



2007-2022
15th anniversary
Global History
And Culture Centre

www.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc

WARWICK

GLOBAL HISTORY AND
CULTURE CENTRE

Message from the Directors

The Warwick Global History and Culture Centre (GHCC) was founded in 2007 by Professor Maxine Berg. Since its founding, the Centre has been at the forefront of the field of global history in the UK and far beyond. The GHCC is now well known internationally for its research on material culture and global commodities, its projects on colonialism, imperialism and post-colonialism, especially in Africa, India, and East Asia, and for its strengths in the history of science, technology, and environment.

Over the past 15 years, hundreds of scholars have attended our conferences and workshops, given lectures and seminars, led master classes, or participated in other ways in the many events we have organised. In addition, we teach undergraduates, MA students and PhD students, and have a vibrant community of post-doctoral fellows and visiting scholars. In all of our activities, a global approach has been central: we have sought to embrace an inclusive agenda, challenge the idea that national boundaries form natural limits to our subjects of study, and explore the movement of people, ideas and things across such boundaries. Most of our events take place here at Warwick, but we have also organized workshops and conferences with partners all over the world: in the US, India, China, Japan, South Africa, Italy, and Kenya.

The 15th anniversary of our Centre coincides with the formal retirement of its founding director. We are extremely grateful for the tireless efforts, good spirit, and intellectual guidance Maxine has provided over many years.

As we look forward towards the future, we are hopeful that GHCC will continue to play its part in the development of global history. Among other things, this means critically assessing the inequalities and forms of exclusion that currently shape the field. A global history which draws in a meaningful way on conceptual tools and historical perspectives that are truly global in origin, we believe, will not only be more inclusive and equitable, but also intellectually richer and more robust.

Anne Gerritsen and Guido van Meersbergen, May 2022



Directors

Maxine Berg (Founding Director, 2007–11)
 Anne Gerritsen (2011–13, 2014–15, 2017–present)
 Giorgio Riello (2013–14; 2016–17)
 Dan Branch (2013–14)
 Guido van Meersbergen (2021–present)

Current Members

David Anderson (History)
 Maxine Berg (History)
 Somak Biswas (Honorary Fellow, History)
 Daniel Branch (History)
 Michael Bycroft (History)
 Susan Carruthers (History)
 Song-Chuan Chen (History)
 Camillia Cowling (History)
 Guillemette Crouzet (History)
 Rosie Dias (History of Art)
 Rosie Doyle (History)
 Natalya Din-Kariuki (English & Comparative Literary Studies)
 Rebecca Earle (History)
 Ross Forman (English & Comparative Literary Studies)
 Anne Gerritsen (History)
 Elena Giusti (Classics and Ancient History)
 Bishnu Gupta (Economics)
 Kirsty Hooper (Hispanic Studies)
 David Lambert (History)
 Tom Long (Politics and International Studies)
 Tom Lowman (History)
 Luca Molà (History)
 Anna Neima (Leverhulme Trust Fellow)
 Dexnell Peters (History)
 James Poskett (History)
 Pierre Purseigle (History)
 Giorgio Riello (History, EUI)
 Anna Ross (History)
 Aditya Sarkar (History)
 Michael Scott (Classics and Ancient History)
 Katayoun Shafiee (History)
 Claire Shaw (History)
 Benjamin Smith (History)
 Claudia Stein (History)
 Liana Valerio (History)
 Guido van Meersbergen (History)
 Charles Walton (History)

Administrator

Amy Evans

Selected Visitors

Norifumi Daito (Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo)
 Lisa Hellman (Universität Bonn)
 Fuyuko Matsukata (Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo)
 Radhika Singha (Professor Emerita, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
 Miki Sugiura (Hosei University, Tokyo)
 Jan de Vries (Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley)
 Birgit Tremml-Werner (Linnaeus University)

