

INSTITUTE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
MST IN HISTORY PROGRAMME

WHAT IS GLOBAL HISTORY?

GLOBAL HISTORY



INTERACTIONS BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSAL AND THE LOCAL

Edited by A. G. Hopkins



WORLD HISTORY
GLOBAL HISTORY
TRANSNATIONAL
HISTORY
INTERNATIONAL
HISTORY

WHAT'S IN A
NAME?

GLOBAL HISTORY CAN BE...

- ▶ **Longue durée & geographically broad ('universal')**
- ▶ **Comparative**
- ▶ **Border-crossing**
- ▶ **Following connections...
commodity histories, histories of
migration & movement,
networks**
- ▶ **Looking at intersections between
universal and local**

Opium factory along the Ganges, India, c. 1900



WHAT DO THESE APPROACHES HAVE IN COMMON?

- ▶ Global histories are **DIVERSE!** But they all...
- ▶ ...challenge Eurocentric histories (more on this shortly)
- ▶ ...avoid the nation-state as the primary unit of historical analysis (think across borders, & *about* borders/boundaries)
- ▶ ...aim to be comprehensive in vision, but **NOT** exhaustive: global historians must be good at selecting



WHAT'S EUROCENTRIC HISTORY?

- ▶ Based on 3 assumptions:
- ▶ Sharp distinction between 'West' and 'Non-West,' (John Hobson, 'civilisational line of apartheid');
- ▶ Europe seen as superior due to exceptional rational/progressive/racial characteristics
- ▶ 'European' history retrospectively linked to ancient Mediterranean, north Africa, and the ancient near east, allowing 'Europe' to seem to be the heart of all human innovation...

Mercator projection map of the world



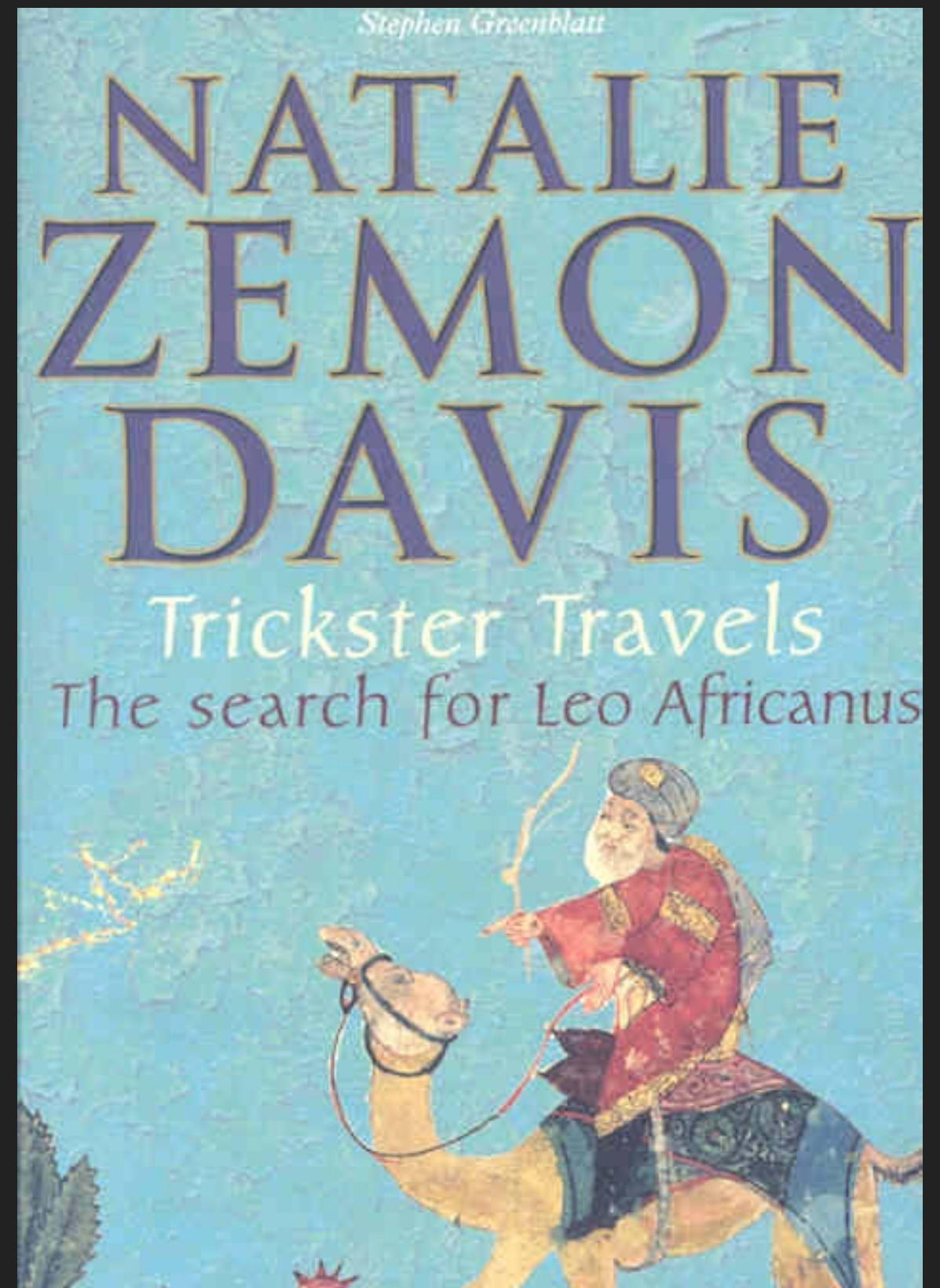
SO WHAT DOES GLOBAL HISTORY LOOK LIKE?

