

Annual Review 2024 – Winter Greetings from the professorship of Global History



1. Winter Greetings

Dear students, staff and alumni,
Dear Global History Network,

As 2024 draws to a close, I would like to send you all my personal greetings. It has been a year full of exciting challenges, intensive work and enriching collaboration at the professorship of Global History. Together, we have developed valuable insights into the interdependencies of world history, and it is a great pleasure for me to be part of this dedicated community.

My heartfelt thanks go to our students and alumni, who enrich our field of work with their curiosity and critical questions. I would also like to thank our employees for their tireless commitment. Their support and contribution are essential for our joint successes and the further development of global history.

I wish you all a relaxing and calm winter season, happy holidays with your loved ones and a lively start to a healthy and happy new year 2025. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming year and to breaking new ground in the study of global history.

Kind regards

Marcia C. Schenck

Professor of Global History
University of Potsdam

2. Highlights 2024

- In January, all nine contributors to the anthology ‘ [The Right to Research: Historical Narratives by Refugee and Global South Researchers](#) ’ spoke at an MA seminar for historians and students of cultural studies and English at the University of Potsdam. Students and visitors alike were enthusiastic.
 - In February, Professor Schenck received the Yerun Open Science Award 2023 for her work with the [Global History Lab](#) at the University of Cambridge, UK.
 - Professor Schenck was also appointed to the advisory board of ROUTES at the University of Exeter, to the commission “Connecting the World: Europe, Africa, and the Americas” of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and to the advisory board for the Gerda Henken Foundation's special programme on flight.
 - In December, a new anthology entitled ‘Border-Crossing’ will be published with Universitätsverlag Potsdam.
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3. Publications

*A considerable amount has been published at the professorship. Here, we would like to present a new edited volume: **Global History Dialogues: Border-Crossing***

Global History Dialogues: Border-Crossing aims to provide a platform for showcasing the role that oral history can play in diversifying the vantage points from which, about which, and through which we approach global history. Border crossing is conceptualized as extending beyond the mere physical act of traversing administrative and political boundaries. It encompasses social and cultural, real and imagined, material and intellectual crossings, providing a nuanced understanding of the multifaceted nature of border dynamics.

This open access book pursues three goals. Firstly, it enables student-researchers from South America, Asia and Europe, to uncover microhistories that are close to their hearts and communities and yet resonate with global border-crossings. Secondly it provides space for educators of oral global history to reflect on their practice in nontraditional classrooms. Thirdly, it holds space for guest contributors from the University of Potsdam, who share intimate reflections on displacement, emplacement and life across borders. These conversations generate innovative deliberations about the possibilities and limits of the nexus between oral history, global history, student-research, and pedagogy.

The linchpin bringing many of the authors together is the Global History Dialogues project of the Global History Lab at the University of Cambridge. This timely intervention contributes to rethinking the way we tell and teach global history and oral history and, in the process, invites the reader to consider multiple ways of negotiating, overcoming, and transforming borders.

4. Who Spoke?

Scholars from all over the world, from BA students to professors, shared their knowledge with us at various events.

The colloquium [‘Conversations in Global History’](#) remains a weekly highlight with exciting lectures and discussions. At the end of the year on 18 December 2024, we look forward to Dr Olisa Muhojama, University of Ibadan, who will speak about his research on ‘German Allied Entanglements in West Africa during the First World War’. In the new year, we will also be welcoming Tom Drechsel, who will present his doctoral thesis entitled ‘Pushed to the Margins: Mozambican Labour Migrants in the GDR after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and German Unification.’ The program contains the details about all our invited speakers.

In July of this year, Klaus Neumann read from his new book ‘Blumen und Brandsätze: A German History 1989-2023’. The event took place in the State Library and we were particularly pleased to welcome a number of interested Potsdam citizens.

In July, around 80 young academics also presented at the virtual Border Crossings conference of the Global History Dialogues project led by Professor Schenck.

5. Global History in teaching

Many aspects of global history were explored in the virtual and classroom settings at Neues Palais.

This year, Bachelor's and Master's students were once again able to benefit from ten exciting courses, which can be viewed here. In the summer semester, Bachelor's students carried out their own oral history projects in the [‘Global History Dialogues’](#) seminar, the results of which are presented here. In addition, two lecturers teach at the professorship. In the summer semester, Ms Ramirez offered a course on the history of HIV/AIDS, which met with great interest. In the current winter semester, Mr Kniewel is offering a block seminar on ‘Environmental Change and Conservation’. Courses such as ‘A History of the World’, ‘The Cold War in Africa’ and ‘Refugees and (Forced) Migrants in Global History’ are also on the programme.

6. Meet the Team

Many things would not be possible without the professorship's dedicated team. Find out exactly who works behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly in our team introduction.

I am **Hannah Schulze** and have been Assistant to the Professorship since 2021. In this role, I am the contact person for all organisational and bureaucratic matters. In 2025, I will be spending a month abroad in Ghana. During my stay in Accra, I will be volunteering at a children's centre.

My name is **Zeynep Turkyilmaz** and I am a post-doctoral researcher at the professorship of Global History and RTG Minor Cosmopolitanism. I am an Ottoman historian by training and I work on the questions of religious non-conformity, conversion and apostasy in the late Ottoman Empire. My current project at the professorship focuses on Johannes Awetaranian, an Ottoman subject who renounced Islam and became a prominent figure of the German Orient Mission along with legendary Dr. Johannes Lepsius.

I'm **Babak Sadaghian**, currently a student of Global History at the Freie Universität Berlin. I've been part of the team at the professorship for Global History at the University of Potsdam for a year. My main fields of interest are global cultural history as well as the history of ideas.

My name is **Alejandro Pascual Iranzo** and I am studying for a master's degree in Contemporary History. Originally from Valencia, where I studied history, I learned German in order to continue my studies at the University of Potsdam. I am now working as a tutor and student assistant in the department of global history since April 2024.

My name is **Golda Manderscheid**, and I am pursuing my Bachelor's in History, Politics, and Sociology here at the University of Potsdam. I have been working as a student assistant at the professorship since March 2024 and have a particular interest in modern African history.

My name is **Samuel Wacker**, and I am studying History and Geography for a teaching degree in my Bachelor's program at the University of Potsdam. I joined the team in March 2024 and am especially fascinated by (global) history of the 19th and 20th centuries.

7. Outlook: Events in 2025

We already have a lot to look forward to in the coming year. In addition to exciting new courses from exchange rooms, we would like to highlight three highlights here:

Our team continues to grow! In the coming year, we are looking forward to filling a new postdoc position at the professorship. Applications are open until 6 January 2025 - you can find the job advertisement [here](#).

At the end of January, the Professorship of Global History, together with Humboldt Visiting Scholar Prof. Dr Morgan Robinson, is organising an international workshop at Mississippi State University on the topic of 'Re-search: A Workshop Exploring the Notion of Research as Theory, Practice, and Identity'. We are bringing together ten international scholars and citizen scientists to discuss and reflect on field research in global history.

Professor Schenck will present her research at the Universities of Exeter, Cambridge, Bielefeld and Constance and will also speak at conferences such as the Historikertag in Bonn, the conference of the European Network in Universal and Global History and a conference of the Commission *Connecting the World: Europe, Africa, and the Americas* of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and is looking forward to exciting discussions.

8. Conclusion and Contact

We warmly invite you to attend our events in the new year. Stay informed via our mailing list or our website under “News”. Since this year, the professorship of Global History also has a new email address: globalgeschichte@uni-potsdam.de. If you wish to reach out with questions or ideas, don't hesitate to contact us.

