Done with Eurocentrism?

Directions, Diversions, and Debates in History and Sociology

8th Annual Seminar of the BGHS
30 June–2 July 2016, Bielefeld University
Welcome to the Annual Seminar 2016

Dear participants and guests,

We are pleased to welcome you to the 8th Annual Seminar of the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS). Thank you for joining us in Bielefeld and for your exciting contributions to your conference!

Our topic this year is *Done with Eurocentrism? Directions, Diversions, and Debates in History and Sociology*. Even in actively centrifugal and anti-hegemonic approaches, ‘Europe’ has sustained its rather invisible power as the norm with which other thoughts, other definitions, other practices, other forms of knowledge, other temporalities, and other spatialities are compared. The aim of this year’s Annual Seminar is to revive the dialogue between different strands of research and platforms for examining our trajectories away from Eurocentrism. We seek to engage doctoral and junior scholars in fruitful conversations about their approaches, methods and empirical findings for re-mapping the world into account for a wider range of standards, needs, practices, values, and concerns and invite analysis of what this de-centralization process has achieved, or failed to achieve.

Our programme consists of six panel sessions for the discussion of individual contributions, four keynotes by distinguished researchers, and an Art&Science project – the photo exhibition *Art Begins in Streets. Art Lives in Streets*. For these stimulating events, we especially welcome and thank *Shahzad Bāshir* (Stanford), *Angelika Epple* (Bielefeld), *Hsuan L. Hsu* (California), *Wilfried Raussert* (Bielefeld), and *Aram Ziai* (Kassel).

We are looking forward to exciting presentations and keynotes and to vibrant discussions with you!

The organising committee of the Annual Seminar 2016
Left to right: *Junchen Yan, Mahshid Mayar, Yaatsil Guevara, Marius Meinhof*
Programme

Thursday, 30 June 2016

09:00am–10:00am
Arrival and Registration
(X-B2-101)

10:00am–10:30am
Welcome and Introduction
Welcome Address: THOMAS WELSKOPP (Director BGHS)
Introduction: MAHSHID MAYAR
(X-A2-103)

10:30am–12:00pm
Keynote Lecture: ANGELIKA EPPLE (Bielefeld University, Germany):
Modernity and Eurocentrism: Twin Sisters Revisited
Moderator: MARIUS MEINHOF
(X-A2-103)

Angelika Epple is professor of modern history and vice-president for international
affairs and diversity at Bielefeld University. Her most recent publication, within
the frame of her research interests in history of globalizations and practices of
comparison, include an anthology co-edited with Walter Erhart and a
book chapter where she proposes for a ‘practice turn’ in global history.

12:00pm–1:30pm
Lunch (University canteen, Building X)

1:30pm–3:30pm
Panel 1: Eurocentrism and the Academy
Chair: DANIEL SIEMENS
(X-B2-103)

JULIA ROTH (Bielefeld University, Germany): Feminism Otherwise: Intersectionality beyond Occidentalism

PHILIPP BERNHARD (University of Augsburg, Germany): Perspectives for History Teaching beyond Eurocentrism

ANITA MISRA SHUKLA (Government Postgraduate College Noida, India): Studying the Indian Society in Western Way: Evaluating the Theoretical Models Adopted by Indian Sociologist

BEATE LÖFFLER (EAST School of Advanced Studies of the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany): Petrified Worldviews. Eurocentristic Legacy in Academic Knowledge Bases

3:30pm–4:00pm
Coffee Break (BGHS Lounge)
(X-B2-109)

4:00pm–6:00pm
Panel 2: Religion and Ethnicity in Conversation
Chair: HEINRICH W. SCHÄFER
(X-B2-103)

LUIS MANUEL HERNÁNDEZ AGUILAR & ZUBAIR AHMAD (Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): Of Eurocentric Orders and Divisions: Reflections on “Race” and “Religion”
LUKE FORBES (Independent Scholar, Essen, Germany): Dancing Indigeneity: Representations of Australian and Indigenous Australian Identity and Culture in Dance Performance and Dance Historical Texts

THIEN-HUONG T. NHINH (California Polytechnic State University, USA): Turning Away from Eurocentrism: Transnational Orientation toward Religion and Ethnicity

