

EWIS 2019 Call for Papers

The Global 1920s

Workshop Convenors:

Filipe dos Reis, University of Erfurt (filipe.dos_reis@uni-erfurt.de)

Oliver Kessler, University of Erfurt (oliver.kessler@uni-erfurt.de)

Workshop Summary

Exactly 100 years have passed now since the negotiations between the German Reich and the Allied forces were brought to an end with the signing of the Versailles Treaty on June 28 1919. This treaty not only brought to an end the First World War, but also laid down the foundation of *the global 1920s*.

This workshop seeks to look back at both the negotiation of the Versailles Treaty and the international order it laid out and thereby pursues two objectives. Firstly, it seeks to establish the *1920s* – understood as ‘long 1920s’ – as an objective of analysis in its own right. The workshop challenges, thereby, the ‘presentism’ inherent in narratives such as the one of the ‘Twenty Years’ Crisis’, which simply forgets that the crisis was simply unknown in 1919. The more the question becomes relevant what aspirations, what power/knowledge and what struggles were in operation? Secondly, the workshop wants to analyse the 1920s in a *global* perspective that leaves behind the methodological nationalism and Eurocentrism inherent in so many historical accounts in International Relations (IR) and beyond. Instead, the workshop seeks, by building on a global perspective, to highlight the entanglements, connections, comparisons and translations.

Possible Paper Topics:

Contributions to this workshop can address – but are not limited – to the following questions:

- *The sovereignty effects of the peace treaty.* The creation of the mandate system through the League of Nations and the related transfer of German and Ottoman colonies under the protectorate of other European states has led to a debate on quasi-states. How was the relation between center and periphery back then? What are the effects of the Versailles Treaty for the ‘global south’?
- *Institutionalization of Cooperation.* The move to institutions marks a watershed in the outlook and form of international cooperation. What are the effects that the Versailles Treaty triggered in particular the area of international economy and international law? What aspirations, contributions, and forms of knowledge were included/excluded? Which initiatives, activities and practices become visible?
- *The transformation from Empire to nation states.* The end of the Great War and the early 1920 bring about the demise of several empires. Newly constituted nation states co-exist with Empires. What does this allow us to say about the concept of the international back then? What does the transformation of several Empires tell us also for the post-colonial critique that still very much focuses on the British Empire predominantly?
- *The transformation of global trade and international finance.* We witness that the financial center of the world moves from London to New York: Little is known about how the transfer actually

occurred? What does the transformation of economic connectivities tell us also about the political instabilities of the early 1920s?

- *Realism before Emigration.* In the 1920s known Realists like Morgenthau have not yet emigrated to the US: What can we say about the early 1920s, the intellectual communities and rivalries? What do we know about the state of international theory in the early 1920s?