

International History

Academic year 2020-2021

Humanitarians and Human Trafficking: The Global History of Slavery and Abolition, 1800-Present

HI018 - Autumn - 6 ECTS

Wednesday 12h15 - 14h00

Course Description

This course critically examines the changing nature of humanitarian activism against slavery from the abolition of the slave trade in the early 19th century to international action against human trafficking in the 21st century. The first part of the course covers the rise of anti-slavery movements in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The second part considers the changing nature of slavery under colonial rule and the evolving context of humanitarian campaigns in the twentieth century including the efforts undertaken by the League of Nations, the ILO and the UNO. Some of the key themes discussed include the ideological foundations and economic motives for abolition, the contested definition of slavery, the relationship between new forms of slavery and the rise of colonialism in Africa and Asia, and the formulation of international conventions against slavery, child labour and forced labour and the challenges confronting humanitarian NGOs today.

> PROFESSOR

[Amalia Ribí Forclaz](#)

[Office hours](#)

Office: MdP-P2-537
Office Hours : (Tuesday 2-3 pm, By appointment only!)
Phone: +41 22 908 62 16

> ASSISTANT

[Mona Bieling](#)

[Office hours](#)

Wednesdays, 15-16h, by appointment only

Syllabus

Course Structure

Requirements and Assessment

1.Seminar participation (30%)

Students are expected to attend each seminar and regularly participate in discussions. It is essential that you read the readings. For each week you will read 1 of the required readings and 1 of the suggested readings listed in the syllabus.

2. Reading Reflection (20%)

For each week (starting week 3-12), 1 student will submit a reading reflection based on all the readings of that particular week (750- 1000 words). This will take the form of a short critique of the readings (what are the key points, particular methodology used, conclusions, strengths and limitations, also compared with other readings) followed by up to 3 questions for class discussion. The reflections should be sent to the TA and will be posted on moodle the day before class at 10 am. Students should be prepared to say a few words about their reflection at the beginning of class.

3. Term Paper (50%)

The final term paper should be related to one of the themes raised during the class. Papers should be approximately 3000 words in length (this includes footnotes but not the bibliography). You are expected to think independently about your possible research question for the term paper, but you should consult with me once you have a proposal in mind. You should have a proposal by week 9, which you will submit to me and to my teaching assistant in written form by email. The proposal will include a provisional title, an abstract and (optional) bibliography, length: 1- 2 pages. Guidance will be given in class. The final paper (due on December 30, midnight) should demonstrate an understanding of the class content and the readings and an ability to analyze them critically and to make connections between them. Alternatively, students may also focus on a primary document (historical source) by embedding its analysis into the class readings. Attention will be paid to clarity of expression and appropriate use of terminology. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated.

Readings: All of the required readings and some of the suggested readings will be available electronically. In addition, relevant books will be held on reserve in the library.

Technology in the classroom: phones (and headphones) must be put away during class and laptops can be used for taking notes only.

General Bibliography:

Beckert, Sven and Seth Rockmann, *Slavery & Capitalism: A New History of American Economic Development* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016).

Diouf, Sylviane Ann, *Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans brought to America* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Jacobs, Harriet, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. New York: Penguin, 2000 (first ed. 1861).

Miers, Suzanne, *Slavery in the Twentieth Century: The Evolution of a Global Problem* (Lanham, Oxford: Altamira Press, 2003).

Mintz, Sidney W., *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History* (Harmondsworth, 1985)

Quirk, Joel, *Unfinished Business: A Comparative Survey of Historical and Contemporary Slavery* (Paris, 2009).

Trevor Bernard and Gad Heuman (eds.), *The Routledge History of Slavery*, (London, 2010).

Schedule

WEEK 1 / September 16: Course Overview / Introduction: The Global History of Slavery and Abolition: Linking the Historical and the Contemporary

No required readings: Please review the Course Moodle Page and come prepared with any questions about the syllabus

WEEK 2 / September 23: Researching Slavery and Abolition: Blurry Definitions, Archival Silences and Tricky Comparisons Across Time and Space

Required readings:

Miers, Suzanne, *Slavery: A Question of Definition* in G. Campbell (ed.), *The Structure of Slavery in Indian Ocean Africa and Asia* (London, 2004), 1-16

Suggested readings:

Diptee, Audra A, *The Problem of Modern-Day Slavery: Is Critical Applied History the Answer?* *Slavery & Abolition*, 39,2 (2018): 405-428.

Hardung, Christine, *Everyday Life of Slaves in Northern Dahomey: The Process of Remembering* *Journal of African Cultural Studies*, 15, 1 (2002): 35-44.