TATHAGATO GANGULY (University of Hyderabad, India): The Concept of “Indigenous Peoples”: Eurocentrism Redux

7:30pm Conference Dinner

Friday, 1 July 2016

9:00am–10:30am Keynote Lecture: SHAHZAD BASHIR (Stanford University, USA): Eurocentrism and Islam: Space, Time, and the Intellectual Politics of Cultural Essentialism, Moderator: YAATSIL GUEVARA

Shahzad Bashir is the Lysbeth Warren Anderson Professor in Islamic Studies at Stanford University. His most recent book is entitled Sufi Bodies: Religion and Society in Medieval Islam (2011). He is currently completing a book entitled Islamic Pasts and Futures: Explorations in the Meanings of History.

10:30am–11:00am Coffee Break (BGHS Lounge)

11:00am–12:30pm Panel 3: Politics and International Policy, Chair: ANTJE FLÜCHTER

MARINA RUDYAK (Heidelberg University, Germany): Why Words Matter: Understanding the Black Box of Chinese Foreign Aid

JUAN MANUEL DELGADO RASCÓN (Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain): Alternative Approaches to International Development Agenda

PIÑAR RAMÍREZ GRÖBLI (University of Bern, Switzerland): Cultural Meanings of Nature: Local Identities and Empowerment Practices in the Context of Agrofuel Production. The Case of Colombia

12:30pm–2:00pm Lunch (University canteen, Building X)

2:00pm–3:30pm Panel 4: Memories, Discourses, and Narratives, Chair: ANNE FRIEDRICHS

DANIEL PALM (Bremen International Graduate School for Social Sciences, Germany): Narratives on 1989: Towards a Global Perspective by Comparing Protests in Leipzig and Beijing

HENDRIKJE GRUNOW (University of Konstanz, Germany): Being Conscious of One’s Past: An Approach to Historical Learning in a Non-European Context
MIRKO PETERSEN (Bielefeld University, Germany): Beyond Bipolarity? Rise and Fall of the Argentine Third Position (1947–1950)

3:30pm–4:00pm
Coffee Break (BGHS Lounge)

(X-B2-109)

4:00pm–5:30pm
Keynote Lecture: HSUAN L. HSU (University of California, Davis, USA):
Geographies of Risk: Environmental Violence and the Global South
Moderator: MAHSHID MAYAR

Hsuan L. Hsu is Professor of English at the University of California, Davis. He is the author of Geography and Production of Space in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Sitting in Darkness: Mark Twain’s Asia and Comparative Radicalization. He is currently researching connections between olfactory aesthetics and environmental risk.

5:45pm
Art&Science project: Art Begins in Streets. Art Lives in Streets. A Photo Exhibition by Wilfried Raussert (Bielefeld University): Photo Exhibition and Reception

“Walking the city is like reading a book, watching a film or participating in a performance of everyday urban life. Changing sides of the street is like turning the page, changing the sequence or changing the slide. Capturing all that which moves rapidly, all that which arrives and departs within seconds through the lens of your camera is a visual form of urban storytelling. The street that welcomed you yesterday with a mural of urban nature in forms of city trees, plants, and flowers may greet you the next day with a mural of political protest or urban decay. Like the traffic at rush hour of the contemporary metropolis the urban street art seems to change its appearance at times at the speed of light. Every day new images appear and new stories unfold to the alert walker of the city.

The images in this exhibit are momentary glimpses into the street life of cities in the Americas like Lima in Peru, Guadalajara in Mexico, Toronto and Ottawa in Canada, and New York and San Francisco in the USA. The photographs exhibited are snapshots of the momentary encounter of
the painted city with the passing dweller, visitor or tourist. They intend to unfold new stories, as street mural art is reframed in a new context of everyday life practice.” (Wilfried Raussert)

Wilfried Raussert is chair of North American and Inter-American Studies at Bielefeld University. For him, scholarship in literary and cultural studies and artistic activity are not strange bedfellows. On the contrary, they represent a reciprocal source of inspiration. Walking the cities in South and North America, for the photographer, is a physical as well as a semiotic journey. Reading the colorful signs on the walls, in the streets, and connecting them with the urban dweller passing by, he uses photography as a medium to create new urban narratives. To the artist, art begins in the streets and art lives in the streets. His favorite art galleries and living museums are the streets in cities like Guadalajara, New York City, Toronto, Ottawa, and Lima. Through the lens of the camera, the city becomes a canvas against which the intersection of mural, graffiti, image, and the human body and face unfold stories. So he hopes.

