

GLOBAL HISTORY AT POTSDAM

12.2025

DEAR FRIENDS AND ALUMNI OF THE PROFESSORSHIP FOR GLOBAL HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF POTSDAM

As the year draws to a close, many of us are lighting candles, enjoying an abundance of holiday sweets, and braving the winter chill for a warm drink at Christmas markets. We would like to take this festive moment to thank you sincerely for your continued engagement and support of the Professorship for Global History over the past year. Your interest, collaboration, and encouragement have helped make 2025 a truly rewarding and successful year for our community.

Together, we have taught 13 courses, supervised more than two dozen thesis, travelled to 22 conferences and workshops in 9 countries, hosted a workshop at Potsdam, and published 3 books. We also welcomed Riley Linebaugh as Postdoc to the team and Marcia Schenck became head of the history department.

In the following pages, we are thrilled to let you participate in some of our highlights of the year.

We wish you a peaceful holiday season and a joyful start to the new year!

Marcia C. Schenck
Alejandro
Babak
Riley L.
Gold

Stay informed via our mailing list or our website under "News". If you wish to reach out with questions or ideas, don't hesitate to contact us via globalgeschichte@uni-potsdam.de

GLOBAL HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS



JANUARY

Visit by Voltaire Prize Winner Gerawork Teferra Gizaw, here with University President Oliver Günther.



JUNE

With Gerawork Teferra Gizaw and Jeremy Adelman at the University of Cambridge for the workshop “Politics of Knowledge, Power and the Struggle for Academic Futures: Higher Education and Schooling Amidst War and Displacement”.

SEPTEMBER

And a third time with Gerawork Teferra Gizaw in Växjö in Sweden in September at the Conference of the European Network in Universal and Global History (ENIUGH) on Critical Global Histories: Methodological Reflections and Thematic Expansions.



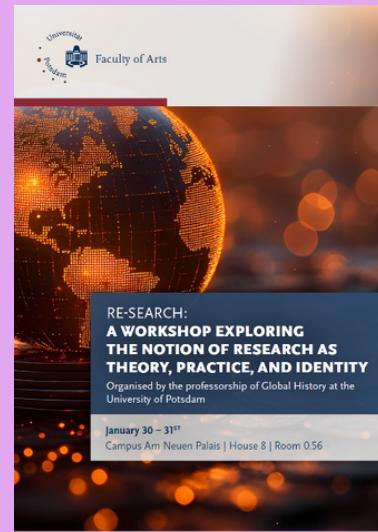
ALSO SEPTEMBER

Also in September Marcia had the pleasure of co-organizing a roundtable at the Conference of Historians of Germany, the 55. Historikertag in Bonn. It was titled: Reimagining Global History – Doing History Globally. Perspectives from Africa, Latin America and Australia. This snapshot shows our fabulous speakers, from left to right: Rafael de Bivar Marquese (São Paulo), Frederik Schulze (Köln), Nancy Rushohora (Dar es Salaam), Leah Lui-Chivizhe (Sydney).



POTSDAM WORKSHOP

In **January** Marcia hosted a two-day workshop together with Professor Morgan Robinson, Mississippi State University and previous Alexander von Humboldt Guestprofessor in Potsdam. Titled “Research: Exploring the Notion of Research as Theory, Practice, and Identity” it brought together scholars of Africa and from the continent to reflect critically on what it means to be a researcher.. Through a series of stimulating presentations and discussions, participants examined the relationship between researchers and their archives or fields, the boundaries between these spaces, and the ways in which systems of training, funding, and global power structures shape knowledge production. The workshop not only offered rich historical perspectives but also encouraged participants to consider their own positionalities and responsibilities within contemporary academic and political contexts.



SELECTED INSIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE PROFESSORSHIP IN 2026.



In July, the Professorship hosted a **Global History Summer Talk** titled

“Degrees of Freedom and Unfreedom: Chinese Contract Laborers (Coolies) and Enslaved Africans in Cuba, mid to late 19th Century,” presented by Prof. Evelyn Hu-DeHart (Brown University). The talk examined global labour regimes in the colonial Caribbean, focusing on the entangled histories of Chinese contract labour and African enslavement in 19th-century Cuba.

WHO SPOKE?

