources as well as interviews with EU politicians and corporate executives, I conducted case studies of firms from key sectors and different EU member states to examine how, in the wake of globalization, the interests of European multinational firms converged with those of the European federalists, and they became allies in the integration process. In chapters on the French investment bank Paribas, German automakers Volkswagen and BMW, and the British and Belgian retailers Tesco and Delhaize, my research revealed that when faced with increasing competition from their American and Asian rivals in the 1970s and 1980s, large European corporations withdrew from their foreign investments in global markets and regionalized their business operations. In addition to cultivating close relationships with the European Commission and consulting on regulatory policies, these corporations contributed to the integration and standardization of markets across the region through their extensive value chain and subsidiary networks.

My PhD research on multinational corporations raises new questions about the relationship between business and the integration process: what effect did the creation of a common market shaped by and for big business have on other groups including laborers, consumers, and the entities at the heart of European economies: small and medium enterprises (SMEs)? After revising my dissertation into a book manuscript in the first months of the Max Weber Fellowship, I plan to turn my attention to this new research direction and investigate the historical relationship of SMEs to the integration process. This new project aims to build on the foundation laid by my previous work on business and integration and contribute a new perspective to the understanding of how integration affected the lives and livelihoods of Europeans.

Corina Mavrodin

A Maverick in the Making: Romania's de-Satellization Process and the Global Cold War

My research project focuses on Romania's path to autonomy from the Soviet Union by tracing the continuities between the country's two Communist regimes – that of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej (1945-65) and Nicolae Ceausescu (1965-89) within the context of the global Cold War. In this context, emphasis will be placed on the former, whose foreign policy has thus far largely eschewed detailed scrutiny since the recent declassification of the Romanian archives. My future monograph will provide not only a broader contextualization of Romania's detachment within a global perspective of the Cold War dynamic; but, also, a solid comparative framework by appraising this process in relation to others within the Eastern Bloc. Such an analysis aims not only to contribute historiographical originality to

the small, but growing body of research on the topic, but also to allow for a broader understanding of the level of agency that junior actors possessed on the periphery of the bipolar struggle.

Pascale Siegrist

Putting Anarchism in Its Place: Reclus, Kropotkin, Mechnikov and the Case of Nineteenth-century 'Anarchist Geography', c. 1870-1905

My research deals with a group of thinkers who identified as both anarchists and geographers; more specifically with the transnational network of scholars and activists that formed around the Frenchman Élisée Reclus (1830-1905) and the Russians Lev Mechnikov (1838-1888) and Pëtr Kropotkin (1842-1921). Especially the last has only rarely been discussed in the light of his scholarly work, and if so, he has been treated as a precursor to the kind of radical geography that developed in the wake of the 'spatial turn' of the 1970s and 80s.

My dissertation takes on a more historical approach that situates the anarchists' geographical outputs squarely within the scientific discussions of their days, as well as within wider societal debates concerning the relevance of science for human progress. Raised in the tradition of Humboldt and Ritter, Reclus and Kropotkin conceived of geography as a holistic world-view that linked the local and particular to the universal, as a cosmology bridging human and natural science. But anarchists also took up – and substantially transformed – the language of social Darwinism and actively contributed to the formation of what would later become known as 'geopolitics'. They exchanged with urban planners, colonial agents and educators on social reform and its practical implementation.

In highlighting how the anarchists engaged with their counterparts from the scientific establishment and adapted their arguments for their own purposes I am able to make the case that if 'anarchist' geography was indeed political, it might not be so in the way we have previously assumed. This insight not only complicates our view of the history of geography, but also that of classical anarchist themes such as the nature of the state, the epistemic rivalry to Marxism and the tension between anarchy as human nature and anarchy as civilisation. It thus seems particularly relevant that Reclus, Mechnikov and Kropotkin's period of activity falls into the crucial phase of constitution of anarchism as an independent current of socialism.

