

Lectures – Seminars – Colloquia in English by BGS MCS PIs Winter term 2015/2016

Islam, Culture and Aesthetic Expression, 13th-18th centuries (Lecture)

Prof. Dr. Wendy Shaw

This lecture course introduces students to the aesthetic world of empires in regions under Islamic hegemony during the early modern era, including Andalusia, Persia, the Ottoman Empire, and India. It will consider the role of common aesthetic and cultural practices across diverse linguistic and religious boundaries in producing the discursive realm identified with the Islamic world.

Date: Wednesdays, 2 – 4 pm (first date: 14 October 2015)

Place: Hs B Hörsaal (Koserstr. 20)

Photography and Gender in the Middle East (Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Wendy Shaw

From the time of its invention in 1839, photography was deeply embedded both in the relationship between Europe and the Middle East, and more broadly in the production of gender within the modern episteme. Bringing together classic essays on photography, colonialism, and gender, this course will invite students to consider the construction of gendered alterity through the medium of photography. Participants will read weekly texts and present interpretations of select photographs based on the readings.

Date: Fridays, 10 am – 12 pm (first date: 16 October 2015)

Place: A 124 Übungsraum (Koserstr. 20)

Sufism, Perception and Islamic Art History (Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Wendy Shaw

Sufism is a category of mystical approaches within Islam relying on intrinsic interpretations of sacred texts and aiming towards personal union with the divine. Deeply integrated into religious, ethical and cultural practice across much of the Islamic world since the tenth century, Sufism often informs both the sign-systems and perceptual modes of Islamic art. This course will examine select works of Islamic art in light of Sufi interpretations of Islam in their historical contexts. Participants will discuss shared readings and interpret aesthetic practices in light of Sufism.

Date: Tuesdays, 2 – 4 pm (first date: 13 October 2015)

Place: A 320 Übungsraum (Koserstr. 20)

Research Colloquium, Art History of Islamic Cultures (Colloquium)

Prof. Dr. Wendy Shaw

This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop research projects and discuss the practices of research, writing, speaking and dissemination which form the basis of academic practice. All participants will be required to present their own work at least once during the semester, and to participate consistently throughout. This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop research projects and discuss the practices of research, writing, speaking and dissemination which form the basis of academic practice. All participants will be required to present their own work at least once during the semester, and to participate consistently throughout.

Date: Thursdays, 10 am – 12 pm (first date: 15 October 2015)

Place: A 124 Übungsraum (Koserstr. 20)

Writing Workshop: Towards an Expressive Art History (Workshop)

Prof. Dr. Wendy Shaw

This workshop will engage students in organised peer review of guided short essays in order to develop critical writing skills required for a wide range of purposes, including grant writing, publication, and constructive critique. Beyond straightforward rules of "academic" writing, it will encourage participants to consider art history as a practice of inscription, and consider their emerging role within a discursive disciplinary -- and extra-disciplinary -- framework. It will encourage students to consider their relationship with questions such as: What does it mean to write art history? How does one develop effective and evocative scholarly writing? How does one develop informed opinions through which to articulate ideas broader than a given object? How does one create a community of effective peer review?

The workshop is bilingual: materials will be in English, but students are free to write and discuss in German or English. Grading will be based on participation and collective exchange. Although geared towards MA students, advanced BA students are welcome to participate.

Date: Fridays, 12 – 4 pm (first date: 23 October 2015)

Place: A 125 Übungsraum (Koserstr. 20)

Civilization, critique of civilization and the creation of a global order (Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau

Since the late eighteenth century the figure of stages of development allowed to map the increasing perception of global difference onto a temporal frame: each society was held to move from beginnings in savagery and barbarism to increasing levels of civility and civilization. Within this framework, societies were assigned different points of departure, moving toward a common end at different speed. Therefore, savages, barbarians and civilized societies were held to co-exist simultaneously. Notable in the epoch of high imperialism, this ordering of difference went hand in hand with the creation of a global hierarchy. Throughout the nineteenth century colonial thinkers and actors rarely challenged the model as such – neither its linearity, nor its definitions what constituted civilization. What they did challenge was their society's place in the global hierarchy, whether they took up the civilizing mission on their own or claimed that they were already more civilized than recognized by the European powers. This changed before the First World War, and increasingly so through the war experience. Critique of civilization, which rapidly became a global phenomenon, was directed both against the

temporalities of the civilizing model, its interpretation of history as a story of progress, and against what had been viewed as the characteristics of modernity: urbanization, industrialization and mechanization, but also individualization and rationalization. The seminar aims at tracing this global process, roughly between the 1870s and the 1930s, focusing geographically on Russia, Germany, the US and India (other regions can be integrated, if students take the initiative to bring in their special knowledge). Methodologically, we will alternate between sessions engaging with secondary literature on the one hand and primary sources on the other.

