

International History

Academic year 2019-2020

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](#)

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> ASSISTANT

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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). The dates of the IHF presentations about which you need to write a text are: 8 October (week 4: space), 22 October (week 6: periodization), and 5 November (week 8: the event). In each case, the text needs to be emailed to cyrus.schayegh@graduateinstitute.ch the next day (9&23 Oct and 6 Nov.) by 23:59.

3. 30%: a final paper, being a review essay of circa 3,000 words, on a topic discussed this semester. Deadline: 10 January 2020, 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.

Readings

Week 1: The fact

- Edward Carr, *What Is History* (London, 1962), 3-35 (Chap. 1, 'The historian and his facts')
- Philipp Müller, "Understanding history: hermeneutics and source-criticism in historical scholarship," in Miriam Dobson and Ben Zielmann, eds., *Reading Primary Sources* (London: Routledge, 2009), 21-36
- 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
- Paul Readman, "Speeches," in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 209-225

Week 3: Primary sources, cont'd

- 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
- Stephen Vella, "Newspapers," in Dobson and Zielmann, *Reading Primary Sources*, 192-208

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?”)
- Fernand Braudel, “History and the Social Sciences: the longue durée,” in idem, *On History* (Chicago, 1980), 25-54
- 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

- E. J. Tapp, “Some Aspects of Causation in History,” *The Journal of Philosophy* 49:3 (1952): 67-79
- “AHR Conversation. Explaining Historical Change; or, the Lost History of Causes,” *American Historical Review* 120:4 (2015): 1369-1423

Week 8: The event

- 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
- Peter Burke, “History of Events and the Revival of Narrative,” in *New Perspectives on History Writing*, ed. Peter Burke 2nd ed. (University Park: Penn State Press, 2001), 283-300

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
- Erez Manela, ‘The United States in the World’, in *American History Now*, ed. Eric Foner and Lisa McGirr (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011), 201–20
- Erez Manela, “International society as a historical subject” (work in progress)

Week 13: Guest class taught by another professor from our department

- Readings: assigned by the guest professor

Week 14: How to write a critical review essay

- Each student group selects its own review essay and discusses its ups and downs in a presentation