CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE COMITE INTERNATIONAL DES SCIENCES HISTORIQUES

The Ups and Downs of World and Global History over the Course of the 20th Century

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE	LOCATION
29 Aug 2026, 09:00 - 11:30	House 1 T-1006
THEME	CONFERENCE
J - Connections, Entanglements, and Universal Perspectives on History	International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

World or Global History have seen various periods of strong interest both in academia and public but there were also periods of declining attention or even strong attacks against a historiography that seems to leave the natural habitat of historians, namely national history. While there are many explanations and descriptions of the those moments when world history met more interest than before, the opposite direction has been much less studied. The panel presents case studies since the development has never been homogenous around the world but its main intention is to engage a debate why such intellectual trends happen and what an appropriate reaction among historians could look like.

Participants

Convenor

- Matthias Middell (Leipzig University)

Chair

- Jie-Hyun Lim (Sogang University)

Commentator

- Katja Castryck-Naumann (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO))
- Nadin Heé (Leipzig University)

Panelists

- Matthias Middell (Leipzig University)
- Susanne Popp (University of Augsburg)
- Xin Fan (ShanghaiTech University)

Papers

Periods of decline in the interest in global history over the 20th century – something to learn for the 21st century?

Matthias Middell (Leipzig University)

“Global” as “Unpatriotic”? Ups and Downs of Global History in School Curricula

Susanne Popp (University of Augsburg)

The State of Global History in China: Between World History and Area Studies

Xin Fan (ShanghaiTech University)

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