Gilded Age, *Fin-de-Siècle, First Globalization, 1870-1930*

Instructor: Liat Spiro

Course description
The era from the 1870s to the 1920s witnessed a sharp global integration of markets, rapid technological change known as the Second Industrial Revolution, a new wave of imperialism, surging nationalisms, and a crisis of rising inequality in “shock cities” around the world. People, commodities, ideas, and cultural currents crossed borders at an unprecedented rate and scale. We will investigate how those who experienced the First Globalization reckoned with free and coerced migrations and dislocations, pursued international investment opportunities, participated in the transnational transfer of models for economic and social policy, elaborated and contested civilizing missions, and reimagined theories of society. Since the fin-de-siècle was replete with artistic experimentation and new image reproduction technologies, we will pay particular attention to sources in visual and material culture. Working across texts and images, this seminar will examine the economic, political, cultural, and intellectual dynamics of the turn of the twentieth century—a period containing many similarities as well as profound differences with our own.

Assignments

*Weekly Response Papers, ~250 words (15%)*
This is an opportunity to reflect on the assigned readings. What surprised you most? How did the author construct his or her argument? Does something strike you about his or her source use? Do the primary and secondary sources align neatly or contradict each other in some way? Do you perceive patterns across regions? Are there connections across themes? Include two questions inspired by the readings.

*Discussion Participation (25%)*

*Object Analysis (20%)*
Write an essay analyzing the transnational trajectory of a single object mentioned, but not thoroughly elaborated upon, in the assigned readings. Where did it originate? How was it manufactured or cultivated? How was it commercialized or transported? How was it used and reused? What meanings were assigned to it? By whom? What does this object tell us about the First Globalization? It should be approximately eight pages (double-spaced, twelve point font) in length.

*Research Paper (40%)*
This paper will be on a topic of your choosing, in consultation with the instructor. We will scaffold toward this assignment by preparing a one-paragraph description, a bibliography, and an outline. It should be between sixteen and twenty pages in length.

Course Schedule

*Week 1—Introduction*
• Vanessa Ogle, *The Global Transformation of Time, 1870-1950* (Cambridge, MA, 2015), chapters one through four

Associated Press, “A malaria patient in the Panama Canal Zone at the turn of the 20th century is sent to a hospital in the Zone. (AP Photo/Brown Brothers)” (February 20, 1900)

**Week 2—Transport, Communications, Energy, Infrastructure**

• Julie Greene, *The Canal Builders: Making America’s Empire at the Panama Canal* (New York, 2009), chapters one, two, four, five, seven, eight

• Valeska Huber, *Channelling Mobilities: Migration and Globalisation in the Suez Canal Region and Beyond, 1869-1914* (Cambridge, 2013), chapters two through eight


Optional:

• Peter Shulman, *Coal and Empire: The Birth of Energy Security in Industrial America* (Baltimore, 2015), chapters five and six

**Primary source:**

• Maps produced in Benjamin Smith Lyman’s mineralogical surveys of Japan (1873-1880) and the American West (1866) from American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia

Week 3—Migrations, Labor, Environment

- Sunil Amrith, *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortune of Migrants* (Cambridge, MA, 2015), chapters four through seven
- Moon-ho Jung, *Coolies and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar in the Age of Emancipation* (Baltimore, 2006), chapters three to six

Primary source:
- American Federation of Labor, “Meat versus Rice: American Manhood against Asiatic Coolieism, which shall survive?,” (San Francisco: Published by American Federation of Labor and printed as Senate document 137, 1902); reprinted with intro. and appendices by Asiatic Exclusion League

Week 4—Migration Panics

- Tara Zahra, *The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World* (New York, 2016), chapters one and two
- Tara Zahra, “‘Condemned to Rootlessness and Unable to Budge’: Roma, Migration Panics, and Internment in the Habsburg Empire,” *American Historical Review* 122, 3 (June 2017): 702-726.

Primary source:
Search keywords or themes from secondary readings in the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey (http://flps.newberry.org/)

Week 5—Class and the Transatlantic “Social Question”


Primary source:
August Spies, *August Spies’ Auto-Biography; His Speech in Court, and General Notes* (Chicago, 1887), selections

Week 6—Gender and Consumption

- David Ciarlo, *Advertising Empire: Race and Visual Culture in Imperial Germany* (Cambridge, MA, 2011), chapters one, two, four, five, six

Primary source:
- Explore World’s Fair images and ephemera:
  *Philadelphia, 1876*
  Boston College Digital Archive of American Architecture, 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia: [http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/ fnart/fa267/1876fair.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/fa267/1876fair.html)

Chicago, 1893
Art Institute of Chicago, Ryerson & Burnham Archives: Archival Image Collection: http://digital-libraries.saic.edu/cdm/search/collection/mqc/searchterm/World%27s%20Columbian%20Exposition%20Collection/field/subcol/mode/all/conn/and/cosuppress/1

Paris, 1900
Boston College Digital Archive of Architecture, World’s Fair of 1900, Paris: http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/fnart/arch/1900fair.html

Object Analysis Due in Class

German advertisement for perfume, Vogue, 1929.
**Week 7—Transnational Social Reform**

- Daniel Rodgers, *Atlantic Crossings: Social Politics in a Progressive Age* (Cambridge, MA, 1998), chapters one, three, four, and five

Primary source:
- Henry George, *Progress and Poverty* (London, 1884), selections

**Week 8—Finance and Investment Over Land and Sea**

- Noam Maggor, *Brahmin Capitalism: Frontiers of Wealth and Populism in America’s First Gilded Age* (Cambridge, MA, 2017), chapters three and five

Primary source:

*One-Paragraph Description of Research Paper and Bibliography (~Five Sources) Due in Class

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**Week 9—The New Imperialism**

• Andrew Zimmerman, *Alabama in Africa: Booker T. Washington, the German Empire, and the Globalization of the New South* (Princeton, 2010), chapters one through four

Primary sources:
- V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” (London, 1917)

**Week 10—Imperial Trade and Tariff Politics**
- Frank Trentmann, *Free Trade Nation: Commerce, Consumption and Civil Society in Modern Britain* (Oxford, 2008), chapters two and three

Primary sources:

**Research Paper Outline Due in Class**

**Week 11—Anticolonial Nationalisms and Internationalisms**
- Kris Manjapra, *Age of Entanglement: German and Indian Intellectuals Across Empire* (Cambridge, MA, 2014), chapters six through eleven

Primary sources:
Week 12—Origins of the Social Sciences in an Imperial and Globalizing Era

- Suzanne Marchand, *German Orientalism in the Age of Empire* (Washington D.C., 2009), chapters eight and nine

Primary sources:
- Marcel Mauss, *The Gift* (New York, 2000 [1925]), chapters one and two

Week 13—Interpreting the Collapse of a Globalized, Gilded-Age World

- Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time* (New York, 1944), chapters one and two
- Harold James, *The End of Globalization: Lessons from the Great Depression* (Cambridge, MA, 2001), chapters four through six

*Research Paper Due*