

History of Modern Architecture and Urbanism as a Process of Transnational Transfer

In recent times, the field of history has been characterized by the growth of studies adopting a “transnational” perspective, a phenomenon that has touched on disciplines as diverse as the history of international relations, the history of social policies, cultural history, migration history, and intellectual history. This increasing interest reflects the mounting consideration for a variety of phenomena that are often referred to as globalization, a term which seems to have gained currency not only at academic level but also in popular discourses.

Students are asked to engage in a discussion on the transnational character of modern architecture and urbanism and to verify to which extent the paradigm of transnational history can be applied to modern architecture and other “sister” disciplines as a historical subject. Theses will consider a narrative that covers the 20th century but that might encompass events that took place during the 18th and 19th centuries. While rooted in history, theses can address theoretical questions that are highly relevant within the debate on contemporary architecture, urbanism, and urban studies: they might include the effective impact of transnational mobility on professions, specialized discourses and building practices, the development of processes of knowledge transfer, and the actual applicability and sustainability of global notions of design.