Affiliates

Clare Anderson (University of Leicester)
 David Arnold (Professor Emeritus, Warwick)
 Francesco Buscemi (University of Groningen)
 Adrianna Catena (External GHCC Fellow)
 John Darwin (University of Oxford)
 Rémi Dewièrre (University of Northumbria)
 José Miguel Escribano Páez (Universidad Pablo de Olavide)
 Bronwen Everill (University of Cambridge)
 Margot Finn (University College of London)
 Robert Fletcher (University of Missouri)
 Jorge Flores (University of Lisbon)
 Jos Gommans (Leiden University)
 David Hardiman (Emeritus Professor, Warwick)
 Sacha Hepburn (Birkbeck, University of London)
 Kazuo Kobayashi (Waseda University)
 Shinobu Majima (Gakushuin University)
 Stephen McDowall (University of Edinburgh)
 Matthias Middell (Leipzig University)
 Sadiya Qureshi (University of Birmingham)
 Miki Sugiura (Hosei University)
 Peer Vries (University of Vienna)
 David Washbrook (University of Cambridge)
 Callie Wilkinson (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
 R. Bin Wong (UCLA)
 Jing Zhu (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

Strand 1



Material Life in a Globalising World

Developing the agenda for which GHCC is well known internationally, this research strand considers how the global trade of commodities and food have shaped the lives of people across the globe. This research strand builds on a series of major grants including an ERC grant 'Europe's Asian Centuries' and important research networks grants funded by the AHRC and the Leverhulme Trust that have allowed extensive collaboration with other universities and heritage institutions in Europe, Asia, North America and Australia.

Strand 2



Power and Politics in the Colonial and Postcolonial World

Drawing from our members' expertise in African and Asian history, this strand explores the ideas and practices of politics in a variety of imperial and post-imperial settings. That entails a particular interest in histories of conflict, processes of imperial expansion and decline, decolonisation, migration, and the place of identity in imperial history and its legacies as evident in present-day societies in Britain and across the world.

Strand 3



Science and Environment

Nature is central to global history. Natural resources have been a motive for imperial expansion; natural products have been items of long-distance trade; and natural science is a window onto global interactions of all kinds. These interactions have taken place on landscapes and seascapes that defy national boundaries but that are susceptible to human activity. In studying these phenomena, we draw on environmental history, economic history, and the history of science, technology and medicine. We cover a wide range of sciences, from chemistry to anthropology. We cover an equally diverse range of technologies, from bags to dams. And we cover the material world in the fullest sense of the term, cutting across the usual distinctions between material culture, commodities, climate and cosmos.

Decolonising Global History

Over the past several decades, the field of Global History has become firmly embedded within the larger historical discipline. However, despite efforts in that direction, Global History has been less successful in moving beyond its Euro-American institutional rootedness and intellectual orientation. Critics have pointed out the Eurocentricity of its conceptual frameworks, the dominance of Anglophone scholarship produced by Global North-based researchers and presses, and the marginalisation of actors, concepts, and perspectives originating in the Global South.

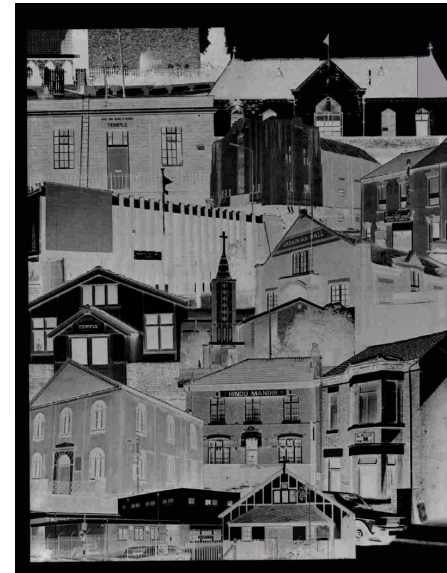
In various ways, recent GHCC events have engaged with questions concerning the decolonisation of the institutional and disciplinary structures in which we operate and that frame



our research. In June 2021, we hosted a roundtable on 'The Ethnographic Museum and Global History' which featured a critical rethinking of the future of ethnographic museums through contributions by Wayne Modest (National Museum of World Cultures in the Netherlands), Dan Hicks (Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford), Sadiya Qureshi (Birmingham), and Jorge Flores (Lisbon).

