Global History Exam,
April 2016

Answer three of the following questions, one from each group, at least one A and one B option. You should select questions that will enable you to avoid duplication across answers and engage with a wide range of scholarship.

**Group 1**

A. “The global” is both a gargantuan category and a shorthand for everything from neoliberalism to transnationalism, from capitalism to imperialism. Make an argument for the best working definitions of global economic history, with particular attention to **region, place, scale, mobility and intimacy** within world systems.

B. Taking culture or politics (broadly construed) as your topic, how do the challenges and possibilities of research about Africa with reference to global histories resemble and differ from the challenges and possibilities of research about the Caribbean with reference to global histories? What do these comparisons tell us about the relationship between global and regional history and, indeed, the defining features of and overlaps between regions?

**Group 2**

A. Your first teaching position is at a large public institution, with 16 week semesters, where there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the development of a course called “Africa in/and World History” at the 100 level. How would you approach this task? What themes and authors would you emphasize? What kinds of assignments would you give to the students to help them grasp the stakes of locating mobility in a global context? Please note that a detailed syllabus (weekly readings, page numbers, etc.) is not required. Write a rationale for the course and enumerate 3 major sections, elaborating on your themes with 3 books and 3 articles for each.

B. Has the recent rise of global history as a field made an appreciable difference to the historical study of Christianity and/or Islam? If so, how? If not, is this because religious histories anticipated the global history turn or because the fields of religious and global history have not sufficiently engaged with each other?

**Group 3**

A. How do categories of gender and the body operate as orientation devices (**pace** Sara Ahmed) in shaping narratives of global history? Make a case for the centrality of gender and the body across early modern and modern time, accounting for their differential impact in the west and non-west as well. Be sure to attend to their capacity to illuminate related categories of social differentiation like race and class as well.

B. How has scholarship attentive to mobile goods, commodity chains, and consumption affected understandings of the local, including its politics and periodization?