

# **Age of Revolution(s)**

Elyssa Gage and Suzanne Levin

Ph.D. Program “Global History and Governance”

I Semester 2022/2023

Office: SSM, Largo San Marcellino 10, 80138 Napoli

Office hours: by appointment

Class Time: Mondays, 11-13

Papers Presentation and Discussion: February

Meeting place: Room 2

Email:

[elyssa.gage-ssm@unina.it](mailto:elyssa.gage-ssm@unina.it)

[suzannemichelle.levin-ssm@unina.it](mailto:suzannemichelle.levin-ssm@unina.it)

## **Overview**

This course will examine the historiographical concepts of the Age of Revolution(s). Taking revolutions that are generally foundational to national histories, we will consider the stakes of thinking of them according to different geographic and chronological frameworks.

## **Goals**

- Identify and evaluate the uses and meanings of the frameworks: age of revolution, age of revolutions, revolutionary era...
- Develop clear arguments about the readings to be presented in both oral and written contexts

## **Assignments**

### *Discussion 30%*

This is a discussion seminar. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the readings in class.

### *Calls for Papers 15%*

Students will write calls for papers responding to one or several of the week’s readings. Two students will submit a call for papers each week – selections will be made on the first day of class. These calls will be used as a starting point for discussion.

The calls for papers must address the themes of the week and draw on key ideas from the readings. They should demonstrate an understanding of what scholarship has done and the possibilities for where it might go next. They must offer a specific chronological time frame with conceptual grounding.

### *Final Paper 45% and Presentation 10%*

A final essay on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructors, 6,000-8,000 words. The essay will be presented and discussed in class in February.

## **Reading Guide**

For each assigned reading, you should consider the following points

- Argument
- Sources
- Biases
- Contribution
- Further Research
- Terminology and theoretical framework
- Chronology
- Geography
- Which Revolution(s)

## **Schedule**

*November 7*

### **Introduction**

Readings:

- Klooster, *Revolutions in the Atlantic World*
- McDonnel, Matthew. "Rethinking the Age of Revolution" *Atlantic Studies*, vol 13, issue 3, September 2016, pp 301-314.

*November 14 - CFP Alessia*

### **Revolution and Empire**

Readings:

- Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. *Silencing the Past*. Introduction and Chapter 3 "An Unthinkable History" [Suggestion for reading Trouillot: make a list of important terms to define, especially for the intro, for ch 3 the first part gives the historical framework that made the history unthinkable, p 83-95 on is the revolution itself, 96 on is the silencing in history]
- Serna, Pierre. "Every Revolution is a War of Independence"
- Adelman, Jeremy. "An Age of Imperial Revolutions" *The American Historical Review*, Volume 113, Issue 2, April 2008, Pages 319–340.

In-class presentation with definitions and discussion questions

<https://sway.office.com/uQdppvpRD0IuwrST?ref=Link>

**November 21 - Alessandro Bonvini – CFP Carmen and Daniele**

### **Nations and Cosmopolitanism**

Readings:

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, “Creole Pioneers”
- Banti 53-69
- Recchia 1-30

**November 28 - Fulvia**

### **Democracy and New Political Institutions**

Readings:

- Innes, Joanna and Mark Philp, “Introduction” in *Re-Imagining Democracy in the Age of Revolutions*, Oxford, OUP, 2013, p. 1-10

Plus at least two of the following:

- Alpaugh, Micah. “The British Origins of the French Jacobins: Radical Sociability and the Development of Political Club Networks, 1787-1793,” *European History Quarterly*, 44-4, Aug. 2014, p. 593-619
- Jourdan, Annie. “The Batavian Revolution: Typical Dutch, Typical French or just Atlantic,” *Journal of Low Countries Studies*, 31, Dec. 2007, p. 271-288
- Monnier, Raymonde. “Public Opinion and Democratic Culture: The French Revolution,” *The European Legacy*, 1, 1996, p. 175-180
- Nash, Gary B. “Philadelphia’s Radical Caucus That Propelled Pennsylvania to Independence and Democracy” in Alfred Young, Gary B. Nash, and Ray Raphael, eds., *Revolutionary Founders*, New York, Knopf, 2011, p. 67-86

