Global History Preliminary Field Exam

Spring 2015

Instructions: Answer three out of the following five questions. Be sure that each of your answers includes historiographical discussion, addressing the state of the scholarly literature in the relevant field.

1. Exploration and Imperial Knowledge

"In what ways has the idea of exploration changed over the 18th and 19th centuries? What role have ‘natives’ played in the construction of imperial knowledge over this same time period?"

2. African Intellectual History and the World

“To what extent has the idea of ‘Africa’ been created by either European or African intellectuals, from the 18th to the 20th century? What methods have intellectual historians of Africa employed to answer this question, and with what success?"

3. Exploration and Imperial Knowledge

"How have travelers been critical observers of European imperialism? How have their narratives and collecting activities contributed to it? Do you think their criticisms and complicity changed or remained constant from the late eighteenth to the twentieth century?"

4. Global Art and Culture

"What has the role of objects been in the construction of a global culture since the late nineteenth century? Your answer should give some attention to museums and to the discipline of anthropology."

5. Cosmopolitan Exchange and Identity

"What definitions of ‘cosmopolitanism’ have been offered in the scholarly literature of recent decades? What tensions or disagreements have emerged as the term has expanded from European to global contexts?"