Patterson, Orlando, *Slavery and Social Death: A Comparative Study* (Cambridge, Mass., 1982), 1-14.

PART I SLAVERY AND ABOLITION, CA. 1780-1880

WEEK 3 / September 30 The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Connecting Europe, Africa and the Americas

<https://www.slaveyoyages.org>

Required readings:

Burnard, Trevor 'The Atlantic Slave Trade' in Gad Heuman and Trevor Burnard (eds) *The Routledge History of Slavery* (Abingdon, 2011), 80-97.

Suggested readings:

Eltis, David, 'The Volume and Structure of the Transatlantic Slave Trade: A Reassessment' *William and Mary Quarterly*, 58 (2001), 17-46.

Handler, Jerome, S. 'Survivors of the Middle Passage: Life Histories of Enslaved Africans in British America' *Slavery & Abolition* 23, 1 (2002): 25-56-

Klein, Herbert S., Stanley L. Engerman, Robert Haines and Ralph Shlomowitz, 'Transoceanic Mortality : The Slave Trade in Comparative Perspective' *William and Mary Quarterly* 58 (2001), 93-118.

WEEK 4 / October 7 Slavery and Resistance in the Americas: From Everyday Resistance to Rebellion and Revolution

Required readings:

Sidbury, James, 'Resistance to Slavery' in Gad Heuman and Trevor Burnard (eds.), *The Routledge History of Slavery* (London, 2011), 204-217.

Suggested readings:

James Scott, 'Everyday Forms of Resistance' *Copenhagen Papers*, No. 4, 33- 62. (1989)

Heuman, Gad, 'Runaway Slavery in nineteenth century Barbados' in Heuman (ed.), *Out of the House of Bondage: Runaways, Resistance and Marronage in Africa and the New World* (London,1986), 95-121.

Richardson, David, 'Shipboard Revolts, African Authority and the Atlantic Slave Trade' *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 58/1 (2001), 69-92.

WEEK 5 / October 14 Women and Slavery

Required readings:

Gwyn Campbell, Suzanne Miers, and Joseph C. Miller (eds.), *Women in Slavery in the New World*, vol 2, Introduction Strategies of Women and Constraints of Enslavement in the Modern Americasq 1-26.

Suggested readings:

Bush-Slimani, Barbara, Hard Labour: Women, Childbirth and Resistance in British Caribbean Slave Societiesq *History Workshop* 36 (1993), 83-99.

Compton, Tonia M., Infanticide.+In Junnius P. Rodriguez (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellion, Volume 1* (Westport, CT: 2007): 259-263.

Delle, James A., Women's Lives and Labour on Radnor, a Jamaican Coffee Plantation, 1822-1826.+*Caribbean Quarterly* 54 (2008): 7-23.

WEEK 6 October 21 Tutorial on Writing Research Papers (Mona Bieling)

WEEK 7 / October 28: Legacies of Slavery: Memory, Violence and Racial Discrimination

Please watch the following clip, read Evans's reflection and one of the further readings and come prepared with an opinion:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-52996627/slave-trade-statues-debate-butler-afolami-fox>

Richard J. Evans, The History Warsq *New Statesman*, 17 June 2020

https://www.newstatesman.com/international/2020/06/history-wars?fbclid=IwAR37YmxAOEMZ02nvL1MS3-C4E3_TvGeUt_oA4xHN5TAczKcOpXtUdD6gmWI

Further readings:

Bernier, Celeste-Marie and Nicole Willson, We Were Brave. We Were Strong. We Survived. Acts and Arts of Liberation in the African Atlantic Imaginaryq *Slavery & Abolition*, 41:1(2020) , 113

Blight, David W., Fifty Years of Freedom: The Memory of Emancipation at the Civil War Semiscentennial, 1911. 15, *Slavery & Abolition*, 21,2 (2000) , 117-134, DOI: [10.1080/01440390008575308](https://doi.org/10.1080/01440390008575308)

Brophy, Alfred, L., Review Essay: The Case for Reparations for Slavery in the Caribbeanq *Slavery and Abolition*, 35, 1 (2014): 165-169.

PART II Abolition, The Rise of Humanitarian Concern and the Continuation of Slavery: 1880-PRESENT

WEEK 8 / November 4: Abolition and Economic Transformation : The Discontents of Emancipation

Required readings:

Holcomb, Julie, *Blood-Stained Sugar: Gender, Commerce and the British Slave-Trade Debates*, *Slavery and Abolition*, 35, 4 (2014), 611-628.