**December 5 – Tommaso, Giuseppe**

**Note: meet in room 3**

### **Violence and Revolution**

Readings (choose at least two):

- Alpaugh, Micah. “The Politics of Escalation in French Revolutionary Protest: Political Demonstrations, Non-Violence and Violence in the *Grandes Journées* of 1789,” *French History*, 23-3, Sept. 2009, p. 336-359

- Beik, William. “The Violence of the French Crowd from Charivari to Revolution,” *Past & Present*, 197, 2008, p. 75-110
- Emsley, Clive. “Repression, ‘Terror,’ and the Rule of Law in England during the Decade of the French Revolution,” *The English Historical Review*, 397, 1985, p. 801-825
- Hooock, Holger. “Introduction” in *Scars of Independence. America’s Violent Birth*, New York, Crown, 2017, p. 3-22
- Linton, Marisa. “Rethinking the French Revolutionary Terror: Introduction,” *H-France Salon*, 11-1, 2019, p. 1-10

## ***December 12 – Guido***

### **Counter-Revolution**

*What is counter-revolution?*

*Who defines counter-revolution? Who defines revolution?*

*How do we think of revolution and counter-revolution in relation to goals and outcomes?*

*Compare Horne and Klooster’s understanding of 1776.*

*How does Horne’s arguments about 1776 fit with Trouillot’s assessment of the Haitian Revolution as unthinkable as it was happening ?*

Readings:

- Pestel, Friedmann “On Counterrevolution: Semantic Investigations of a Counterconcept during the French Revolution” <https://doi.org/10.3167/choc.2017.120204>
- Horne, Gerald. *The Counter Revolution of 1776*, esp. Introduction and Chapters 9 and 10.

You may also be look at:

- Sivasundaram, Sujit. *Waves Across the South: A New History of Revolution and Empire*. William Collins, 2020. Especially Introduction and Chapter 5.

## ***December 19 - Martina***

### **Gender in Revolution, Gender Revolution**

Readings:

- Desan, Suzanne. “Recent Historiography on the French Revolution and Gender,” *Journal of Social History*, 52-3, Spring 2019, p. 566-574
- Knott, Sarah. “Female Liberty? Sentimental Gallantry, Republican Womanhood, and Rights Feminism in the Age of Revolutions,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 71-3, 2014, p. 425-456

- Moore, Lisa and Joanna Brooks. “Introduction” in Lisa Moore, Joanna Brooks, and Caroline Wigginton, eds. *Transatlantic Feminisms in the Age of Revolutions*, Oxford, OUP, 2012, p. 3-34

## Example of a Call for Papers

### Call for Papers

#### *Negotiating Europeanness:*

#### *Race, Class, and Culture in the Colonial World*

**Date: 27 June 2022**

**Leiden, The Netherlands**

The expansion of European powers overseas brought Europeans into contact and conflict with the inhabitants of Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Historians of colonialism and post-colonial scholars have long argued that this encounter was crucial for the formation of European identity, which originated in contradistinction to the non-European ‘other’ (Kiernan 1980; Hargreaves 1982). However, what meant to be European in the colonies was unclear and historically contingent. Europeanness, or identification as European, is better understood on a spectrum with multiple gradations, being often a fluid and pragmatic concept, standing in contrast to a coherent system of classification based on phenotype features (Stoler 2002; Fischer-Tine 2009; Luttikhuis 2013; Mizutani 2011; Herzog 2012). As Richard Drayton has recently emphasised, ideas of whiteness and of European difference *vis-à-vis* non-Europeans resulted from the interplay of race, class, and culture embedded in social practices against which actors needed to negotiate their place in colonial societies (Drayton 2019).

Due to their high mortality rates in the colonial settings during the early modern European expansion, Europeans continuously depended on local populations and their existing social structures. Cross-cultural exchanges ensued, giving rise to in-between groups and societies of cultural and biological *métissage* (Zúñiga 2002; Brooks 2003; Bosma and Raben 2008; Havik and Newitt 2015). By the late nineteenth century, however, a new phase of imperial growth facilitated the increase in the number of people from Europe in colonial spaces. Meanwhile, ‘sciences’ of race had reinforced existing ideas of natural inequality associated with skin colour and the superiority of the ‘white’ race over all others, supported by deep-rooted views of internal hierarchies within the ‘white/European’ race (Stepan 1982; Bancel, David, and Thomas 2014; McMahon 2016; Turda and Quine 2018; Mogilner 2021).