IT CAN BE BROAD...

- ▶ Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*
- ▶ Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*
- ▶ Megan Vaughan, *Curing Their Ills: Colonial Power and African Illness*
- ▶ C.A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World*
- ▶ David Northrup, *Africa's Discovery of Europe; Indentured Labour in the Age of Imperialism*

OR IT CAN BE FOCUSSED...

- ▶ Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires...* about one 18th c. 'empire family' and their connections
- ▶ Natalie Zemon Davis, *Trickster Travels: A 16th c. Muslim Between Worlds ...*search for author of first geography of Africa
- ▶ Natasha Pairaudeau, *Mobile Citizens, French Indians in Indochina, 1885-1954*
- ▶ William Gervase Clarence-Smith, *Cocoa and Chocolate 1765-1914*



TOPICS THAT MST GLOBAL HISTORIANS AT CAMBRIDGE HAVE STUDIED...

- ▶ **Black Tudors**
- ▶ **Refugee charities in India and Pakistan after Partition**
- ▶ **Imperialism 'at home' in Britain & the Congo Reform movement**
- ▶ **The lives, and afterlives, of the Dunhuang Silk Road manuscripts**
- ▶ **The 'Eastern Question' & the birth of 'geopolitics'**
- ▶ **Women's participation in the armies of the Napoleonic Wars**
- ▶ **Oral histories of Vietnam draft resisters**
- ▶ **Textual analysis of al-Jabarti's history of Egypt under Napoleon**
- ▶ **The transfer of a German legal theory of power to Latin America after WW2**

SAMPLE SCHEDULE, GLOBAL STRAND, MODULE 2

Module 2: 'Global History'

<u>2018</u>	Wednesday 28 November	Thursday 29 November	Friday 30 November
9.30am		Dr. Patrick Clibbens 'Global histories of migration'	Dr. Ruth Watson 'Studying critical events: the 1976 Soweto Youth Uprising'
11.00am	<i>Arrival</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
11.30am	Dr. Patrick Clibbens 'Approaches to world history'	Dr. Natasha Pairaudeau 'Microhistories and transnational lives'	Dr. Nicki Kindersley 'Global histories of political thought'
1.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00pm	Dr. Sujit Sivasundaram 'Islands and oceanic histories'	Professor Saul Dubow 'The "Global" Nelson Mandela'	Professor Mary Laven 'Encounters and material culture'
3.30pm	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
4.00pm	Rachel Rowe, Royal Commonwealth Collection Librarian, UL 'Sources for global histories'	Dr. Gabriela Ramos 'Latin America and the World'	Essay workshop for module 2 essay titles
5.30pm	<i>Private study time</i>	<i>Private study time</i>	<i>Depart</i>
7.30pm	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	

SAMPLE SCHEDULE, GLOBAL STRAND, MODULE 4

Module 4: Global History II

<u>2019</u>	Wednesday 22 May	Thursday 23 May	Friday 24, May
9.30am		'Late Development': The Uneven Spread of Industrialisation in Asia, Africa and Latin America, 1850 to the Present Prof Gareth Austin	Revolutions Dr Andrew Thompson
11.00am	Arrival	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
11.30am	Gender and history: colonial South Asia Professor Samita Sen	Piracy Dr Ian Chambers	Native American removal Dr Ian Chambers
1.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
2.00pm	A History of Books in a Global Context, 1850-1950 Dr Mishka Sinha	Japan in Global Intellectual History Dr Chika Tonooka	British Empire and Islam Dr John Slight
3.30pm	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee break</i>
4.00pm	African decolonisation in global perspective Dr George Roberts	Space and Place in Global History Dr Helen Pfeifer	Dissertation workshop Dr Samantha Williams
5.30pm	<i>Private study time</i>	<i>Private study time</i>	Depart
7.30pm	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	

FURTHER READING ... & QUESTIONS!

- ▶ *Cambridge World History* series (7 volumes – preface and vol. I have background about approaches & methods)
- ▶ AHA conversations series: 'Walls, Borders, and Boundaries in World History' (2017) & 'On Transnational History' (2006)
- ▶ A.G. Hopkins, ed. *Global History: Between the Universal and the Local*
- ▶ Website: worldhistorymatters.org