Saturday, 2 July 2016

9:30am–10:30am  Panel 5: Semantics and Interpretation  (X-A2-103)
Chair: YEDAN LI

MIRJAM HÄHNLE (University of Basel, Switzerland): Knowledge about the “Orient” between Voice and Scripture: The Expedition to Felix Arabia (1761–67)

OLEKSANDR SVYETLOV (Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, Ukraine): Eurocentrism as a Model for Post-Colonial Ukraine?

10:30am–11:00am  Coffee Break (BGHS Lounge)  (X-B2-109)

11:00am–12:30pm  Panel 6: Ethnographic Engagements  (X-B2-103)
Chair: TOBIAS REU

SUSANNE SCHULTZ & ALMAMY SYLLA (Bielefeld University, Germany; Institut Supérieur de Formation et de Recherche Appliquée de Bamako (ISFRA), Mali): Deportation of Malians from African Countries: The Missing Link

FABIO SANTOS (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): Re-mapping Europe: Fieldnotes from the French-Brazilian Border

HÅNNAN SCHILLING (Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany): Working with Concepts: Conceptualizing Work

12:30pm - 2:00pm  Lunch (WestEnd Cafeteria, Main Building)

2:00pm–3:00pm  Roundtable Discussion  (X-A2-103)

3:00 pm  End of the Conference
Since the Age of Enlightenment and for well over a century in the academy, Europe has been the more-or-less exclusive provider of the vocabulary, the imagery, the objects, the language, the legal infrastructure, the ‘geopolitical imaginary’, and the geographical directions in everyday life to make sense of ourselves, our passage through time, and our surroundings. Embedded into the poster of the 8th BGHS Annual Seminar to dispute the spatial dimension of Eurocentric perspectives of the world, this map of the world by Al-Idrisi offers a view of the known world in the 12th century. Bringing together an Arab cartographer’s world geography knowledge to the court of a Venetian king, the map bears witness to an era before the Enlightenment when the so-called ‘Orient’ and ‘Occident’ exchanged, expanded, and negotiated the borders of knowledge in different ways than our contemporary pre-dominantly ‘northern’ perspectives imply. Though focused on the mathematical representations of the known world in cartographic terms, this map/poster is hoped to trigger curiosity as to what world(s) we reside and navigate in our academic and everyday pursuits, to challenge our homogenized spatial perceptions of the world maps where Europe stands at the center top, and to initiate discussions and debates about current historical and sociological understandings of the world beyond and yet including Europe.

Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS)

The Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS) is an institution providing a structured doctoral degree programme in history and sociology at Bielefeld University. It adopts an international orientation, is open to all topics covered by the disciplines involved, and thrives on interdisciplinary exchange. It is one of two projects at Bielefeld University funded as part of the Excellence Initiative by the German Federal and State Governments since 2007.

The Annual Seminar

Every year doctoral researchers of the BGHS convene a conference – the Annual Seminar – inviting graduate students in both disciplines from all over the world to come to Bielefeld and discuss their dissertation projects in an interdisciplinary peer environment. The conference promotes exchange between young scholars across disciplines and creates an international platform for the presentation of current research projects. The preceding seven Annual Seminars addressed the following topics:

2015: Structures and Events - A Dialogue between History and Sociology
2014: A New Social Question or Crisis as Usual? Historical and Sociological Perspectives on Inequalities
2013: Work in a Globalising World: Gender, Mobility, Markets
2012: Control’s other Sides – Contemporary and Historical Perspectives
2011: From Time to Space? Current Conceptual Challenges in History and Sociology
2010: Dynamics and Change
2009: End of Messages? The State of the Dialogue between History and Sociology

www.uni-bielefeld.de/bghs