

International History

Academic year 2020-2021

Doctoral Seminar I

HI013 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Tuesday 14h15 - 16h00

Course Description

This is the first half of a two-semester-long mandatory introductory seminar for first year International History department PhD students, which Prof. Nicole Bourbonnais and I co-teach. It has four parts. Weeks 1-3 address the fact and the stuff of history writing, i.e. primary sources. Weeks 4-8 cover conceptual questions: space; scale and unit of analysis; periodization; causation; and structure&agency. Weeks 9-13 are dedicated to historiographic approaches and turns. Last, in week 14 we discuss an important academic skill: how one writes a critical review essay. To that end, I will divide the students in alphabetical order into 3 groups; each group will find one interesting review essay from a list of journals I will provide mid-semester; and discuss that essay in class, it being understood that all students will have read all three review essays.

> PROFESSOR

[Nicole Bourbonnais](#)
[Cyrus Schayegh](#)

[Office hours](#)

> ASSISTANT

Mona Bieling

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Syllabus

Requirements

1. 50%: class participation
2. 20%: three max. 300-word texts that critique that day's International History Forum (IHF) presentation (16:15-1800) through the lens of the texts discussed the same day in class (14:15-16:00), due one day after that day at 23:59 by email to me. The weeks of the IHF presentations about which you need to write a text are: week 4, space, week 6, periodization, and week 8, the event.
3. 30%: a final paper, being a review essay of circa 3,000 words, on a topic discussed this semester. Deadline: 8 January 2021, 23:59. Penalty for late submission: 0.5 grade per day (for the paper only, not the overall final grade; example: a 6 becomes a 5.5).

Other matters

- The students will be required, as all other IH PhD students, to attend the by-monthly lectures of the department's International History Forum, also those on which they are not asked to write a 300-word text.
- Drinking, no eating, in class.
- All written and oral communication may be in French or in English.
- The course is in principle reserved for 1st year IH PhD students

Readings

Week 1: The fact and narrative

- Edward Carr, *What Is History* (London, 1962), 3-35 (Chap. 1, 'The historian and his facts')
- Keith Jenkins, ed., *The Postmodern History Reader* (London: Routledge, 1997), 384-397 (Editor's Introduction, by Jenkins; Saul Friedlander, 'Probing the Limits of Representation'; Hayden White, 'Historical emplotment and the problem of truth')

Week 2: Primary sources

- Mark Donnelly and Claire Norton, *doing history* (London: Routledge, 2011), 65-81
- Miriam Dobson, 'Letters', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 57-73
- Christa Hämmerle, 'Diaries', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 141-158
- David Carlson, 'Autobiography', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 175-191

Week 3: Primary sources, cont'd

- Paul Readman, 'Speeches', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 209-225
- Moritz Föllmer, 'Surveillance reports', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 74-89
- Claudia Verhoeven, 'Court files', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 90-105
- Kristina Readman, 'Memoranda', in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 123-140

Week 4: Space

- Nigel Thrift, 'Space: The Fundamental Stuff of Geography', in *Key Concepts in Geography*, ed. Nicholas Clifford et al., 2nd ed. (London: Sage, 2009), 85-96
- Tim Cresswell, *Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), 1-13, 35-57, 196-217, 218-238
- Karl Schlögel, *In Space We Read History: On the History of Civilization and Geopolitics* (Rhinebeck: Bard Graduate Center, 2016), Introduction

Week 5: Scale

- Jacques Revel, 'Micro-analyse et construction du social', in idem, ed., *Jeux d'échelles* (Paris: Gallimard / Seuil, 1998), 15-36
- Andrew Herod, *Geographies of Globalization: A Critical Introduction* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009), 82-110 ('Talking globalization')
- Doreen Massey, 'A Global Sense of Place', in *Reading Human Geography*, ed. Trevor Barnes et al. (London, 1997), 315-323

Week 6: Periodization

- Jürgen Osterhammel, *The Transformation of the World. A Global History of the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), 45-76 ('Time: When was the 19th century?')
- William A. Green, 'Periodization in European and World History', *Journal of World History* 3:1 (1992): 13-53
- Dror Ze'evi, 'Back to Napoleon? Thoughts on the Beginning of the Modern Era in the Middle East', *Mediterranean Historical Review* 19:1 (2004): 73-94

Week 7: Causation

Mark Hewitson, *History and Causality* (Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), ch. 3.

HR Conversation. Explaining Historical Change; or, the Lost History of Causes, *American Historical Review* 120:4 (2015): 1369-1423

Week 8: Event / structures

Marshall Sahlins, The Return of the Event, Again; with Reflections on Beginnings of the Great Fijian War of 1843 to 1855 between the Kingdoms of Bau and Rewa, in *Clio in Oceania*, ed. Aletta Biersack (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), 37-99

William Sewell, Historical Events as Transformation of Structures, *Theory and Society* 25 (1996): 841-81

Week 9: From social to cultural history and beyond

Georg Iggers, *Historiography in the 20th Century* (Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 1997), 51-133

Week 10: Transnational histories

Pierre-Yves Saunier, *Transnational History* (London: Palgrave, 2013), 1-13, 14-32, 58-79, 117-134

Matthias Middell and Lluís Roura, The various forms of transcending the horizon of national history writing, in *Transnational Challenges to National History Writing*, ed. Matthias Middell and Lluís Roura (London: Palgrave, 2013), 1-35

Week 11: Global histories

Sebastian Conrad, *What Is Global History?* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016), 1-114

Week 12: International and diplomatic histories

Thomas Zeiler et al., Diplomatic History Today: A Roundtable *JAmH* 95, no. 4 (2009): 1053-1091

Cyrus Schayegh, Introduction and a note on imperial-postcolonial relations, in *Globalizing the U.S. Presidency: Postcolonial Views of John F. Kennedy*, ed. Cyrus Schayegh (London: Bloomsbury, 2020), 1-16

Erez Manela, International society as a historical subject *Diplomatic History* 44:2 (2020): 184-209

Week 13: Guest class taught by a guest professor

Readings: assigned by a guest professor

Week 14: How to write a critical review essay

Each student discusses his/her essay outline in a short presentation