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Narrative Project Description for Humboldt-Princeton Partnership:

Global History Project

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Contributions to Internationalization of the Princeton and Humboldt departments.

In recent years, global history has become the most vibrant sub-field of historical studies; it taps into contemporary affairs, it invites cross-regional and national examination, and it appeals to inter-disciplinary analysis. But, curiously enough, it is not imagined as a *global* field of inquiry when it comes to training and educating future historians. For the most part, curricula and graduate student formation is still conducted within national vernacular traditions and perspectives, and contained within bunkered institutional structures. To some extent, this reflects the fact that global history remains bounded even by its leading practitioners.¹ This proposal outlines a format for recasting global history as a global enterprise, creating a space for graduate students to formulate ideas and refine research strategies collaboratively across institutional boundaries and national traditions.

What is global history? Global history examines the flows of people, commodities, ideas, and institutions across national and regional boundaries and studies the ways in which these processes of contact, exchange, and integration affect regional and national dynamics. This contrasts with the more familiar “international history” approach, which emphasizes the ways in which powers like the US or Europe shaped the rest of the world through state-to-state relations. Thus, global history also highlights the importance of transnational connections in explaining developments within nations. In the United States today, it represents the fastest growing sub-field within the discipline of history. In Europe, as well as in parts of Asia (especially in China and Japan), global history is also on the rise, and it has developed into an area that attracts younger scholars in particular. It has further to go in Latin America and South Asia – but there are important shifts afoot there. Journals and conferences related to global history spring up

¹ Dominic Sachsenmaier, [Global Perspectives on Global History: Theories and Approaches in a Connected World](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

seemingly everywhere; project proposals are almost required to invoke a topic's global dimensions.

Yet for all the hoopla, few have institutionalized research collaborations or graduate training programs globally. The closest analogue would be the Columbia University-London School of Economics dual MA program in international history. However, the strengths of that partnership lie in the postwar and especially Cold War eras. Moreover, the Columbia-LSE program focuses mainly on "the West" and lacks a core curriculum. Nor does it articulate the relationship between faculty research and student training. There is an emerging network hubbed at Harvard University on global history that does share many of our aspirations; it is much larger in scale and thus less focused on specific institutional collaborations. We are in dialogue with colleagues there to make sure we do not miss opportunities to collaborate when it makes good sense.

We propose the first truly joint venture in co-training in global history. Humboldt University and Princeton University are well positioned to benefit mutually from the collaboration. At both universities, the advance of global history has resulted in a growing number of Master and Ph.D. students whose dissertations include global perspectives on historical issues.

We propose to build on our respective developments and to integrate each other's strengths into the partner's program (see item 8 below for more detail on the complementarities). How? We propose three separate initiatives:

1. This project will bring together graduate students and faculty members in a series of Joint Advanced Research Seminars (JARS).
2. In select numbers, graduate students will be invited for residencies at the partner institution and we propose joint thesis and dissertation committees (co-tutelle arrangements).
3. Planned visits and workshops by faculty members with students and faculty at the partner institutions.

The fundamental aim of these exchanges and initiatives is *to train our graduate students globally* – immersing them in debates unfolding from other regional perspectives and historiographic traditions through reiterated exchanges and shared mentoring and advising.

A secondary goal is to enhance intellectual collaboration among globally minded historians on the faculties of both institutions. Experiences with other inter-university collaborations have shown the importance of alternating visits by core groups of faculty members to each other's university. From these visits, we have found, flow the enduring collaborations in research and teaching.

Enhancing the Intellectual Life of the Princeton and Humboldt departments.

These exchanges will build on complementary strengths of the two universities in teaching and scholarship.

At Humboldt University, a masters program (jointly organized with the Free University) started in the fall of 2012 and has attracted a group of excellent students from different countries. We note Humboldt's real strength in continental Europe, Africa and Eurasia in particular. In addition, Professor Andreas Eckert directs a research center on work in global context, with worldwide networks, and, together with Sebastian Conrad (FU), a German Research Council (DFG) funded research group "Actors of Cultural Globalization", that involves a number of ..D. students who in their projects combine area studies and global history perspectives. Since 2007 Andreas Eckert and Sebastian Conrad have edited a book series "Global History" at Campus Publishers. 13 volumes have been published so far. The first volume edited by Conrad & Eckert & Ulrike Freitag (*Globalgeschichte. Theorien, Ansätze, Themen*, 2007) is widely regarded as the best introduction into the field and will have a second edition later this year.

At Princeton, global history has been taught in various ways for several decades. Princeton has one of the few history departments boasting a core undergraduate curriculum and a sequence of graduate seminars for doctoral students. Ph.D. students are now admitted in rising numbers to write dissertations in global history. A collaboration of Princeton faculty led to the publication of the *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart: A History of Humankind from Origins to the Present* 4th edition (W W Norton, 2013), a field-defining textbook. Princeton's history and areas studies programs emphasize Latin America, Europe, East Asia, South Asia, and Africa. Moreover, the area studies faculty members in history in East Asia, Latin America, Russia, and other areas encourage their students to learn second languages and embed dissertation topics in a cross-regional or global framework. There is a regular fortnightly workshop in global history for graduate students, faculty, and visitors. This year, the theme is "Empire."