A second main event took place in November 2021, when GHCC hosted the online symposium 'Decolonising Travel Studies: Sources and Approaches'. Organised in collaboration with the Hakluyt Society and Medieval and Early Modern Orients (MEMOs) to mark the Hakluyt Society's 175th anniversary, this event explored the colonial legacies that have marked the global history of travel as well as the academic study of travel and travel writing. Nearly fifty speakers over two days engaged with the theory of decolonisation as a means to identify future directions for the history of travel.

During the 2021-2022 academic year we have also held regular reading group meetings on the topic of decolonisation, including special sessions on the Politics of Global History and Global History and Latin America. Out of these meetings has grown a new collaboration with colleagues at the European University Institute (EUI), which aims to develop a programme of events aimed at tackling the inequalities embedded in the field of global history as we move forward.



Global Coventry

This project aims to bring global history together with the local context of Coventry. Coventry has a complex history of migration, governance and asylum, which have produced a diverse and 'global' Coventry in the post-war decades. The project asks what kind of factors have enabled such a convergence over the last five decades, and what kind of diasporic formations have emerged around race, ethnicity and religion? We take the Windrush and 9/11 as broad markers that define the time and space of our project. Our work, mainly collaborative in nature, will feed into larger histories of migration, mobility and diaspora in the UK focusing largely on non-white immigrant communities.

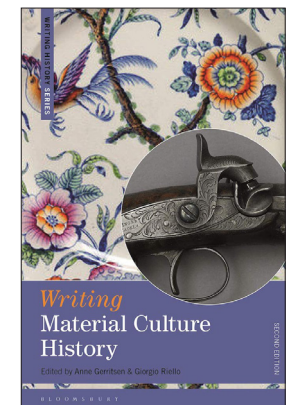
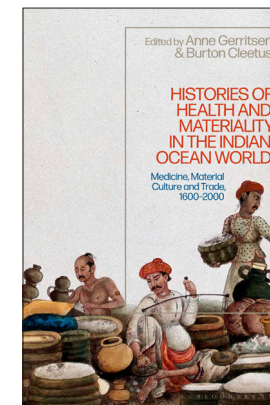
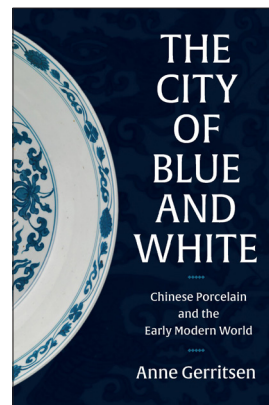
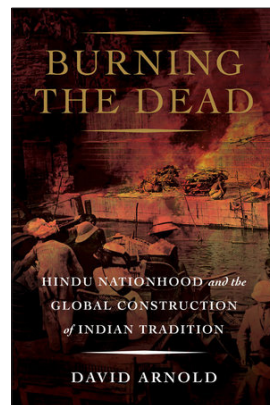
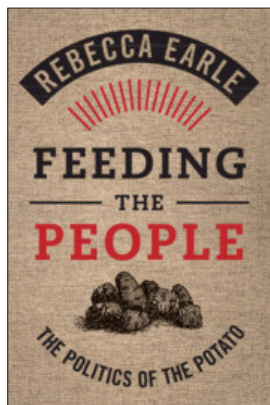
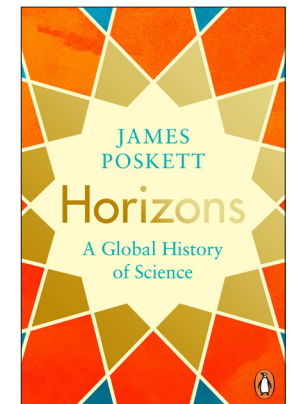
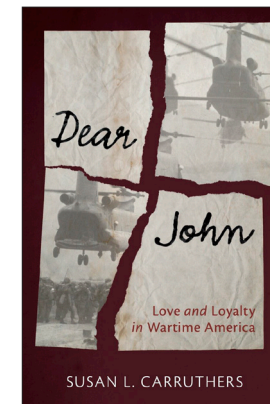
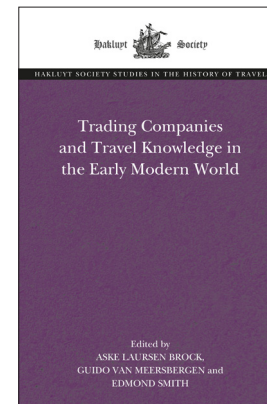
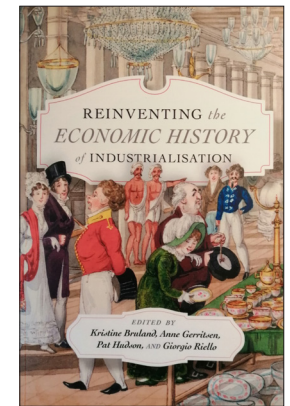
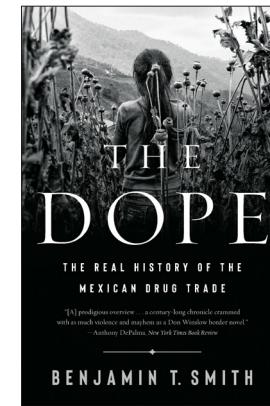
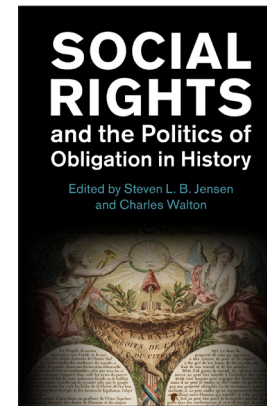
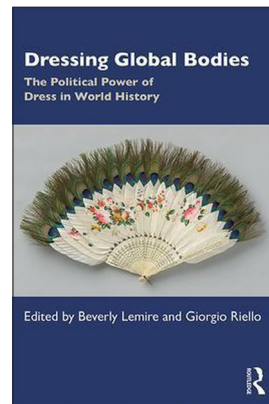
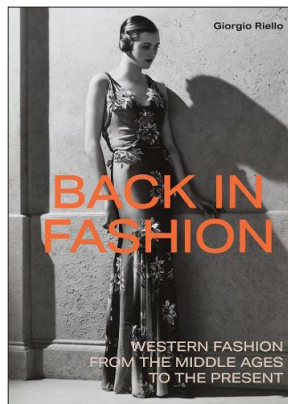
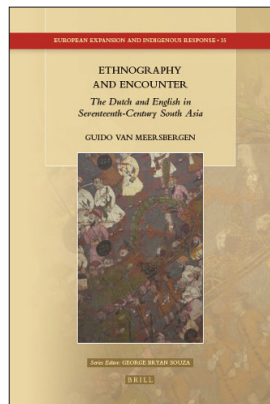


