

## Languages of the Global: Women and International Political Thought

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This one-day workshop focused on the contribution of women to international political thought in the long twentieth century. Drawing on existing strengths in the history of internationalism and international thought across the consortium, it brought together scholars working in a range of disciplines, including international relations, imperial & global history, international history, social and political history and the history of science. In addition, it developed and consolidated valuable connections between CHASE members and outside participants.

Valeska Huber (GHIL), Katharina Rietzler (Sussex) and Tamson Pietsch (Brunel/Sydney) presented an introductory session on the current state of the field and the methodological challenges to writing a history of women and 'thinking the global'. While some fields, not least diplomatic and international history, have in recent years become much more receptive to addressing questions of gender in international politics, others seem less committed to systematically writing women into their narratives. This is the case with historical international relations which has poured tremendous energy into re-writing the history of IR as a discipline. Scholars have analysed the discipline's deep roots in race theory and Euro-centrism and rediscovered forgotten non-white theorists of international relations but they have not done the same for women and gender. Therefore, a systematic analysis of the international political thought of women seems long overdue, especially as there is a substantial body of work to build on in feminist international relations theory, the history of women's activist networks as well as intellectual history. Future work might orient itself along three questions: where did women gather to argue about 'the international'? What will we find beyond institutional history? What is international political thought and how does it have to be redefined to include women?

The second part of the workshop explored how to build on existing theoretical and methodological approaches through a discussion of a classic essay in intellectual history by Linda Kerber, "'Why should Girls be Learn'd and Wise?': The Unfinished Work of Alice Mary Baldwin", in *Toward an Intellectual History of Women* (1997). Helen McCarthy (QMUL) and Jessica Reinisch (Birkbeck, PI on the Wellcome-funded *Reluctant Internationalists*) debated the tensions between writing a history of women's intellectual life and a history of their intellectual contributions, while Christine von Oertzen (MPI Berlin) reflected on whether the 'activist turn' in women's history with its focus on women's agency and the building and functioning of activist networks may not have sidelined a systematic exploration of the ideas that mattered to women internationalists. In the ensuing discussion, Patricia Owens (Sussex) cautioned against defining 'the international' and 'the global' too loosely and argued that new approaches needed to focus on building a useable history for critical IR scholars.

The next two sessions focused on women thinkers and the concepts that women used to theorise international relations. Workshop participants presented short case studies from their own research, including, for instance, female UNRRA workers (Jessica Reinisch), women humanitarians (Francesca Piana, Birkbeck), international civil servants (Helen McCarthy and Valeska Huber), foundation officers (Katharina Rietzler) but also artists committed to a 'pax cultura' (Tamson Pietsch). The final session on 'languages of the global' analysed and problematised concepts that mattered to internationalist women, for example maternalism, friendship, cultural relativism and global citizenship. Natalia Cecire (Sussex)

argued that fictive scenarios and counterfactuals were a powerful tool for women intellectuals and should be included in an exploration of women's international thought.

The workshop concluded with a discussion on how to expand the network, funding and future events with a prospective follow-up conference in 2016.