

# **Globalization as process and foreign policy as agency? The agent-structure debate and ‘policy’ versus ‘process’ approaches to the history-globalization nexus**

“Layers and Connections of the Political”

International APH conference 2020-2021

14-25 June 2021

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## Abstract

While historians have been trying to fill in gaps in their research through interdisciplinarity, on a number of subjects the opposite has also occurred. This is particularly true in the case of Globalization Studies, specifically regarding globalization theories. Over time, critical globalization studies which bring about the centrality of history (and historical developments, among many other elements) have gained traction, and revalued the historical construction of capitalism, technological developments throughout time, and power struggles (and their outcomes) which led to the current domestic and international political landscapes. It is also the case with Global Studies, in two diverse yet linked ways. First, and similarly to our previous point, it not only draws on historical examples, but emphasizes the role of global and local history processes, replacing an ahistorical ideology deeply rooted in global discourse with historical sociology. Second, the rise of global history, being it either objective global historical processes, or the (broader) research area where research is done/focuses on, has both relied upon and also fed our understanding of globalization, of the 'global', and its changes over time. While the former relied mostly on describing what 'global' is in more or less traditional scholarly settings (security, environment, migration, etc.), the latter has contributed both to the 'long-duration' approach to globalization and a more rooted understanding of divergence, convergence, acceleration, and deceleration patterns in globalization. Thus, this proposal focuses on the state and its foreign policy as a useful site to assess these different

interactions. In short, we will explore: history in globalization studies (specifically, globalization theories); history in Global Studies; and the interaction between global history and all the above. We argue that Globalization Studies, Global Studies, and (Contemporary) History all gained from the emergence of those research fields and the interaction between them (further understanding certain dynamics and developing a detailed analysis of previously overlooked factors), while also claiming that, while these may contain different views into how historical research is to be done, such arguments were largely more productive and meaningful than irrelevant or useless. Specifically, the focus on a much larger and comprehensive set of interactions, changes in the international landscape and in the dynamics of power and behavior of states, observed within this multidisciplinary context, can produce new enriched readings as they effect in historical analysis.

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**Monday, 14 June** - Session 3 - **14,00-16,00 CET (Webex)** - APH Forum for young scholars on "Concepts"

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