

MIDTERM PAPER TOPICS

Write a short essay (5 pages, typed and double-spaced) on one of the following topics. In your essay, incorporate ideas and concepts (with citations) from at least two of the course readings from the first four weeks. When you cite an author's ideas in your argument, develop your discussion of them to demonstrate your understanding. Do not simply insert quotes without discussing why you are using them.

1) How have shifting ideas about Asia and its place in the world been constructed through different global, and often gendered, interactions? (In class, we have also discussed these shifting ideas as “worldings” or “stagings.”) Compare the ideas of Asia that emerged through colonial encounters (Hevia, Guth) and those that emerged through anti-colonial movements (Karl, Bandung readings).

2) In *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*, Mary Louise Pratt develops the concept of the “contact zone”: as “the space in which peoples geographically and historically separated come into contact with each other and establish ongoing relations, usually involving conditions of coercion, radical inequality, and intractable conflict. . . . A ‘contact’ perspective emphasizes how subjects are constituted in and by their relations to each other. It treats the relations among colonizers and colonized, or travelers and ‘travelees,’ not in terms of separateness or apartheid, but in terms of copresence, interaction, interlocking understandings and practices, often within radically asymmetrical relation of power.” Using this concept, analyze the kinds of knowledge about self and other (and cultural authenticity) that are created through the encounters discussed in Yamashita, Hevia, Guth, Karl, or the readings on Bandung. (Use at least two of these readings in your answer.)

3) What does globalization mean in terms of Asia? Draw upon frameworks introduced by Appadurai, Guillén, or Tsing to argue whether or not the types of cross-border channels or movement (of people, things, ideas, institutions) created by colonialism and anti-colonialism constitute a form of globalization. Do these histories challenge or confirm contemporary academic or popular discourses of globalization? How?

DUE: In class, on Thursday, May 1st.