



European
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DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY
AND
CIVILIZATION

MAX WEBER
PROGRAMME
FOR
POSTDOCTORAL
STUDIES

Max Weber Presentations

9 and 21 October 2019

PROGRAMME

9 October 2019, sala del Torrino, Villa Salviati, via Bolognese 156, 50139 Florence

1st panel Chair: Ann Thomson

14:00 Lana Martysheva: *Transnational Perspectives. Fabricating the Information about the French Wars of Religion in Papal Rome and Medici Florence*

14:30 Meira Gold: *Victorian Egyptology and the Making of a Colonial Field Science*

15:00 Ian Hathaway: *Mediterranean Comparisons: A Case for an Early Modern Mobility System?*

15:30 Julie Deschepper: *Monumental Socialism: Histories of Heritage in the Making*

16:00 *Coffee Break*

2nd panel Chair: Giorgio Riello

16:30 Jorge Díaz Ceballos: *The Mysterious Death of Mencía Terán. Violence, Jurisdictions and Interculturality in the Spanish Atlantic*

17:00 Andreas Greiner: *Colonial infrastructure at the intersection of local and global spaces: Scenes from the port of Dar es Salaam, c. 1900*

17:30 Nikolaos Mavropoulos: *The Japanese Expansionism in Asia and the Italian Expansion in Africa: A Comparative Study of the Early Italian and Japanese Colonialism*

21 October 2019, sala del Torrino, Villa Salviati, via Bolognese 156, 50139 Florence

1st panel Chair: Pieter M. Judson

14:00 Elizabeth Banks: *What was Socialist Internationalism (and what comes next)?*

14:30 Lola Wilhelm: *Transnational Firms as Actors of International History*

15:00 Gašper Jakovac: *Northern Catholics and Equestrian Sports in Early Stuart England*

15:30 Gaia Lott: *The European Asylum Policy in the 1980s: Challenges and Opportunities*

16:00 *Coffee Break*

2nd panel Chair: Laura Lee Downs

16:30 Viola Franziska Müller: *Illegality and Undocumentedness as New Forms of Unfreedom During the Era of the Second Slavery*

17:00 Doina Anca Cretu: *Histories of Refugee Camps in Austria-Hungary in the Era of the Great War: A Few Early Perspectives*

17:30 Milica Procić: *Womanhood in the Trenches: Environmental Embodied Histories of Female Combatants in the South- Western Balkans WWI-WWII*



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ABSTRACTS

Lana Martysheva

Transnational perspectives. Fabricating the Information about the French wars of Religion in Papal Rome and Medici Florence

This paper focuses on crucial actors involved in the transmission of news about the French Wars of Religion (1559-1598) in Sixteenth century Rome and Florence. In order to identify the stakes related to transnational circulation of information, it particularly explores on two levels the problem of emotional reactions and expressions of “joy” as a means of transnational political communication. Firstly, it studies the princely exchanges. Secondly, it questions the involvement of the “people”. The idea is to investigate the role of “emotions”, considered as an important political tool.

Meira Gold

Victorian Egyptology and the making of a colonial field science

This talk will outline my PhD research, which provides a new account of the origins of archaeological fieldwork in the Nile Delta, before and after the British occupation of Ottoman-Egypt in 1882. I explore how practitioners circulated knowledge about the built environment of pharaonic ruins such as architecture, burials, and soil mounds, which were not shipped to museums abroad but remained in situ. I trace a crucial development in Egyptology from an activity that could be practiced long-distance through a network of informants in Egypt to one that required first-hand field experience by the turn of the twentieth century. Archaeologists demarcated the “field site” and designed “fieldwork” practices to claim scientific authority over the Egyptian past, and to prove their utility to the Foreign Office. It is a project about the relationship between discipline-formation, empire-building, and invisible labour, and the tensions between locality, expertise, and trust.