Past Futures in the Kavango-Zambesi

The Kavango-Zambesi Transboundary Park (KAZA) straddles Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, centring on the colonial Caprivi Strip on the Zambesi river. This project views the history of rural development in the KAZA as a process of 'future-making'. Colonial and then post-colonial governments in this region sought to redefine patterns of land-use, dictate the functioning of local social-ecologies, and drive local thinking about identity, sovereignty and security. 'Past Futures' will consider what impact the history of past development interventions has on the reception of and engagement with the Kavango-Zambesi Transnational Park (KAZA). The key themes of migration and mobility, livelihood insecurity, resource extraction, and militarisation, will be pursued in collaboration with project Research Partners.

Selected publications

Members of the Global History and Culture Centre published dozens of books, book chapters, and articles in major journals. We present here a small selection of the books they published in the past few years.



Maxine Berg

In 2001, Professor Maxine Berg delivered her inaugural lecture at the University of Warwick. She had been at Warwick since 1978, first in the Economics Department and then in History, had published widely on economic history (most notably in books like *The Machinery Question* (1980) and *The Age of Manufactures* (1985)) and had held a professorship since 1998. But with her inaugural lecture, she made her first mark as a global historian. Published as 'In Pursuit of Luxury' in *Past and Present* in 2004, the piece revealed the key role of Asian goods in eighteenth-century British consumption, manufactures and technology. Together with the publication of Pomeranz's *The Great Divergence* (2000) and the activities of the Global Economic History Network, this marked the beginning of the global turn in British academia.

