

Seminar

Historical Trajectories of Humanitarian Action, Development Aid and NGO Engagement (c.1880-1980)



Poster published by the American Red Cross during World War I

Time: Thursday (fortnightly) 10:00 – 12:00
Location: ETH Main Building, HG D 3.3
Lecturer: Joanna Simonow, MA
Start: 22.02.2018

Abstract

Interest in the history of humanitarianism has been growing in the last two decades and has resulted in an increasing number of research projects, inter-disciplinary conferences and publications. Many of these initiatives aim to add a historical perspective to ongoing debates, seeking to make history an accessible resource to assist aid practitioners and policy makers in dealing with the shortcomings and dilemmas of humanitarianism. In this course, students will learn about approaches and perspectives applied in the emerging historiography of humanitarianism and development assistance. They will discuss and evaluate the extent to which history can and should inform current debates, reflect on the strengths and identify the limits of such approaches.

Requirements

- Regular attendance (don't miss more than one session)
- Regular reading of mandatory texts (readings will be provided via moodle)
- Brief comments (150 to 250 words) on readings to be submitted two days before the next session via moodle (starting with session 2). Guiding questions will be provided.
- Completion of two assignments during the semester: In preparation of session 4 and 6, you will be given a historical source and/or additional readings together with a set of guiding questions. You will be asked to discuss and present the results in small groups during the session.
- Completion of an essay until 30.06.2018 (50%)

Access to moodle: <https://moodle-app2.let.ethz.ch/course/view.php?id=4177>. The key to self-enrol on moodle will be distributed by email.

Session Outline

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|-----------|-------------------|--|
| 01 | 22.02.2018 | Introduction to the course

Barnett, Michael (2011) "Introduction: The Crooked Timber of Humanitarianism" in: <i>Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism</i> . Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1-18. |
| 02 | 08.03.2018 | Dealing with the History of Aid? Prospects, Pitfalls and Perspectives

O'Sullivan, Kevin, Matthew Hilton and Juliano Fiori (2016) "Humanitarianisms in context." <i>European Review of History: Revue européenne d'histoire</i> 23 (1-2): 1-15.

Hall-Matthews, David (2011) "Commentary: Can historians assist development policy-making, or just highlight its faults" in: Bayly, C.A., |

Vijayendra Rao, Simon Szreter and Michael Woolcock (eds.) *History, Historians & Development Policy. A necessary dialogue*. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 169-174.

Borton, John Nicholas (2016) „Improving the use of history by the international humanitarian sector.“ *European Review of History: Revue européenne d'histoire* 23 (1-2): 193-209.

03 22.03.2018 **Searching for the Humanitarian Big Bang? Missionary Zeal, European Expansion and Colonialism**

Barnett, Michael (2011) “The Humanitarian Big Bang” in: *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 50-56.

Barnett, Michael (2011) “Saving Slaves, Sinners, Savages and Societies” in: *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 57-75.

04 12.04.2018 **Campaigning for Humanity? Humanitarianism and the Media**



*The picture was taken by John Lowe in Mogadishu in 1992, see: Lowe, Paul and Jennifer Good (2017) *Understanding Photojournalism*. London: Bloomsbury.*

Fehrenbach, Heide and Davide Rodogno (2015) “A horrific photo of a drowned Syrian child”: Humanitarian photography and NGO media strategies in historical perspective.” *International Review of the Red Cross* 97 (900): 1121-1155.

- 05 26.04.2018 **The International Committee of the Red Cross and its Archives**
- Gorin, Valérie (2012) "Looking back over 150 years of humanitarian action: the photographic archives of the ICRC." *International Review of the Red Cross*, 94 (888): 1349-1379.
- Online:** <https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are/history> and <https://www.icrc.org/eng/who-we-are/history/150-years/index.html>
<https://avarchives.icrc.org/>
- 06 17.05.2018 **Refugees Welcome? Aid Practices and Discourses since World War I**
- Gatrell, Peter (2015) "Refugees – What's Wrong with History?" *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 30 (2): 170-185.
- Marfleet, Philip (2007) "Refugees and History: Why We Must Address the Past." *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 26 (3): 135-148.
- 07 31.05.2018 **Histories of Development: Tracing Colonial Legacies**
- Cooper, Frederick (2010) "Writing the History of Development." *Journal of Modern European History*, 8 (1): 5-23.
- Online:** "Uma Kothari talks development futures" (05.12.2013) available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdtZ5oPyPfo>