Date: Thursdays, 2 – 4 pm (first date: 15 October 2015)

Place: A 127 Übungsraum (Koserstr. 20)

Colloquium for MA students and Postdocs: South Asia in a global perspective

Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau

In this colloquium MA students, PhD candidates and Postdocs will present their work on the history of South Asia. The discussions will focus on the history of emotion in its broadest sense. Students wishing to present their work are asked to get in touch as early as possible at Pernau@mpib-berlin.mpg.de

Date: Wednesdays, 1 -3 pm (first date: 14 October 2015)

Place: Max Planck Institut für Bildungsgeschichte, Lentzeallee 94

Migration and Borders: the Balkans within Global Historical Developments (Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Hannes Grandits

During the ongoing refugee crisis borders again returned to be crucial factors to define/regulate/protect/"fortify" Europe/the EU. Migrations again seem to form the most urgent challenge in Europe and beyond. Within wider developments also the "Balkans" was (again) regarded as a focus region to deal with this "problem". In this seminar we will discuss how borders and migrations have affected/defined the Balkans in past and present. The following questions will form the framework for our work: According to which principles have borders been established and maintained in the course of the 19th and 20th c. and what are the detailed developments in the last 25 years? According to which (new) theories do we want to conceptualize the history of migration in the region? What can we learn for a better understanding of the ongoing refugee crisis by bringing together the discussions of border and migration studies?

Date: Thursdays, 10am – 12pm (first date: 15 October 2015)

Place: Universitätsgebäude am Hegelplatz - 1.402 Dorotheenstraße 24

Introduction to South and Southeast Asian Studies (Lecture + Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Vincent Houben and Prof. Dr. Michael Mann

This lecture series, co-taught by two senior experts on South and Southeast Asia respectively, is the point of departure for the MA programme as a whole. It addresses the theory of a larger region, its specific characteristics, boundaries, internal dynamics and interrelations with other world regions set

within a long-term historical perspective. It will be shown that South and Southeast Asia are no separate areas but have a hitherto largely ignored common history of transfer and exchange.

The modern compartmentalisation of the broader region in the form of colonies and nation-states does not preclude intra-regional systematic comparison, from which new knowledge can be gained.

Date: Thursdays, 4 – 6 pm (first date 22 October 2015)

Place: Edison Höfe - 217 Invalidenstraße 118 (I118)

Text, Sound & Vision (Seminar)

Prof. Dr. Baz Lecocq

From wax-roll recordings to online podcasts and from Daguerreotype photography to YouTube: historians of the contemporary period have an abundance of audio-visual source material at their disposal. But while the technical possibilities allow us much more, the standard for an academic historical product is still plain written text. The audio-visual source material we interpret is reduced to print. In this Project Seminar we will engage with the possible ways to create an interactive academic historical text. We will look into the ways we can keep our audio-visual source material audible and visible without turning them into printed words. The aim of this Project Seminar is NOT to create ourselves audio-visual material (movies or podcasts) or to create an online blog (which is a different genre to an academic text), but to create a multimedia academic text, where you base the answer to your research question and your arguments mostly (but not uniquely) on audio-visual source materials. We will study the various technical possibilities to create interactive text; look into the digital creation (or the digitalisation) of source material; locate various Africa related audio-visual archives in Berlin (and surroundings); look into the commercial and non-commercial physical and online outlets for source material (the records you can find on the Boxhagener Platz Trödelmarkt alone are magnificent!); look into the use of various audio-visual source materials; look into the creation of interactive maps and diagrams; look into the advantages and disadvantages of PowerPoint and Prezi as academic text formats.. etc. Nota Bene: this course will be far from a pre-fabricated consumable series of class meetings. It will require much input from the participants, both in the organisation and in the assembly of content. There might be small excursions involved demanding small financial expenses (transport or entry costs) which also might have to take place outside regular class hours.

