

The History of Internationalism and International Organizations

International Organizations have occupied an increasingly important position in the history of the late 19th and 20th century. Their fields of action have covered human rights, humanitarianism, development, cultural cooperation and the arts as well as a myriad of “technical” matters such as social policy, health issues or communication. International Organizations can be seen both as arenas reflecting processes outside their own organizational frame as well as actors of their own right, they can be representative of the international order of states or of transnational civil society as well as any mixture of both.

A thesis in this historiographical field could thus encompass single inter- or non-governmental organizations like the European Union, the League of Nations or the African Union, amnesty international, greenpeace or the International Olympic Committee or deal with historical events, processes or actors through the lens of international organizations. I am currently conducting a major research project on the history of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and „Global Social Policy“ which might also serve as a starting point for potential thesis projects.

Possible topics for instance could be:

- The League of Nations and Refugee Aid to Victims of Nazi Persecution
- Norway, UNESCO and Decolonization in Africa
- The ILO and the “equal pay for equal work” convention (1951).
- The ILO and the South African Apartheid Regime
- Amnesty international and the idea of cultural rights
- Etc.