In 2006, Maxine persuaded the then vice-chancellor, Nigel Thrift, that Warwick should be the place for doing global history, and in 2007, the Global History and Culture Centre was founded, with Giorgio Riello becoming the first holder of a lectureship in global history in the UK.

In 2009, the Global History and Culture Centre organized an international conference at the British Academy, entitled 'Writing the History of the Global'. Maxine not only managed to bring together some of the biggest names working in the field but also had the brilliant foresight to organise



a series of recorded interviews. The screenshot of one of these features Maxine talking about global economic history with Professors Pat Hudson (right) and Tine Bruland (left). The interviews, together with the recordings of the conference, have served as an important introduction to the work of the GHCC.



From 2010 to 2014, Maxine held an ERC grant, entitled 'Europe's Asian Centuries: Trading Eurasia 1600-1830',



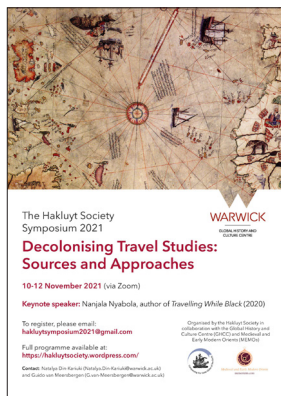
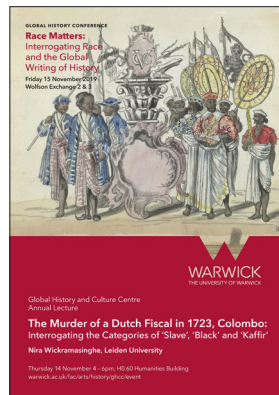
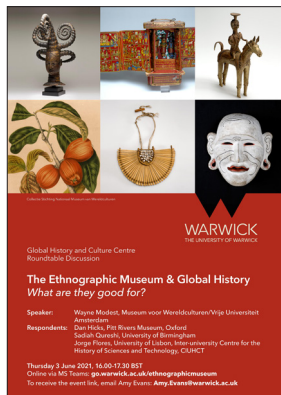
which marked another milestone in the history of the Centre and the History department.

To celebrate Maxine's field-shaping contributions to economic history, on 21 February 2020, a festive conference entitled 'Why Does Economic History Matter?' took place at Warwick. Colleagues, friends and family gathered to offer short and provocative papers on economic history broadly conceived. It was memorable for many reasons, including its participants (from all walks of Maxine's career), its location (just off campus, as it coincided with a UCU strike), its date (just before the pandemic shut everything down), and its surprise element: at the end of the day, Maxine was presented with a Festschrift, entitled *Reinventing the Economic History of Industrialisation*, published by McGill-Queens University Press. Many of the participants had contributed to the volume, and were

delighted they had succeeded in keeping its appearance secret.

Following her distinguished career stretching over more than four decades, in March 2022, Maxine Berg stepped down from teaching in the History Department at Warwick. Of course, her research and writing activities continue, and later this year the book she has written with Pat Hudson, entitled *Slavery, Capitalism and the Industrial Revolution* will be published with Polity Press. To mark Maxine's retirement, we have instituted, from May 2022 onwards, the Maxine Berg Prize in Global History, which will be awarded annually for the best undergraduate dissertation in global history. Maxine's contributions have been extremely significant for the development and flourishing of the Centre. We are grateful for all the work she's done, and we look forward to her being actively involved in the Centre's activities for many years to come.

Every year the Global History and Culture Centre organises a number of high-profile conferences and workshops, and hosts international speakers. In addition, GHCC hosts a weekly programme of seminars and reading groups, attended by colleagues and students from different departments at Warwick and often from beyond. From conferences on Global Microhistory to workshops on 'The Future of Global History' and roundtables on 'The Ethnographic Museum and Global History', the Global History and Culture Centre has helped set the agenda for research in global history since its inception in 2007 and continues to be at the forefront of innovation in this field. We include here a brief selection of some of our recent events.



