



LeidenGlobal



BEYOND DISCIPLINE AND PLACE IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES

A course for graduate students, Sept-Dec 2023

BEYOND DISCIPLINE AND PLACE is a seminar series offered to PhD and Research Master students at the LeidenGlobal partner institutions in the fall of each year. It offers advanced research students an opportunity to examine how scholars in the academic fields of the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SSH, in European parlance) including Archaeology and Law, locate their work in relation to disciplinary conventions, reflect on their socio-political positions as researchers in relation to their research, and explore choices of discipline and place along their career path. Through the semester advanced research students will learn of different approaches to discipline and place, consider the potential value of each as well as the challenges and barriers to implementation. Together participants will work to locate their emerging research projects, with attention to researchers' positionality and ethical practise.

Course Description

How should we study complex processes in an ever globalizing world, understand societal challenges, solve global-reach problems? Governments, funding agencies, industry and university leaders are calling on researchers to break out of their intellectual silos in pursuit of fresh insights. Heeding the call, researchers increasingly engage in interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, transdisciplinary, even post-disciplinary projects, integrating approaches, and developing new modes of inquiry. But can all this "cross-disciplinary pollination" deliver on the promise of greater innovation and creativity? How does knowledge exchange happen when we transcend conventional disciplinary bounds? What is intellectually, practically, and ethically at stake when we rethink our disciplinary concepts, theories, and methods in academia and beyond? Is it necessary, or even possible, for novice scholars to engage in cross-discipline research?

Course objectives

This series aims to stimulate conversations and collaborations across disciplinary and societal divides in line with developments in scholarship worldwide. Ideally, students participate early in their training, but applications by students at all stages of their training are welcome. A complementary ResMA & PhD seminar series entitled **METHODOLOGIES IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THE HUMANITIES** is offered in the Spring.

LeidenGlobal is a collaborative effort by the following academic and cultural institutions:

- Leiden University
- African Studies Center Leiden (ASC)
- International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)
- Netherlands Institute for the Near East (NINO)
- Royal Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV)
- National Museum of Antiquities (RMO)
- National Museum of Ethnology (RMV)

Jointly, the expertise of the scholars associated with these institutions extends to many parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, North America, and Russia and the Caucasus, through fields of enquiry and themes ranging from archaeology to international relations, and from temple iconography to new media. As such, Leiden offers a truly global perspective.

LeidenGlobal aims to raise the visibility and the impact of academic and cultural scholarship and events for a wider audience, and to build partnerships with the media, government, the corporate sector, and NGOs; and to strengthen local collaboration in scholarly endeavours such as grant applications and graduate training.

Mode of Instruction

- The series will be convened and moderated by Dr. Noa Schonmann, with one session a week scheduled at Lipsius 1.31 at 16:15 (till 18:00) hrs from late-September to mid-December.
- The series brings scholars from different LeidenGlobal partner institutions to present a completed or ongoing research project and locate it in its disciplinary context. Guest lecturers will address issues of theory and practice emerging from their project and the challenges of conducting research within and across disciplines. We will discuss researchers' positionality, and ask what is intellectually, practically, and ethically at stake for them when they encounter and traverse disciplinary conventions.
- Guest speakers assign an article/chapter-length preparatory reading (available through open access or the Leiden University digital library). In class, they will present their research project for 15 minutes, followed by a 15-minute reflection on the challenges of conducting research within and across disciplines and choices of discipline and place along their career path. Finally, we open to a Q&A discussion with the students.
- During the course, students will work towards a 'think piece' (2,000 words) written for their supervisors, in which they reflect upon the course: what they have learned from it; how they responded to it; the issues it addressed; any questions it brought up for them in terms of their own research, etc. The final session will include a discussion of key points from these draft papers. Once they are finalized, students discuss the papers with their supervisors. Whether or not this is considered creditable is up to the student's home institute / faculty and their individual supervisors.
- Students are expected to attend all sessions. Incidental exemptions may be requested from the course convener.
- At the end of the course, students are asked to evaluate the course online.
- Students are expected to attend all sessions. Incidental exemptions may be requested from the course convenor.

Admission

- The course is specifically designed for PhD candidates and Research MA students registered at LeidenGlobal partner institutions, but students from other academic institutions in the Netherlands are also eligible to attend. All students should first consult with their advisors before applying.
- The deadline for applications is **12:00 PM on the 11th of September 2023**. Applicants will learn of their admission status no later than the 19th of September 2023.
- Admission is at the discretion of the LeidenGlobal executive committee. If student interest exceeds current capacity, admission will have to be capped, and we will try to expand capacity for subsequent editions.

Programme

All sessions are held **Mondays 16:15—18:00** at **Lipsius Building, room 1.3**

<i>LeidenGlobal Phd & ResMA Course, Autumn 2023-24 Beyond Discipline & Place in the Social Sciences and the Humanities</i>		
Date	Session	Areas of Study
18 Sept 2023	Introduction by Noa Schonmann	<i>(Coordinator of this Course, Leiden Institute for Area Studies)</i>
25 Sept 2023	Elena Burgos Martinez	<i>South and Southeast Asian Studies (Environmental knowledge)</i>
2 Oct 2023	<i>No class - Compulsory holiday</i>	
9 Oct 2023	Masha Medvedeva	<i>Legal Technologies (Artificial Intelligence and Law)</i>
16 Oct 2023	Remco Breuker	<i>Medieval Korean and Northeast Asian History (Margins, marginality, hybridity, and pluralism)</i>
23 Oct 2023	Marina Terkourafi	<i>Sociolinguistics (Pragmatic variation and experimental pragmatics)</i>
30 Oct 2023	<i>No class - Exam week</i>	
6 Nov 2023	Midway reflection & drinks	
13 Nov 2023	Ahab Bdaiwi	<i>Arabic and Medieval Philosophy and Late Antique Intellectual History</i>
20 Nov 2023	Sybille Lammes	<i>New Media & Digital Culture (New media studies and play studies)</i>
27 Nov 2023	Peter Bisschop	<i>Sanskrit & Ancient Cultures of South Asia (Hindu religious traditions)</i>
4 Dec 2023	Joseph Sony Jean	<i>History and Archaeology (Archaeological landscapes in Northern Haiti)</i>
11 Dec 2023	Conclusion & drinks	