Suggested readings:

Brown, Christopher L., *Moral Capital. Foundations of British Abolitionism* (Chapel Hill, 2006), Introduction.

Law, Robin, *International Law and the British Suppression of the Atlantic Slave Trade* in Derek R. Peterson (ed.) *Abolitionism and Imperialism in Britain, Africa and the Atlantic* (Athens, Oh. 2010), 150-174.

Walvin, James, *Why did the British Abolish the Slave Trade? Econocide Revisited* *Slavery and Abolition*, 32, 4 (2011), 583-588.

WEEK 9 / November 11: From Slavery to 'Freedom' Emancipation and its Discontents in the Age of Empire

Deadline Tuesday November 10, 10 am: OUTLINE FOR RESEARCH PAPER (Working title and abstract of 500 words)

Required readings:

Allen, Richard B., *Slaves, Convicts, Abolitionism and the Global Origins of the Postemancipation Indentured Labor System* *Slavery and Abolition* 35, 2 (2014), 328- 348.

Suggested readings:

Altink, Henry, *Slavery by Another Name: Apprenticed Women in Jamaican Workhouses in the Period 1834-38* *Social History*, 26, 1 (2001), 40-59.

Drescher, Seymour, *The Ending of the Slave Trade and the Evolution of European Scientific Racism* *Social Science History* 14 (1990), 415-50.

Klein, Herbert and Francisco Vidal Luna, *Slavery in Brazil* (Cambridge, 2010), Chapter 10 *Transition from Slavery to Freedom*, 295-320.

WEEK 10 November 18 The Congo Campaign – Missionaries, Media, and the Power of Photographs

Required reading:

Grant, Kevin, 'Christian Critics of Empire. Missionaries, Lantern Lectures, and the Congo Reform Campaign in Britain' *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* 29, 2 (2001), 27-58.

Suggested readings:

Hochschild, A., *King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (Boston 1999).

Sliwinski, Sharon, 'The Childhood of Human Rights: The Kodak on the Congo' *Journal of Visual Culture*, 5, 3 (2006), 333-363.

Stengers, Jean and J. Vansina, 'King Leopold's Congo, 1886-1908' in R. A. Oliver et al. (eds.), *Cambridge History of Africa*, vol. 6 (Cambridge, 1985), 315-357.

WEEK 11 November 25: Interwar Internationalization and Norm-Building in Geneva

Part of this session will be used to discuss research paper outlines and answer questions

Required readings:

Ribi Forclaz, Amalia, 'The Breath of a New Life? British Anti-Slavery Activism and the League of Nations, in Daniel Laqua (ed.) *Internationalism Reconfigured: Transnational Ideas and Movements Between the Wars* (London, 2011), 187-188.

Suggested readings:

Gorman, Daniel, 'Empire, Internationalism and the Campaign against the Traffic in Women and Children in the 1920s' *Twentieth Century British History*, 19, 2, 2008, 186-216.

Maul, Daniel, 'The international Labour Organization and the Struggle against Forced Labour from 1919 to the Present' *Labour History*, 48, 4 (2007), 477-500.

Pedersen, Susan 'The Maternalist Moment in British Colonial Policy: The Controversy Over Child Slavery in Hong Kong, 1917. 1941' *Past and Present*, 171 (May 2001), 163.

WEEK 12 / December 2: DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH PAPERS

Details to be announced

WEEK 13 / December 9: Modern Slavery, Global Supply Chains and Human Rights

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/dec/13/essex-lorry-deaths-driver-denies-human-trafficking-charges>

Required readings:

Gallagher, Anne \pm Human Rights and the New UN Protocols on Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling: A Preliminary Analysisq *Human Rights Quarterly*, 23, 4, (2001), 975-1004.

Suggested readings:

Datta, Monti Narayan & Kevin Bales, \pm Slavery in Europe: Part 1 Estimating the Dark Figureq *Human Rights Quarterly* 35 (2013), 817-829

Demleitner, Nora V., \pm The Law at a Crossroads: The Construction of Migrant Women Trafficked into Prostitutionq in D. Kyle, and R. Koslowski (eds.) *Global Human Smuggling: Comparative Perspectives* (Baltimore, 2001), 257-293.

Blagborough, Jonathan \pm Child Domestic Labour: a Modern Form of Slaveryq *Children and Society*, 22, 3 (2008), 184. 6.

Craig, Gary, Editorial introduction to \pm Child slavery worldwideq *Children and Society*, 22, 3 (2008).

WEEK 14 / December 16: NO CLASS: EXTRA OFFICE HOURS

Submission of Final Research Paper, December 30, midnight.