This workshop aims to address the development of the concept and the practice of Europeanness overtime in European colonies worldwide. The focus lies on the way gradations of Europeanness were negotiated, adapted and/or modified by local actors across space and time. By bringing together scholars working on premodern and modern historians of empire and colonial interactions, we hope to stimulate a two edge discussion. On the one hand, discuss the premodern roots of modern processes of identity formation as ‘European’ in a colonial context. On the other hand, compare and contrast the way in which modern identification processes diverged from previous forms. The workshop aims to bring a better understanding of the role of local societies in shaping European colonial projects from within the colonies and show their continuities and discontinuities beyond usual historical periodisation. We welcome papers dealing with specific empires, colonies or regions, as well as translating a trans-imperial perspective.

The workshop will take place on 27 June 2023 in Leiden at the Institute for History (Leiden University). Participants to the workshop are expected to give 15-20 minute presentations. Proposals should include a provisional title and abstract (max. 300 words) and a short CV (max. 1 page), and be submitted to [m.a.goncalves@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:m.a.goncalves@hum.leidenuniv.nl) by 15 December 2022. Confirmation of acceptance of papers will be sent in the first week of January 2023.

#### References:

Bancel, Nicolas, Thomas David, and Dominic Thomas. 2014. *The Invention of Race: Scientific and Popular Representations*. Routledge.

Bosma, Ulbe, and Remco Raben. 2008. *Being ‘Dutch’ in the Indies: A History of Creolisation and Empire, 1500-1920*. Singapore: NUS Press.

Brooks, George. 2003. *Eurafricans in Western Africa: Commerce, Social Status, Gender, and Religious Observance from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press.

Drayton, Richard. 2019. ‘Race, Culture and Class: European Hegemony and Global Class Formation, c. 1800-1950’. In *The Global Bourgeoisie: The Rise of the Middle Classes in the Age of Empire*, edited by Christof Dejung, Jürgen Osterhammel, and David Motadel, 339–58. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Fischer-Tine, Harald. 2009. *Low and Licentious Europeans: Race, Class and ‘white Subalternity’ in Colonial India*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.

Hargreaves, Alec G. 1982. ‘European Identity and the Colonial Frontier’. *Journal of European Studies* 12 (47): 166–79.

Havik, Philip J., and Malyn Newitt. 2015. *Creole Societies in the Portuguese Colonial Empire*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Herzog, Tamar. 2012. ‘Beyond Race: Exclusion in Early Modern Spain and Spanish America’. In *Race and Blood in the Iberian World*, edited by María Elena Martínez, David Nirenberg, and Max-Sebastián Hering Torres, 151–67. Münster: LIT Verlag.

Kiernan, V. G. 1980. ‘Europe in the Colonial Mirror’. *History of European Ideas* 1 (1): 39–61.

- Luttikhuis, Bart. 2013. 'Beyond Race: Constructions of "Europeanness" in Late-Colonial Legal Practice in the Dutch East Indies'. *European Review of History: Revue Européenne d'histoire* 20 (4): 539–58.
- McMahon, Richard. 2016. *The Races of Europe: Construction of National Identities in the Social Sciences, 1839-1939*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Mizutani, Satoshi. 2011. *The Meaning of White: Race, Class, and the 'Domiciled Community' in British India 1858-1930*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Mogilner, Marina. 2021. 'Introduction'. In *A Cultural History of Race in the Age of Empire and Nation State*, edited by Marina Mogilner, 5:1–18. *A Cultural History of Race*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Stepan, Nancy. 1982. *The Idea of Race in Science: Great Britain, 1800-1960*. Macmillan Press.
- Stoler, Ann Laura. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Turda, Marius, and Maria Sophia Quine. 2018. *Historicizing Race*. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Zúñiga, Jean-Paul. 2002. *Espagnols d'outre-mer: émigration, métissage et reproduction sociale à Santiago du Chili, au XVIIe siècle*. Paris: Editions de l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.