Sakiko Kaiga

War Against War: the Pro-League of Nations Movement in Britain and the Intellectual Origins of the League of Nations, 1914-18

My thesis casts new light on the little-appreciated league of nations movement during the Great War, and reveals its unexpected consequences for the development of the first international organisation for peace. Many scholars have dismissed the thinkers associated with the league of nations movement as starry-eyed idealists. This study, however, shows that the pro-league movement not only defied clear-cut categories such as utopian, but also made a significant contribution to the foundation of the League of Nations. Further, historians have not appreciated the remarkable extent to which the movement transformed its official ideas about a league into something unintended. At the outbreak of the war, pro-league thinkers identified international anarchy and the rivalry of alliance blocs as the primary cause of war, and sought to introduce a new international institution inclusive of all the great powers. Yet, by the end of the war, they came to promote what they had originally opposed: the league as a continuation of the war-time alliance against Germany and its allies into the post-war peace. Behind this profound shift, there were a powerful argument to fight until defeating Germany, and a widely shared belief that the league should be formed as a coalition only of 'democratic' states. By exploiting the unpublished manuscripts and private papers of key pro-league activists as well as

official and published records, this research reveals the origin of a fundamental conundrum of the present international society – the maintenance of world peace critically depends on the use of force.

New Project - The Label of Democracy: Mobilising a 'Universal Value' in the League of Nations

Since democracy first became upheld as a 'universal value' in the League of Nations, many studies have considered democracy as a positive norm, leaving the question how democracy was employed as a label in international politics. This project argues that the great powers which led the League used the concept to distinguish between the own 'desirable' side and 'undesirable' ones. This distinction, as the discriminatory standard of 'civilisation', sparked transnational debates about democracy and paved the way for the international ideological battle. To reveal how debates by intellectuals and activists mobilised democracy, this research examines unpublished manuscripts in multi-national archives.

Danilo Scholz

From Colonialism to Third Worldism? Alexandre Kojève and the Developing Nations (1945-1968)

The Russian-born philosopher Alexandre Kojève (1902-1968) rose to sudden fame in 1930s Paris with an original re-interpretation of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit* that overturned the prevailing French views of the German philosopher. Previously held to be an apologist of Prussian expansionism, in Kojève's reading Hegel became a theorist of violent upheaval and revolutionary transformation, which would only reach an emancipatory conclusion with the advent of the world state at the end of history.

When, after the end of the Second World, Kojève swapped academic philosophy for a post in French higher administration and began to work on economic foreign policy, his erstwhile radicalism did not affect his stance on the country's colonies. In the emergent world of regional power blocs (the United States, Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the USSR, Western Europe), Kojève argued, France had to hold on to its overseas possessions to make its voice heard globally. As the costs for maintaining the empire threatened to spiral out of control, Kojève urged the government in Paris to use the negotiations that led to the signing of the Treaty of Rome as an opportunity to persuade the Europe of the Six to shoulder the burden of empire collectively. Given the unwillingness of France's partners and the push for decolonisation, these hopes, however, were dashed.

Kojève observed the struggles for national independence in Africa and Asia with detachment, if not indifference. His correspondence with Carl Schmitt in the 1950s provides some reasons for this attitude. While, in the 1930s, he was convinced that the end of history lay in the future, Kojève later claimed that the post-histoire had already become reality. Large-scale political conflagrations were a thing of the past; all that was left to work out were administrative details, including the global redistribution of wealth. Upon Schmitt's invitation, in 1957 Kojève presented before an audience in Düsseldorf his vision for what he provocatively termed a "giving colonialism" that was to ensure the gradual recalibration of economic relations between the developing and the developed world. With France's colonial empire on the wane, in the 1960s Kojève reached out to development economists and dependence theorists such as Raúl Prebisch: Europe under French stewardship was no longer an exporter of a model of 'civilisation' but provided a blueprint for regional integration based on a smart protectionism.

Amparo Fontaine*A Maverick in the Making: Romania's de-Satellization Process and the Global Cold War*

My research project focuses on Romania's path to autonomy from the Soviet Union by tracing the continuities between the country's two Communist regimes – that of Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej (1945-65) and Nicolae Ceausescu (1965-89) within the context of the global Cold War. In this context, emphasis will be placed on the former, whose foreign policy has thus far largely eschewed detailed scrutiny since the recent declassification of the Romanian archives. My future monograph will provide not only a broader contextualization of Romania's detachment within a global perspective of the Cold War dynamic; but, also, a solid comparative framework by appraising this process in relation to others within the Eastern Bloc. Such an analysis aims not only to contribute historiographical originality to the small, but growing body of research on the topic, but also to allow for a broader understanding of the level of agency that junior actors possessed on the periphery of the bipolar struggle.