In short, we complement each other well, two diverse teams of faculty committed to collaboration and cross boundaries. Each side has access to different, but occasionally overlapping networks. The global history units within each department are generally recognized as among the strongest cohorts. Finally, we share a fundamentally similar approach to global history: we both insist that the practice of global history requires solid area or regional knowledge, languages, and command of archives.

We restrict our proposal to the study of the "modern" world, from 1700 to the present. It will include advanced Masters and Ph.D. students as well as faculty from several departments (especially area studies, history, religion, and the social sciences) who have interests in global analysis.

Sustaining flows between Princeton and Humboldt, and maintaining a balanced representation of scholars and students from both institutions.

Our hope is to sustain two years of circulating students and faculty between the two institutions. It will take three forms:

1. Annual Joint Advanced Research Seminars (JARS) for graduate students and faculty members for ten days. Our provisional preference is to hold these in May or June. One will take place in Princeton and one in Berlin. These will consist of meetings of 10 graduate students from each institution and three faculty members from each institution. JARS will consist of three integrated parts to maximize the interaction between students and faculty on both sides.

(a) Daily *studios* for doctoral students to present drafts of their chapters for feedback from peers and faculty. Chapters would be pre-circulated to the entire group; graduate students would be designated to serve as commentators on each other's work.

(b) Interspersed among the studios will be faculty-led *workshops* on cutting edge themes in which the faculty are engaged. These would include sessions on migration and work, war and society, urbanization, cross-cultural trade, ideas, institutions, and political economy. These occasions aim to give graduate students on both sides an opportunity to "train up" on leading debates and share perspectives on debates across historiographic traditions.

(c) Capping each JARS will be *forums* for the three visiting faculty members to present their own work in progress to colleagues and students of the host institution for feedback. Examples include:

Home fronts during World Wars I and II (Sheldon Garon)

Labor and migration (Andreas Eckert)

20th century transformations of global labor markets (Alexander Nützenadel)

The Indian Ocean in Global History (Michael Mann)

Global history of British constitutionalism (Linda Colley)

Stalin in world history (Stephen Kotkin)

2. We propose the possibility of short-term stays (1-4 weeks) for two faculty members for sojourns at Princeton and Humboldt. Visiting faculty will meet with the graduate students with whom they worked during the JARS, offer a general lecture to the host department, and participate in on-going graduate seminars. Princeton faculty members may take advantage of these visits to Humboldt only when on leave, outside of the Princeton academic year, or during mid-semester breaks and intersessions.

3. A select group of graduate students (2 from each institution) will be invited to spend extended periods (at least one semester) at the partner institution. This will allow them to participate in the intellectual life of the department, attend seminars, and use local library and archival collections. Our expectation is that students will be able to support themselves on their fellowships.

To provide continuity and leadership for these initiatives, each university has recruited three colleagues to serve as core members on its respective steering committee—in addition to the principal investigator. At Princeton, the steering committee consists of Linda Colley (British empire), Sheldon Garon (PI, Japan), Harold James (international economic history/Germany), and Stephen Kotkin (Russia/Eurasia). The Humboldt steering committee consists of Andreas Eckert (PI, Africa), Vincent Houben (Southeast Asia), Michael Mann (South Asia), and Alexander Nützenadel (European social/economic history). The steering committees will consult among themselves and with each other to select graduate student and faculty participants, and to arrange visits and the various workshops.

In addition to the steering committee members above, we have identified several other colleagues whose scholarly and teaching interests are global or transnational. At Princeton, a short (but by no means exhaustive) list would include: Jeremy Adelman (Latin America), Molly Greene (Mediterranean), and Jonathan Levy (United States). At Humboldt, the list would include Jörg Baberowski (Eastern Europe), Anke te Heesen (History of Science), and Boike Rehbein (Sociology, South East Asia/Global Studies).

Additional information.

For the purposes of continuing funding, the Princeton side would also apply to the Mellon Foundation for Sawyer Seminar grants, and to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a summer institute. The Humboldt side contemplates an International Graduate Program that might be funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, which would enable us to continue the cooperation at the level of the graduate students.

Two final words of note. First, this proposal is an important, initial, component of a broader consortium, in the works, involving global historians in Paris and Tokyo as well. At present, we are working with the Vice-President of International Affairs and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo, Professor Masashi Haneda, on a larger grant request to the Japanese government. This grant request to the Princeton-Humboldt partnership will help leverage additional sources. There is a planning meeting for representatives from Berlin, Paris, and Tokyo (and possibly Harvard) to formulate the larger consortium framework and grant proposal. This will take place on March 29th at Princeton.

Second, we have a longer-term goal, which is to explore the feasibility of a more formalized joint global history program between Princeton and Humboldt under the umbrella of

the Dual Ph.D. track in the humanities, a program that went into effect in September, 2013. We would like our history departments to join with German Literature and Philosophy departments in exploring a joint curriculum. It will be important to build up a cohort effect through repeated exchanges as the foundation of a dual Ph.D.