In the winter semester, the lecture series **“What Can Postcolonial Studies Do?”**, organised by Prof. Marcia Schenck and Prof. Katharina Wesselmann, brought international scholars to the Professorship of Global History. Speakers such as Dr. Robert Heinze (DHI Paris), Dr. Cassandra Mark-Thiesen (University of Regensburg), and Dr. Katharina Oke (Graz University), among many others, addressed a wide range of postcolonial perspectives, including questions of epistemic injustice, colonial knowledge production, and representations of Africa across different historical contexts.

[**HERE YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE LECTURE SERIES.**](#)

OUR GUESTS

THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE WELCOMED THREE DISTINGUISHED GUEST SCHOLARS TO THE PROFESSORSHIP OF GLOBAL HISTORY.

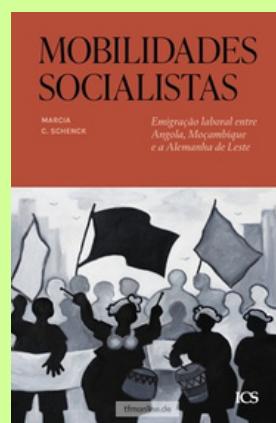
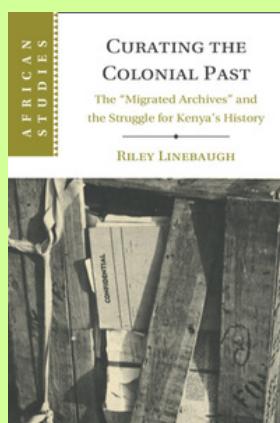
Prof. Larissa Rosa Corrêa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro) is a labour and social historian whose research focuses on labour movements, workers' organisations, and the role of the Catholic Church in Brazil and southern Latin America during the Cold War. Her current work examines transnational Catholic labour activism and the circulation of "worker-priests" across Europe and South America.

Prof. Susan Pinkard (Georgetown University) is an emerita historian of early modern Europe with a dual focus on the history of ideas and material culture; her past work includes studies of French culinary culture, and she is currently exploring the Afro-British roots of American cooking.

Prof. Evander Ruthieri Saturno da Silva (Federal University of Latin-American Integration) works on African history, colonialism, and postcolonialism in southern Africa. At Potsdam, his research project investigates political networks, identity transformations, and transborder migrations in the formation of the Zulu Kingdom through oral and archival sources.

PUBLICATIONS

THESE PUBLICATIONS REPRESENT A SELECTION OF THE PROFESSORSHIP'S RECENT PUBLICATIONS. FOR A FULL OVERVIEW, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.



This year saw the publication of several important books by members of the Professorship of Global History. Dr. Riley Linebaugh published "Curating the Colonial Past: The 'Migrated Archives' and the Struggle for Kenya's History" with Cambridge University Press. In addition, German and Portuguese translations of Prof. Dr. Marcia Schenck's monograph "Remembering African Labor Migration to the Second World" were released, broadening its reach. Prof. Dr. Schenck also served as editor of "Border-Crossing" which launched at the University of Cambridge in March.

TEACHING

This year, Bachelor and Master students benefited from a diverse range of 13 courses, which can be viewed here. For instance, during the summer semester, Bachelor students conducted their own oral history projects in the seminar "Global History Dialogues," as part of the Global History Lab based at the University of Cambridge. At the Master's level, students engaged with "A Global History of Human Rights", team-taught by Anna La Grange and Marcia Schenck, and explored questions of migration in the seminar "France and Migration in the 20th Century," taught by Christian Jacobs. Moreover, we welcomed students of the Freie University's Global History MA to all MA courses of the professorship for the first time!

In the winter semester, students could choose from a wide range of courses in global and colonial history. Among them, the seminar "DDR Global? Sozialistische Mobilität und ihr Erbe," led by Tom Drechsel, which addressed socialist mobility and its legacies.

Colonialism and empire were central themes in the seminars "Colonial Crimes and International Law," and "Women and Empire," led by Dr. Linebaugh. Prof. Schenck's seminars dealt with global history, oral history and postcolonial studies. As part of the block seminar "The Right to Research and the Conditions of Production of History", eleven authors from three continents will discuss their contributions with the students.