Gašper Jakovac

Northern Catholics and Equestrian Sports in Early Stuart England

In December 1605, during the aftermath of the Gunpowder Plot, William James, dean of Durham Cathedral, wrote to Robert Cecil, secretary of state, to warn him of the Catholic menace in the North. He illustrated the growing confidence of the well-off Catholics in the diocese of Durham by discussing their dangerous interest in horses. According to James, Catholic gentlemen were not only over-zealous owners of horses, but also the chief organizers of hunting and racing matches, often intended for an exclusively Catholic social circle. James claimed that the events were also attended by many commoners, who had not simply gazed at, but also admired their Catholic lords. Taking the report of William James as a starting point, I will discuss some confessional aspects of equestrianism in Early Stuart England and its importance for Catholic sociability and self-fashioning. This is a work-in-progress paper, stemming from my wider research project on Catholic performance culture in post-Reformation England.

Julie Deschepper

Monumental Socialism: Histories of Heritage in the Making

Why, how and by whom have the material remains of the Soviet past been preserved – or not – in Russia? In the last fifteen years, this question has aroused an increasing interest. However the fact that Soviet-Era monuments already were designated, preserved and even restored as ‘cultural heritage’ during the Soviet period is not frankly discussed. The Socialist world has indeed, and for long, been excluded from the history of heritage in the 20th century. My PhD, that I intend to turn into a monograph tentatively entitled ‘Soviet Monumental Legacy in Russia: Histories of Heritage in the Making (1917-2000s)’, has explored this phenomenon through a long-term perspective. From the October Revolution (1917) through the post-Soviet period, I have examined the evolution of actors, narratives and uses of this ‘Soviet heritage’, which took a great part in the establishment of the Soviet

regime as it allowed to create and control over historical memory. In doing so, my work also discusses the existence of a Socialist conceptualization of heritage, distinctive from the 'Western' one, and proposes a broader debate on the understanding of time in the USSR.

Additionally, this year I would like to further pursue my reflection on the specificity of heritage in Socialist contexts, addressing a transnational perspective on this issue. My aim it is to explore how much the 'model' of making monumental productions heritage in a surprisingly short time period, elaborated in Soviet Russia, has circulated in other Socialist regimes and has been used to implement socialism in different parts of the world.

Jorge Díaz Ceballos

The mysterious death of Mencía Terán. Violence, jurisdictions and interculturality in the Spanish Atlantic

In June 1617, a man was accused of murdering his wife by poisoning her food with the help of his mistress, a mulatto woman accused herself of witchcraft. This accusation generated a court case that took place between Panama and Castile and lasted until 1622. By unweaving the complexities of this case, I want to analyze how the juridical system shaped the lives of the people living in the Spanish Atlantic and how they interacted with it. My objective is to analyze how the interlocking of jurisdictions affected lives of normal people in the Spanish Monarchy and, at the same time, try to examine how these peoples, especially women, indigenous, and mixed, exercised different levels of agency. Ultimately, my research aims at grasping how local power articulated in the courthouse defined and maintained the global power of the Monarchy by adapting to different contexts and social scenarios.

Andreas Greiner

Colonial infrastructure at the intersection of local and global spaces: Scenes from the port of Dar es Salaam, c. 1900

My research is located at the intersection of global and local spaces in the late nineteenth-century colonial world. The project takes the colony German East Africa (1891-1918, today's Tanzania) as a test case to explore the effects, maritime logistical networks between the African colonies and the European metropole had on shaping and re-structuring imperial formations. Like in other empires, subsidised steamship services guaranteed fast and reliable communication within the German Empire. Since 1890, a regular mail steamer service connected German East Africa with different ports along East Africa, the Suez Canal, and the wider world. In historiography, such steamships have famously been described as "tools of empire", suggesting that infrastructure was a tool at hands of imperial regimes. It is the aim of my research to work towards a more nuanced understanding of how imperial technologies altered colonial rule.

