

»Globalness« – Experiences of Planetaryity  
*Workshop Proposal Centre Marc Bloch/IAS Nantes*  
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The social dynamics of globalisation are not limited to technological, economic, political or cultural integration. Beyond worldwide infrastructures for traffic and media, transnational corporations or international organisations, globalisation means circulation of ideas around the globe. Not only in politics and trade, but also in ordinary everyday contexts certain expectations and imaginaries come to converge, subjects emerge who conceive their actions or existence in the horizon of the world. Globalisation is, hence, not only about material and institutional structures, but also about the structures of subjectivity and the consciousness. While worldwide circulations and interrelations have been studied broadly and intensively in the last two decades, this latter dimension has received much less attention. The aim of this workshop is to address this gap and to explore globalisation in terms of experience, subjectivity and consciousness. The central question is how to study »globalness«, understood as the experience of living in a planetarily constituted world.

The worldwide circulation of capital, goods, ideas and information, the global interconnectedness of people, structures and institutions are not a particular feature of the present. Historical processes such as European colonialism or evangelisation are already part of »global history«. Yet, the consciousness underlying these earlier dynamics is universalistic. »The world« is conceived in terms of an expansion and universalisation of European ideas and standards, not as a planet accommodating a multitude of human and non-human lifeforms. Today, the critique of this European universalism (which has been its companion since its outset) and the search for conceptual alternatives is no longer a concern limited to the field of postcolonial studies. Instead grasping the »planetary« (Spivak) or »relational« (Glissant) character of the world has become a major challenge in social sciences and humanities. It is an intellectual quest which raises theoretical as well as methodological questions: How can we conceive »globalness« beyond universalism, yet without falling back into merely technical categories? How can we study global subjects and experiences of globalness in specific empirical contexts? Which are the particular methodological and theoretical challenges within different disciplines – and what could be their specific contribution to exploring these questions?

The workshop is initiated by a group of scholars in social sciences and humanities from the French-German research institute *Centre Marc Bloch* in Berlin. They will introduce the conceptual framework of their working group "Experiences of Globalness" and contribute individual papers for discussion.