

RESEARCH CLINIC

General information

Supervisor:	Dr. Maja Vodopivec
Title of clinic:	Decolonizing Our Plates: Global History of Food
Number of students:	Up to 5
Major (if applicable and approved by the Major Convener):	WP and CHS
(Pre)requisites (if applicable):	No, but students who have some background in global history and international politics may find this course easier to engage with.

Research context

In this project, we will work on creating a syllabus for (potentially) new course with the title “Global History of Food”. Global history is a sub-discipline of history with an aim to overcome two birth defects of history as a discipline: its intellectual Eurocentrism and a nation-state perspective. The students will work on annotated bibliography of works related to food, history, and international politics. As an example of a global history of food, you can have a look at George Solt’s *Untold History of Ramen: How Political Crisis in Japan Spawned a Global Food Craze* (UCP, 2014). We will have weekly sessions in which we will discuss the works we read, summarize them, and come up with course session descriptions (key words, concepts, essential and suggested literature) and, eventually, create a coherent course syllabus. This project will ideally contribute to the Humanities Across Borders project by International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden.

Students’ tasks and activities

This clinic will be reading-intensive and will run throughout the first semester (blocks 1 & 2). The students are expected to search for relevant literature, create an annotated bibliography of the works read, and contribute to creating a course syllabus. In principle, we will be meeting once a week for 2 hours. At the end of the clinic, the participants will write a reflection on the project which is to be submitted to the course administration. The grade will be pass/fail.

The students will learn and actively engage with the following concepts:

- Objectivity of history writing
- Racism in Western humanities and social sciences (History, International Relations)
- Epistemic decolonization and what it entails/how to do it
- Think about food from different disciplinary perspectives

How to apply: Please inform the course administration of your interest and send a 2-3 sentence motivation statement. If you have any questions about the clinic, contact the teacher on m.vodopivec@luc.leidenuniv.nl