[**CLICK HERE TO HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE COURSE SELECTION.**](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GLOBAL HISTORY TEAM



ARCHIVAL VISIT
AT KEW IN
GREAT BRITAIN



KÖRBER
FOUNDATION
EVENT ON 70
YEARS AFTER
BANDUNG WITH
OLAF SCHOLZ

Since October, Marcia Schenck has been serving as chair of the Historical Institute. Alongside her teaching and supervision duties, she has travelled extensively. She was invited to speak about her research at Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town, Eduardo Mondlane University, Bielefeld University, the Technical University of Chemnitz, and the University of Cambridge. Moreover, she participated in conferences and workshops at Lund University, the University of Konstanz, the University of Bonn, the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and in Cambridge.

Marcia enjoyed having policy discussions, for instance as participant alongside former chancellor Olaf Scholz at a Körber Foundation event on the role of Bandung as inspiration for present day foreign policy. Speaking about contract labor in the GDR at DAS MINSK Museum with Birgit Wehye and Elisabeth Nechutnys allowed for lively conversations with Potsdamers. Further conversations reaching beyond the academy included a podcast for the New Books Network. Marcia also visited archives in Great Britain as she is continuing her research on the making of the African refugee regime during the 1960s.



BOOK TALKS IN
PORTUGUESE AND
GERMAN AT THE
CCMA, THE CULTURAL
CENTER
MOZAMBIQUE-
GERMANY

THE TEAM CONTINUED



Riley Linebaugh joined the Global History team in July of this year. In her first semester teaching, she has offered courses on gender, international law and colonial history. Her book, *Curating the Colonial Past*, came out with Cambridge University Press in October. To learn more about it, you can listen to her episode on the Roots and Branches podcast. Due to this work, she appeared in *Empire* with David Olusoga (BBC 2), which premiered in August. Together with Dr. Kalika Mehta, Linebaugh organized the panel “Starvation on Trial: Reflections on Bengal, Palestine, and Sudan” in November at Humboldt University’s Law Faculty. In the same month, Linebaugh obtained funding from the DfG’s Point Sud program together with colleagues at the University of Ghana, University of the Western Cape, University of Vienna and University Clermont Auvergne for a conference on the Archival Commons to take place at Stellenbosch University in 2026. Her postdoctoral research project is a composite biographical approach to women who worked as secretaries in British colonial administrations in the 19th/20th centuries, which was supported in 2025 with an Ann Ball Bodley fellowship at the University of Oxford. She is an enthusiastic member of the Potsdam Postcolonial Studies Collective and looks forward to being a part of the vibrant academic community at the Professorship for Global History in the years to come!

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

My name is **Alejandro Pascual Irazo**. I come from València, but after four years living between Potsdam and Berlin, a big part of my heart belongs here. I am currently finishing my Master’s degree in contemporary history at the University of Potsdam, with a specific focus on transnational far-right movements. I am working on my thesis, which delves into the Spanish far-right and its European connections. In addition, I have been working as a student assistant and courses’ tutor at the Global History chair since April 2024.

My name is **Babak Sadaghian**. I’m a soon-to-be graduate of the Global History master’s program at the Freie Universität Berlin and have been working for the Global History chair at the University of Potsdam since December 2023. My main areas of interest are the international economic history of the 20th century, especially in the Global South, and the intellectual history of modernity and development.”

I am **Golda Manderscheid**, and I am currently completing my BA in History, Politics, and Sociology at the University of Potsdam. My academic interests lie in Global History, with a particular focus on modern Sub-Saharan African history. I am writing my bachelor’s thesis on South African Jewish positioning during apartheid. Since March 2023, I have been working as a student assistant at the Professorship of Global History.

OUTLOOK 2026



**JOIN US FOR LECTURES,
WORKSHOPS, AND TALKS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

Exciting plans await at the Professorship of Global History in 2026! We will launch a new **global history colloquium in collaboration with the Freie Universität Berlin**. Prof. Dr. Marcia Schenck will embark on a **book tour in Brazil and Angola** to present her book "Mobilidades Socialistas" (2025). Students can look forward to a series of **interactive workshops** with scholars from the US, South Africa, and Brazil, providing unique opportunities for exchange and learning. Don't miss the **Summer Talk on 8 July at 5 p.m.** at the University of Potsdam, where Prof. Sheldon Garon (Princeton University) will speak about WWII in global perspective. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our events, sharing ideas, and continuing the conversation on global history in the year ahead!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROFESSORSHIP'S 2026 EVENTS
AND ACTIVITIES ON OUR WEBSITE.**