Featured Partnerships

Over the past years we have worked closely with several international partners, including universities, libraries, and heritage institutions such as museums, as well as local community partners in Coventry. Ongoing collaborations include:



JSPS-Warwick Collaboration: 'Problematizing Circulation'

Thanks to generous funding from the JSPS Promotion for International Research Collaboration, GHCC is collaborating with Professor Miki Sugiura of Hosei University and a team of global historians based in Japan from January 2020 to March 2025. The collaboration is focused on the theme of 'Problematizing Circulations', with a special focus on the environment and on materiality in global history. The project aims to problematize the concept of circulation, which is so prevalent in global history research. We refer to this approach as an 'eco-critical approach to circulation'. Workshops have taken place at Warwick (October 2019) and online (February and May 2021) around the themes of 'Categories at Work in Global History' and 'Terms in Circulation, Categories at Work, c.1600-1850'.

EUI-Warwick Collaboration: 'Whose Global History? Diversifying a Discipline'

An initiative started by historians at the European University Institute and GHCC, our latest partnership seeks to develop a global network of scholars with the aim of achieving a more diverse and inclusive global history. It seeks to take stock of the different conceptualisations of what global history means in different institutional contexts, what aims it serves, and what its existing strengths and weaknesses are. Furthermore, it asks how the inequalities embedded in global history might be redressed, and how the analytical perspectives, concepts, and categories employed in different parts of the world and different corners of the discipline can enrich the conceptual apparatus of global history.



GHCC Blog

The Global History and Culture Centre Blog provides a platform for our members to publish shorter pieces (c. 1000 words) about their research, events, and publications. Extending to some 40 contributions as we write, the GHCC Blog offers an incredibly rich array of interviews, book reviews, conference reports, research reflections, and a series of reflections on global history during times of a global pandemic. In 2020-2021, we issued our first annual call for featured contributions from our postgraduate community, which to date has resulted in a dozen short research essays on topics ranging from colonial collecting in East Africa and Colombia, to the consumption of New World foods, early modern lacquerware, Pan-Africanism, and Chinese public health.

warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc/blog/

Undergraduate

The Department of History offers a large number of modules with a 'global' approach for students in their first, second and final year. These modules explore more than one part of the world and pay attention to the ways in which these different parts of the world came into contact with each other in the past. Many of these modules are thematically organised, and offer students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the different modes of global interaction. A number of our undergraduate students have completed research projects funded by the Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (URSS) on themes such as the interaction between Western and Chinese medicine and Decolonising Travel Studies.

MA in Global and Comparative History

This innovative MA programme offers students the chance to investigate dynamic areas of historical enquiry and debate. As well as surveying 'global' trends, the MA also provides a route into the study of major regions of the globe, including Latin America, India and China.

The MA is available to both full-time and part-time students. Like other MAs at Warwick, the degree programme consists of four taught courses plus a dissertation of up to 15,000 words.

Modules include 'Theory, Skills, and Methods', 'Themes in Global and Comparative History', 'Themes and Approaches to the Historical Study of Consumption', and 'Themes and Approaches to the Historical Study of Empire'.

Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr Eric DeWald - ESRC Fellow on Monsoon Asia Project (2007-8)
 Dr Marie Thébaud-Sorger - Marie Curie Fellow (2008-10)
 Dr Stephen McDowall - AHRC Fellow on 'Global Jingdezhen Project (2009-11)
 Dr Felicia Gottmann - ERC Postdoc Fellow (2010-14)
 Dr Chris Nierstrasz - ERC Postdoc Fellow (2010-14)
 Dr Hanna Hodacs - ERC Postdoc Fellow (2010-14)
 Dr Helen Clifford - ERC Museum Fellow (2010-14)
 Dr Paul Shirley - AHRC Fellow on 'Empire Loyalists' Project (2012-13)
 Dr Michael Bycroft - Leverhulme ECF (2014-17)
 Dr Adrianna Catena - Leverhulme ECF (2016-19)
 Dr Guido van Meersbergen - Leverhulme ECF (2016-19)
 Dr Guillemette Crouzet - Newton International Postdoc Fellow (2017-19);
 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow 2019-present)
 Dr Natasha Telepnova - British Academy (2017-2020)
 Dr Callie Wilkinson - Leverhulme Early Career Fellow (2018-2021)
 Dr Rémi Dewièrre - WIRL-COFUND Fellow (2019-2021)

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