Date: Tuesdays, 4 – 6 pm (first date: 20 October 2015)

Place: Universitätsgebäude am Hegelplatz - 2.402, Dorotheenstraße 24

An Introduction to Hadith Criticism

Prof Dr. Islam Dayeh

Hat Homer die Odyssee wirklich verfasst? Wie gehen wir mit den Diskrepanzen zwischen den kanonischen Evangelien um? Fälschung, mündliche Tradition oder verschiedene Quellen? Dies sind nur einige der Fragen, die innerhalb der Textkritik behandelt werden - einer Disziplin, die sich in Europa seit der Renaissance entwickelte und im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert nach und nach zu einer vollwertigen Wissenschaft in der Klassischen Philologie und der Biblischen Theologie wurde. Das Gegenstück zur Textkritik in der arabisch-islamischen intellektuellen Tradition ist die unter der Bezeichnung 'ulum al-hadith - hadith-Wissenschaft - bekannte Disziplin. Obwohl sie ursprünglich als kritische Methode entstand, die es erlauben sollte, die Aussprüche und Handlungen des Propheten

Muhammad und seiner Gefährten zu dokumentieren und verifizieren, entwickelte sich daraus nach und nach eine umfassende und systematische Wissenschaft, deren Gegenstand die Untersuchung jedweder historischer und literarischer Berichte war. Damit wurde sie zu einem der Stützpfeiler der klassischen und frühmodernen arabischen Philologie und Historiographie. Die Disziplin deckte eine breite Spanne von Themen ab, wie beispielsweise Ermittlung von Autorschaft, Textüberlieferung (isnad-Theorie), Identifikation von Plagiaten, Methoden der Verifizierung, Kodikologie, Paläographie, Edition und Veröffentlichung sowie Forschungsethik und -pädagogik. Der Kurs bietet eine Einführung in die bedeutendsten Autoren der Disziplin, Schriften, Genres und Probleme. Ein besonderer Fokus liegt dabei auf der mamelukischen Zeit (13.-15. Jahrhundert) und späteren Epochen.

Date: Thursdays, 10 am – 12 pm (first date: 15 October 2015)

Place: J 24/14 (Habelschwerdter Allee 45)

Debates over the Authenticity of Hadith

Prof. Dr. Islam Dayeh

In der ad fontes-Stimmung, die zahlreiche Reformierungs- und Modernisierungsbewegungen in der islamischen Welt im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert prägte, wurden einige lange vertretene traditionelle Positionen einer genauen Prüfung unterzogen. Sie wurden zum Austragungsort einer Debatte über Themen wie Reform, moderne Wissenschaft und koloniales Wissen. Dazu gehört (immer noch) die Frage der Authentizität (und Bedeutung) des hadith, d.h., der Muhammad zugeschriebenen Aussprüche und Handlungen, die den Großteil der islamischen literarischen Tradition ausmachen und zugleich die Grundlage für die Jurisprudenz bilden. In den Debatten wurde die Frage aufgeworfen, ob die dem Propheten zugeschriebenen Texte authentisch seien und welcher Gebrauch und welche Bedeutung sich folglich für zeitgenössische Muslime daraus ableiten ließen. Durch eine Lektüre einiger arabischer gelehrter und polemischer Schlüsseltexte, die zu der Debatte beitrugen, werden wir die umstrittenen Kriterien für die Beurteilung historischer Authentizität untersuchen und die weiteren theologischen, rechtlichen und kulturellen Implikationen der Debatte erforschen. Die Auswahl von Texten umfasst Mahmud Abu Rayya, Tawfiq Sidqi, Rashid Rida, Ahmad Shakir, Al-Siba'i, Muhammad al-Ghazali und Muhammad Abu Shahba. Der Kurs wird gelegentlich auf Arabisch gehalten, um die Studierenden in arabische akademische Terminologie und literarischen Stil einzuführen.

Date: Thursdays, 2 – 4 pm (first date: 15 October 2015)

Place: JK 25/138 (Habelschwerdter Allee 45)