Nikolaos Mavropoulos

The Japanese expansionism in Asia and the Italian expansion in Africa: A comparative study of the early Italian and Japanese colonialism

In the 1850s the Italians and Japanese, having not yet consolidated their modern states, were witnessing the industrialization, the explorations, the achievements and the strengthening of the rest of the protagonists in the geopolitical chessboard. Such developments most certainly caused them restlessness and anxiety. The goal of this study was to highlight the nature and to outline the origins of Japan's early colonialism by comparing it with the Italian one. I chose the comparison with the Italian equivalent phenomenon because, I am convinced that it shares many common and interesting elements. The two phenomena naturally encompass interesting differences as well, the highlighting of which will help the deeper understanding of the birth, the development and the causes of early Japanese and Italian colonialism.

Elizabeth Banks

What was Socialist Internationalism (and what comes next)?

During the twentieth century, dozens of Soviet institutions provided aid, political support and technical expertise to emergent regimes in the developing world through policies known as internationalism. Internationalism has been a tenant of socialism since the nineteenth century, when Marx wrote that workers of all countries should unite, had taken many forms. In this talk, I will share my research on Soviet connections with Mozambique – which adopted Marxism-Leninism in 1977 – revealing how this over-arching ideal of "internationalism" was enacted during the late twentieth century. Drawing on archival and oral history research in the US, Russia and Mozambique, the research reveals that officials, leaders and citizens in the two states pursued internationalism

through varied and unexpected terrain – women’s organizations, a fishing cooperative, the Olympics, rock concerts, oil sales, military aid, state treaties – producing tensions as well as affinities, national development as well as personal gain. Despite conflicting approaches, these shared internationalist projects co-created a vibrant, transnational socialist community with lasting consequences, and generated state power that endured even when socialism disappeared. If this was socialist internationalism, what comes next?

Lola Wilhelm

Transnational firms as actors of international history

My PhD examined the participation of a transnational food company, Nestlé, in four entangled fields of public affairs: agriculture, medicine and public health, humanitarian relief, and development aid. It specifically examines how Nestlé’s involvement in these fields was first put to the test in the firm’s home country, Switzerland, before being deployed on an imperial and international scale from the inter-war period onward. My central argument is that although since the 1970s food companies have routinely been suspected of playing a detrimental role in these fields of public life, this was not always the case. In fact, corporate involvement has tended to be historically based on collaboration, rather than opposition, with some of their foremost players: national and colonial authorities, scientific communities, and international and humanitarian organisations.

Ian Hathaway

Mediterranean Comparisons: A Case for an Early Modern Mobility System?

My research explores sixteenth-century travel and identification papers and practices in the Eastern Mediterranean. I chiefly focus on evidence from the Republic of Venice and the Order of St. John of Malta, but I also engage sources from the Ottoman Empire, the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, and the Republic of Ragusa (modern-day Dubrovnik). The backbone of my research is the collection, close reading, and analysis of over two thousand individual travel patents. These documents constitute, to my knowledge, the most extensive database of travel papers ever assembled for the sixteenth century. Crucially, the research shows that travel patents were not top-down impositions devised to control all forms of movement. Instead, they were ad hoc instruments carried by individuals whose interests converged with those of the rulers who sponsored their travels. The comparative perspective I employ also confirms that polities across the Eastern Mediterranean relied on shared chancery cultures and practices to promote and protect mobility. Indeed, though different region faced individual challenges, by the sixteenth century the universal need to protect the movement of people and goods had helped create a coherent system of travel documents that complemented (or replaced) macro-level diplomatic and trade agreements. In this context, travel patents were institutional tokens that allowed the issuing polities to project political legitimacy over vital environmental and human resources and were thus a vital component of the history of travel and identification practices in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

In this presentation, I plan to discuss the writing and research projects that I will pursue during the academic year 2019-2020 as a Max Weber Fellow. My first project, titled “Patenting Power in the Sixteenth-Century Mediterranean,” focuses on who carried Venetian and Hospitaller travel patents, and why they carried these documents in the first place. My second article project, titled “Protecting or Promoting? Passports and Safe-Conducts in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Challenge the currently held notion that “passports” were evolutions of the medieval safe-conduct. This text focuses on a close reading of patent letters from the Venetian, Hospitaller, and Florentine archives, and concludes that “passport patents” and “patents of safe-conducts” were different documents that administrations and traveller relied upon in different context and for different purposes. My final article project engages John Wansbrough’s insightful suggestions to consider “lingua franca” in the Mediterranean as a shared set of chancery practices, cultures, and documents that allowed for communication between administrations and individuals, at least in the spheres of diplomacy and commerce. Comparative analysis of Italianate and Ottoman travel papers supports Wansbrough’s thesis, though my article will explore the limits of this “Mediterranean Mobility System.”

