

Introduction: Empires, Media and Cultural History

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Abstract

This symposium is part of the research project titled >Towards a Global History of Culture<. As I introduce the symposium, I would like to present a brief outline of this project, particularly highlighting that a global history of culture remains an unattained goal of research. What method(s) can be used to write a global cultural history? One answer might be the German *Kulturwissenschaft* (Cultural science). Focusing on the theme of the symposium, >Designing Voices and Letters: The Mongols as an Empire of Communication<, I first show how *Kulturwissenschaft* has dealt with empires thus far. Secondly, I address how fundamental elements (or media) of culture, such as ‘images’, ‘letters’, ‘numbers’ and ‘sounds’ or ‘voices’ are discussed in *Kulturwissenschaft*. Finally, I present concrete perspectives on how *Kulturwissenschaft* could be used to analyse the Mongol Empire as a cultural phenomenon.