

Introduction: New Approaches and Perspectives on Transatlantic History

Kristen D. Burton and Isabelle Rispler

In the field of transatlantic history, scholars continue to refine methodological debates and theoretical questions in order for research to move beyond the limitations established by national history. This volume of *Traversea* features contributions to these debates from emerging scholars, as they examine and challenge historiographical arguments concerning prominent themes in transatlantic history. Such themes include the role of diaspora and migration in the formation of transatlantic connections, North-South transatlantic connections, as well as approaches to incorporating Atlantic history into a transatlantic field. One of the main objectives of transatlantic history is to bring together the historiography of different subfields. It is interdisciplinary in nature, it reinforces continued work in transnational history, and it depends upon the collaborative efforts of scholars across multiple fields. In this second volume, *Traversea* has a twofold mission: to continue to publish the work of new scholars in the field of transatlantic history in the Independent Contributions section, and to operate as a platform for research papers delivered at the annual Transatlantic History Student Organization (THSO) graduate student conference in the Conference Presentations section. This volume consists in five conference papers from panelists of the Thirteenth Annual International Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History as well as three independent research papers written by three international graduate students from Germany and Mexico.

The Thirteenth Annual International Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History, which took place on October 25, 2012 at the University of Texas at Arlington, included presenters from Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Great Britain, and across the United States. Ian Tyrrell, Scientia Professor of History at the University of New South Wales, Australia, in his keynote speech entitled “The Spaces and Times of Transnational History and Historiography,” argued that transnational history spans time and space, as it demands an examination of both temporal and spatial “transnational moments.” In addition to Tyrrell’s address, the papers presented at this conference sought to reconcile methodological issues and provide a venue for discussing new, interdisciplinary approaches to the study of transatlantic history. The participants in this conference agreed to contribute their work for publication in the interest of perpetuating discussion and generating new arguments in this developing field.

Significant themes discussed at the conference are diaspora and migration. As overlapping subfields, they consider the movement of people across the Atlantic and the circulation of people within the Atlantic basin. The concept of diaspora and its broadened definition remain hotly debated by scholars. Some scholars maintain it should only be used in its original meaning for persecuted and fleeing populations such as the Jewish case; others have opened it up for labor migration and trade networks. The most inclusive models use diaspora for a study of all members abroad of a certain community or national group. **Amber Nickell’s** contribution, “Cultivating ‘Roots’: Towards an Understanding of Organizational Roles in Diaspora Construction,” offers such a reading of Russian Germans in the United States as a case of diaspora. Nickell argues that the multicultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s allowed for

the re-emergence of “hyphenated Americans,” which people of Russian German descent used to explore their origins and create a diaspora “after the fact.”

In addition to new perspectives concerning diaspora and migration, two submissions explore new approaches to transatlantic connections. While transatlantic historians tend to agree on East-West connections, they less readily accept the relevance of North-South connections. Framing North-South transatlantic connections, two contributors are concerned with relations on both rims of the Atlantic. In “Kulturkampf in Lomé: German and Ewe Identification and Alienation in Togoland, West Africa, 1884-1913,” **John Gregory Garratt** looks at the relations between German imperialists and West African locals within the urban space of Lomé. He argues that the opposing groups were engaged in the negotiation of culture, manifested in their respective discourses. In **Roberto N. P. F. Saba**’s contribution, “Seeking Refuge under the Southern Cross: The Causes of Confederate Emigration to the Empire of Brazil,” which analyzes southern travel agents’ writings, the author critically examines the motivations and beliefs of American slaveholders who moved to Brazil in order to maintain their lifestyle after their defeat in the Civil War.

A final theme included in this volume involves an examination of the ways scholars can incorporate Atlantic history into the broader framework of transatlantic history. For many studies, 1492 represents a starting point: the “opening” of the Atlantic world. However, **Julia McClure**’s article, “Making Waves on the Historicised Atlantic,” repositions Columbus’s voyage as a point of continuation, not an inherent beginning. Using the “translocal” nature of Franciscan monks’ missionary work, McClure argues that 1492 does not embody the level of significance historians typically assign to this year, but it is instead simply another year in the historical narrative that encompasses transatlantic history. Through this approach, McClure offers an intriguing challenge to the oft-assumed starting point of transatlantic historical studies. Moreover, **Chole Aubra Northrop**’s study, “Education, Material Culture, and Coming of Age in Eighteenth-Century British Jamaica,” brings forth an alternative approach that incorporates the histories of gender, family, material culture, and transatlantic cultural exchange between colony and metropole. Focusing on the lives of Jane and Nancy Brodbelt, the daughters of English parents living in Jamaica, Northrop illustrates the way transatlantic movement, via an education in England, caused the children of English colonists to embody the transnational nature of life in the interconnected Atlantic world.

In a second moment, three submissions make up the Independent Contributions section. They represent an eclectic array of subjects over time and space, demonstrating the open and inclusive nature of transatlantic history. In her paper “The Study Group on Germany: Exploring the Transatlantic Dynamics in an Exile Debate of the 1940s,” **Almut Stoletzki** reexamines exile research. Looking at the example of German intellectuals finding refuge in New York during and after WWII, she calls for consideration of the importance of the influences of the new environment on these migrants. Transatlantic dynamics, Stoletzki argues, emerged in the tensions between German Idealism and American Pragmatism. In “Kultur als Erfolgsfaktor im M&A-Prozess? Eine Analyse Anhand der Fusion DaimlerChrysler,” **Gürhan Güloğlu** examines the intersection of economics and sociology. Using qualitative content analysis, he asserts that cross-cultural training is necessary for the success of internationally operating Mergers and Acquisitions (A&M) in the contemporary transatlantic market. Lastly, **Vera Moya Sordo**, in her article “Miedo en el navío inestable. Navegaciones atlánticas ibéricas siglos XV-XVII,” employs discourse analysis to explore the history of emotions and further examine the role of fear in the fifteenth-century Spanish and Portuguese Atlantic. These articles reflect the flexibility of

transatlantic history, a field that allows for such a diverse array of topics as exile migrants, transnational economic markets, and the influence of emotions across the Atlantic. Such diversity not only exemplifies the exciting possibilities of research in the field of transatlantic history, but it also illustrates the vast amount of material open for historical debate. This volume of *Traversea* intends to contribute to that discussion with a collection of articles that promise to provoke new perceptions of research in transatlantic history.

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As evidenced by the papers contained in this volume, not only does discussion on the varied approaches to transatlantic history feature exciting new perspectives and arguments, but it is also clear that such discussion continues to grow. Participation from new scholars, such as the authors of the following essays, demonstrates that transatlantic history is a field that holds great interest among an emerging academic audience. It is the hope of the editors that the essays contained in this volume will serve to improve upon and propagate continued discussion and analysis in this expanding field of research.