Gaia Lott

The European Asylum policy in the 1980s: challenges and opportunities

The number of asylum applicants passed from 13.000 at the beginning of the 1970s to more than 300.000 by the end of the 1980s, most of them coming from developing countries (Middle East, India and Africa) in spontaneous, unscheduled way. European governments’ response was the introduction of restrictive policies, interrupting the liberal path followed in the previous years and creating first tensions with UNHCR. At the same

time, some EC institutions (e.g. the Commission and the Parliament) and other international organizations that involved European states (e.g. the Council of Europe) maintained a liberal and humanitarian approach towards asylum. My research aims to analyze what is hidden behind these dynamics, trying to understand which internal and external factors contributed to forge European stands on asylum in the 1980s. Specific attention will be paid to member states' positions, European institutions and UNHCR influences, as well as refugee legislation constraints.

Viola Franziska Müller

Illegality and Undocumentedness as New Forms of Unfreedom during the era of the Second Slavery

As discovered in my PhD dissertation, there were groups of people of African descent in the Americas whose legal status can be understood as illegal and/or undocumented. In regions where slavery existed, there were people who should—according to the legislation of the time—be enslaved or not be there at all. Examples are slave refugees, illegally manumitted slaves, illegal residents, and other people who could not prove their freedom. In my next research, I would like to put these people centerstage. In a transnational comparative analysis of cities, I will, firstly, investigate the power of slavery during the era of the “second slavery” (when slavery came to be abolished in many regions in the Americas while simultaneously expanding and intensifying in others) to push people into illegality and undocumentedness. And secondly, I will unearth the consequences of this illegal freedom for the lives of undocumented people, their experiences in the urban labor markets, the impacts on the larger black populations, and discuss whether illegality in the nineteenth century should be understood a new form of dependent work relations.

Doina Anca Cretu

Histories of Refugee Camps in Austria-Hungary in the era of the Great War: A few Early Perspectives

This presentation will focus on a new postdoctoral project, an exploration of refugee camps as spaces of refugeedom in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, in the era of the Great War. Based on (still) fractured archival and secondary literature research, this presentation will map the historiographical backdrop, key guiding questions, as well as the leeway and limits of this project. Lastly, it will point to the significance of this study as history of Central and Eastern Europe, history of refugees, and transnational history.

Milica Procik

Womanhood in the Trenches: Environmental Embodied Histories of Female Combatants in the South- Western Balkans WWI-WWII

During my Max Weber fellowship, the interdisciplinary research framework (environmental history, medical history, gender studies) was established to examine the stories of female combatants in the two World Wars in the area of South- Western Balkans and beyond, looking into how these women collaborated with, influenced, and were influenced by their international peers. The area of South- Western Balkans, resoundingly patriarchal as well as historically ridden with very bloody armed conflicts, offer stories of tragic victimhood of women in the times of adversities. On the other hand, it reveals stories of women's fierce resistance to violence and oppression: from women who impersonated men in order to be accepted in the army before and during the World War I, to over 100.000 women partisans of the Yugoslav People's Liberation Army in the World War II and the founding of Antifascist Front of Women, an organisation which yielded a considerable political influence in the post- war period. Simultaneously employed in the social mobility struggle and the armed combat in the stories of these women, the body is viewed an eventful research 'site'. This research therefore takes on aspects of the trans- corporeal environmental history and medical history, to underpin the embodied gendered struggle for equality through the blood, the flesh, and the bullets.



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