Shiru Lim*Philosophy, Truth, and Politics in Enlightenment Europe*

The second half of the eighteenth century was the age of philosopher kings. Kingdoms and principalities across Europe proclaimed at various points in the period to be under philosophic rule of some description. Eighteenth-century Europe's most prominent collaborative intellectual project, the *Encyclopédie*, was not alone in proclaiming '[h]ow happy people will be, when kings will be philosophers, or when the philosophers will be kings'. Yet despite their acknowledgement of the philosopher's suitability for government, apologists for philosophical kingship in eighteenth-century Europe scarcely explicitly elaborated on why that was the case, or what exactly the rule of a philosopher king might look like. While historians of classical Greek political thought have devoted considerable attention to what it meant for a king to be philosophic, the same attention is missing from studies of eighteenth-century conceptions of philosophical kingship.

My doctoral research therefore examined contestations over the idea of the philosopher king in eighteenth-century Europe, asking what writers and thinkers in the period had in mind when they reflected on philosophic rule. In so doing, my thesis offers a re-reading of how the relationship between philosophy and government was conceived in the period. The most striking aspect of the ideas I examined as part of this work was how philosophy itself was defined. Philosophy was understood not only as an epistemic or academic pursuit, but also a practical one: it was seen as a publicly useful exercise dedicated to truth-telling. To do philosophy was not only to seek the truth; it was also to tell the truth. Because philosophy was imbued with a social and moral purpose, philosophical kingship also took on this inflection, demanding that philosopher kings disavowed deceitful politics.

These conceptions of philosophy and of philosophical kingship strongly suggest that determining the place of truth-telling and of deception and its variants—simulation, dissimulation, equivocation, outright lying, etc.—was a central intellectual problem in Enlightenment Europe. It is to these issues that I want to turn in my proposed post-doctoral research. During my fellowship at the EUI, I plan to begin work on one aspect of this project, on theories of self-deception in French-speaking Europe, c.1680-1770. This work would not only open up new perspectives on the links between Enlightenment epistemology, political thought, and moral philosophy; importantly, it will highlight the great extent to which disagreements about how to do philosophy were equally conflicts about how to do politics.

Alessandro Bonvini

Adventurers, Exiles, Volunteers. Atlantic Histories of the Risorgimento

The Risorgimento was in the middle of major changes that led the birth of the modern world. From the beginning of the Napoleonic domination up to Porta Pia breach, the unification process was strictly intertwined with the current events in the Atlantic space: moving men, ideas and projects. Between 1790s and 1870s, about some thousands Italian patriots – on the run from the police or searching for new opportunities – left the Peninsula and acted abroad, from the United States to the Iberian region, from Mexico to Patagonia, crossing the Caribbean. After the battle of Waterloo, ex Bonapartists were enlisted in the ejércitos libertadores' and participated in the anti-Spanish battles of the Latin American colonies. A decade later, Carbonari's affiliates established new clandestine lodges, spreading insurrectionary programs against Hapsburg/Bourbon domination. Meanwhile, liberal exiles founded newspapers in London, Rio de Janeiro or Barcelona, disseminating constitutional, federal and reform ideas. During the 30s and the 40s, Mazzinian agents set up Young Italy's associations in the major cities of Europe and America, turning the Atlantic into a diaspora laboratory for the national movement and strengthening the society's apparatus. Finally, in the 1860s-70s, hundreds of red shirts were involved in conflicts overseas, supporting the democratic parties against the conservative forces. Adventurers, exiles, and volunteers turned the Italian political emigration into a vanguard for the anti-absolutistic movements in the Atlantic world. Both in practices and strategies, these patriots professed a cosmopolitan vision of the fight for universal freedoms. In the face of the order established during the Congress of Vienna, they represented one of the main threats for the maintenance of the conservative principles and the survival of the royalist institutions.

Recent studies have challenged the classical paradigms of 19th Century political history, aiming to replace it for a world history perspective and acknowledging the global dimension of the Risorgimento. In this direction, the newest historiography has examined the international projection of its protagonists, focusing on their ideas, aims, and relationships. Consequently, a growing number of studies has explored the themes of the Italian diaspora identity, their entanglement with foreign Liberal or Republican groups, as well as the external support to the unification cause. Following these approaches, the research analyzes the experience of the three generations – Napoleonic veterans; liberal and republican exiles; and garibaldini volunteers – who led the revolutionary struggle from abroad. The aim, using a *longue durée* perspective and comparing European and American sources, is to rethink the phenomenon of the Risorgimento patriotism in an Atlantic dimension and to show its closed connections with the global dynamics that marked out the developments of modernity.