Additional Readings

01 & 02 Humanitarian History: Approaches and Perspectives

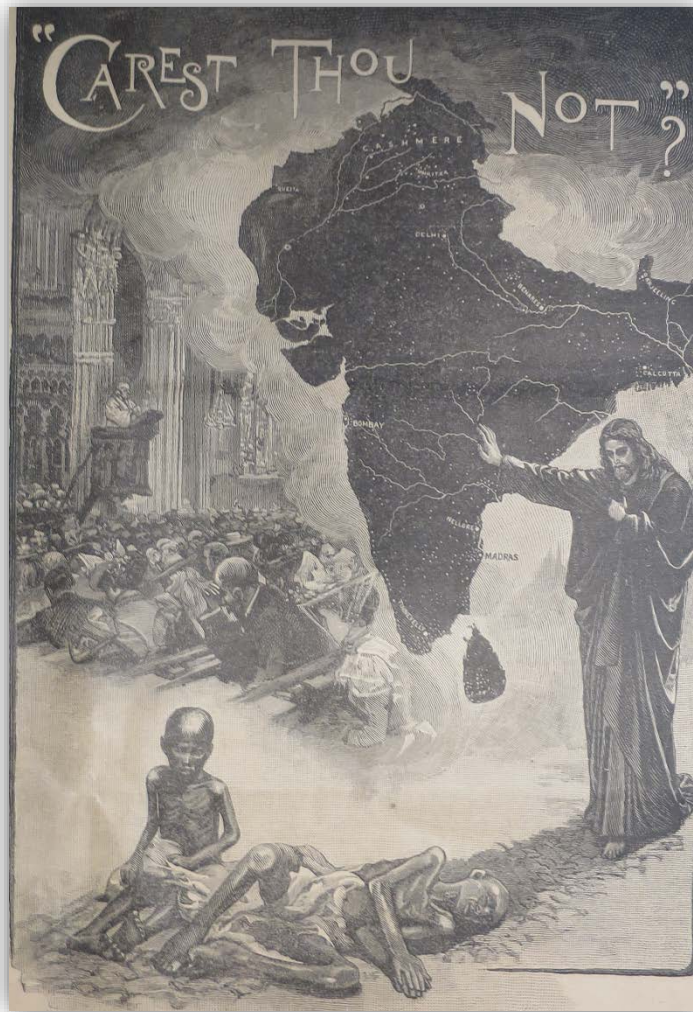
1. Framke, Maria (2015) Editorial in: "Humanitarismus" *WerkstattGeschichte* 68 (23), 3-12 [in German].
2. Laqua, Daniel (2014) "Inside the humanitarian cloud: Causes and motivations to help friends and strangers." *Journal of Modern European History* 12 (2): 175-185.
3. Davey, Eleanor and Kim Scriven (2015) "Humanitarian aid in the archives: introduction." *Disasters* 39 (2): 113-128.
4. Paulmann, Johannes (2013) "Conjunctures in the History of International Humanitarian Aid during the Twentieth Century." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism and Development*, 4 (2): 215-238.

(03) The Origins of Humanitarianism

1. Tyrrell, Ian (2010) "Blood, Souls, and Power: American Humanitarianism Abroad in the 1890s" in: *Reforming the World*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 98-119.
2. Skinner, Rob and Alan Lester (2012) "Humanitarianism and Empire: New Research Agendas." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 40(5):729-747.
3. Green, Abigail (2014) "Humanitarianism in Nineteenth-Century Context: Religious, Gendered, National." *The Historical Journal*, 57 (4): 1157-1175.

(04) Media and Humanitarianism

1. Fehrenbach, Heide and Davide Rodogno (2015) "Introduction. The Morality of Sight: Humanitarian Photography in History" in: *Humanitarian Photography. A History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-21.
2. Vernon, James (2007) "The Humanitarian Discovery of Hunger" in: *Hunger: A Modern History*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 18-40.
3. Curtis, Heather (2012) "Depicting distant suffering: evangelicals and the politics of pictorial humanitarianism in the age of American Empire." *Material Religion*, 8 (2): 153-182.



The Illustrated Missionary News, January 1899, Front Cover

(05)

The International Committee of the Red Cross

1. Schulz, Matthias (2016) "Dilemmas of 'Geneva' Humanitarian Internationalism: The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Cross Movement, 1863-1918" in: Paulmann, Johannes (ed.) *Dilemmas of Humanitarian Aid in the Twentieth Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 35-62.
2. Barnett, Michael (2011) "Saving Soldiers and Civilians during War" in: *Empire of Humanity: A History of Humanitarianism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 76-94.
3. Palmieri, Daniel (2012) "An institution standing the test of time? A review of the history of the International Committee of the Red Cross." *International Review of the Red Cross*, 94 (888).

(06) Refugees

1. Skran, Claudena M. (1995) "The Emergence of Refugees as an Issue in International Politics" in: *Refugees in Inter-war Europe. The Emergence of a Regime*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 13-30.
2. Skran, Claudena M. (1995) "The Emergence of a Regime" in: *Refugees in Inter-war Europe. The Emergence of a Regime*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 66-100.
3. Gatrell, Peter (2013) *The Making of the Modern Refugee*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4. Cabanes, Bruno (2014) "The tragedy of being stateless: Fridjof Nansen and the rights of refugees." In: *The Great War and the Origins of Humanitarianism, 1918-1924*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 133-188.

(07) Development

1. Hodge, Joseph M. (2010) "British colonial expertise, post-colonial careering and the early history of international development." *Journal of Modern European History* 8 (1): 24-46.
2. Kothari, Uma (2005) "From colonial administration to development studies: a post-colonial critique of the history of development studies." Chapter three of Kohari, Uma (ed.) *A Radical History of Development Studies. Individuals, Institutions and Ideologies*, 47-66.
3. Hodge, Joseph M. (2016) "Writing the History of Development (Part 2: Longer, Deeper, Wider)." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*, 7 (1):125-174.
4. Eckert, Andreas (2015) "Geschichte der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit." *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*, 65 (7-9): 3-8 [in German].
5. Müller, Franziska and Aram Ziai (2015) „Eurozentrismus in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.“ *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte*, 65 (7-9): 8-15 [in German].

Online Repositories

1. A global history of modern humanitarian action: <https://www.odi.org/projects/2547-global-history-modern-humanitarian-action-moving-forward-hpg>
2. <http://www.humanitarianhistory.org/>
3. The Online Atlas on the History of Humanitarianism and Human Rights: <http://hhr-atlas.ieg-mainz.de>
4. <https://nonstatehumanitarianism.wordpress.com/>
5. ICRC Audiovisual Archive: <https://avarchives.icrc.org/>