

Humboldt's science as it developed through extractive industries in Prussia, Mexico, and Siberia.

Should Federations be Made to Last?

6 December 2022, 5.30pm

Eva Marlene Hausteiner (Erlangen-Nuremberg)

In political theory and political debates, an implicit expectation looms large: a 'good' polity is durable, ideally even permanent. Federal polities are accordingly conceptualized as orders which can regulate heterogeneity and resolve conflict—for the sake of long-term stability. The lecture will question this expectation of permanence by pointing to exceptions in global intellectual history from early Soviet proponents of federalism and the founding fathers and mothers of the Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany: when and to what normative end is the idea of permanent federation subverted?

Eva Marlene Hausteiner holds the Chair in Political Theory and History of Political Thought at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, a Dr. phil. from the Humboldt University of Berlin, and a Habilitation from the University of Bonn. Her research focuses on the conceptual and intellectual histories of empire and federalism, and on story-telling in politics through conspiracy theories, metaphors, and images.

All lectures will take place as hybrid events at the GHIL and online via Zoom. Each lecture concludes with a wine reception at the GHIL.

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GHIL Lectures

The GHIL regularly holds lectures on topics of general interest to British and German historians. GHIL Lectures are held on Tuesdays at 5.30pm during term time. Papers are normally presented in English; knowledge of the German language is not necessary for participation.

Intellectual Histories of the Global

In the decade since the publication of *Global Intellectual History*, edited by Samuel Moyn and Andrew Sartori (2013), the field has rapidly become established and it continues to expand intellectual historians' geographical horizons as well as their tool-kits. The GHIL autumn lecture series takes stock of key developments featuring case studies from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Talks focus on what Moyn and Sartori called 'the emergence of consciousness of and conceptions of the global scale as itself a problem of intellectual history', that is, the language, materials, and concepts that have allowed historical actors and historians to frame globality as a theoretical, political, or environmental problem.

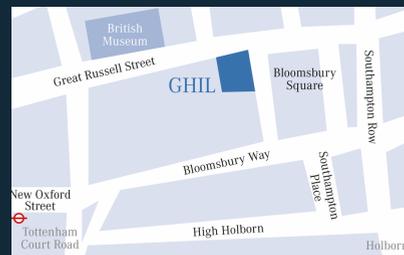
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GHIL AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2022

Intellectual Histories of the Global



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Eugenia Charles's Conceptions of the Global

1 November 2022, 5.30pm

Imaobong Umoren (LSE)

In 1980 Eugenia Charles was elected prime minister of Dominica, a small island in the eastern Caribbean, becoming the first woman to serve in that position in the anglophone Caribbean. This talk focuses on Charles's conception of the global as a political sphere, showing the paradoxes at play in her vision of Dominica as a modern state worthy of global attention rather than a peripheral, insignificant former British colony. Charles's global vision for Dominica brought some benefits during the Cold War, but by the 1990s, as Western powers turned their gaze away from the Caribbean, this exposed Dominica's vulnerability.

Imaobong Umoren is Associate Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is currently completing a book entitled *Empire Without End: An Interconnected History of Britain and the Caribbean* and a political biography of Dominica's former prime minister, Eugenia Charles.

The Anthropocene Made Modernity

8 November 2022, 5.30pm

Amanda Power (Oxford)

The Anthropocene is formally diagnosed through physical markers of human transformations of the earth. This materiality asks 'when' before 'how' and 'why'. Yet 'Anthropocene' values were central to ancient and medieval states, and thus foundational for

modern states. Across the globe, early expansionist polities envisaged 'civilization' as the successful exploitation by elites of landscapes, ecologies, and human and non-human life. Ceasing to dominate the earth was an illegitimate choice. Our present is best understood as a terrible acceleration of established practices through colonial theft, slavery, harnessing of fossil fuel energy, and the remorseless eradication of alternatives and those who lived them. A better understanding of this history enables us to chart new directions.

Amanda Power is Sullivan Clarendon Associate Professor in History at the University of Oxford. She is currently working on a monograph, *Medieval Histories of the Anthropocene*. She co-convenes the Climate Crisis Thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences network and the IHR's Anthropocene Histories seminar.

Mediating Globalism in the Twentieth Century: The Cases of R. Buckminster Fuller and Arno Peters

15 November 2022, 5.30pm

David Kuchenbuch (Giessen)

Many scholars have argued that historical concepts of the global are under-researched. In my talk, I will argue that filling this gap will mean taking a closer look at media representing global connections and differences. I will do this by presenting my research on American designer R. Buckminster Fuller and (West) German historian Arno Peters, both of whom rose to prominence as mediators of the global after the Second World War. Yet, while Fuller epitomized a highly optimistic globalism based on notions of technological progress typical of the 1960s, Peters's works resonated with a more self-critical globalism, which gained traction in the 1970s. Analysing the history of globalism through the prism of media (and

biography) points us to important shifts in twentieth-century political cultures.

David Kuchenbuch is Assistant Professor at Justus Liebig University Giessen. His main fields of interest are the history of knowledge, media history, and transnational history. He is the author of *Geordnete Gemeinschaft: Architekten als Sozialingenieure—Deutschland und Schweden im 20. Jahrhundert* (2010); *Pioneering Health in London, 1935–2000: The Peckham Experiment* (2019); and *Welt-Bildner: Arno Peters, Richard Buckminster Fuller und die Medien des Globalismus, 1940–2000* (2021).

Terrestrial Enlightenment: Ruin and Revolution in an Eighteenth-Century Climate Crisis

29 November 2022, 5.30pm

Patrick Anthony (Munich/Cambridge)

Some scholars and scientists identify the Enlightenment as an inflection point in the Anthropocene, a geological age in which humans act as a planetary force. My talk suggests that this inflection point was characterized not only by new means and scales of environmental exploitation, but also by the emergence of climate politics. The naturalist Georg Forster provides a helpful itinerary through this time, from his study of Saxon hydraulics in the wake of the flood of 1784 to his death in Paris during the Terror of 1794. On either side of the Rhine, resource management and disaster mitigation constituted political power.

Patrick Anthony received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 2021. He is currently a DAAD PRIME Fellow at LMU Munich and the University of Cambridge and is working on a global social history of Alexander von