

ARTICLE

Peripheral Interventions in Global History: Toward a History of Argentina outside of Argentina

Juan Pablo Scarfi*^{} and Lisa Ubelaker Andrade^{}

University of San Andrés, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Corresponding author. Email: jscarfi@udesa.edu.ar

(Received 12 September 2020; revised 2 October 2021; accepted 6 January 2022; first published online 05 December 2022)

Abstract

While global history's emphasis on networks and its de-emphasis on the nation has brought about a fruitful platform for exploring interregional connections, this article argues that a global history recentered in the periphery and willing to draw from its rich national historiographies has the potential to reveal new forms of globalization and connection. It takes Argentina as an exemplary case to consider the ways in which tracing one nation's many transnational and global orientations might bring to light motivations, geographical dimensions, and fields of power previously unseen.

Keywords: Latin America; global history; global periphery; nation; historiography

Resumen

Mientras que el énfasis de la historia global en las redes y su distanciamiento de la cuestión de la nación generó una plataforma fructífera para explorar conexiones inter-regionales, este artículo argumenta que una historia global re-centrada en la periferia y dispuesta a apoyarse en la riqueza de las historiografías nacionales tiene el potencial de revelar nuevas formas de globalización y conexión. El artículo toma a la Argentina como un caso ejemplar para considerar cómo muchas de las orientaciones globales y transnacionales de una nación pueden iluminar motivaciones, dimensiones geográficas y formas de poder que no habían sido antes percibidas.

Palabras clave: América Latina; historia global; periferia global; nación; historiografía

Over the last decade, Latin America's historiography has been transformed by global and transnational perspectives. New works have brought to light regional networks as well as transnational and global connections previously unseen or unstudied, renovating a historiography in which national or subnational frameworks traditionally dominated. Yet, even as many historians have celebrated the "global turn" and its novel contributions, some have also noted that while transnational or global approaches to research have made valuable contributions, global processes and transformations have, in many ways, always been woven into the region's narratives (see Moreli 2017, 2018; Serulnikov and Lluch 2014; Benton 2004; Fawcett 2012; Scarfi 2018, 2021; Zimmermann 2021; and Conrad 2021). In 2004, Jeremy Adelman noted that a long-standing interconnection between world history and Latin American history could

be found in the region's historiography.¹ Recently, Eduardo Zimmermann (2021, 235) echoed this sentiment: "Latin American historiography has been forced almost from its beginnings to consider and reflect on global historical processes. This, before the waves of the 'new global history' ever came to its shores." In a similar vein, Sergio Serulnikov (2020, 159) observed: "Latin America cannot be conceived without the world, it never has been, and it never will be."

At the same time, global history, broadly understood, has undergone a parallel transformation. When emerging as a field of study, its practitioners stressed the limitations of methodological nationalism (see, e.g., Conrad 2016). Recent projects, however, have offered productive additions by putting the nation back in. Some have sought to articulate global histories of nations (see, e.g., Boucheron 2019; McKercher 2019; Bender 2006; Immerwahr 2019; and Beezley 2011). In addition to the vast historiography on the United States in the world, the last few years have brought new works on global France (Boucheron 2019), global Italy (Giardina 2017), a growing literature on global China, and explorations of the roles of Brazil and Mexico in a broader global context (Hubbert 2019; Lee 2018; Seigel 2009; and Thornton 2021). These projects have sought to extend the empirical boundary of the study of a nation beyond (or outside) its own territorial borders, finding a wealth of new insights about those nations' own histories, as well as their constitutions abroad. For China, for example, Ching Kwan Lee (2018) has called for the study of an outside "shadow"—a multiform presence that the country has taken in different arenas of the world (Baradó 2022). In most versions, these projects have also served to complicate the perception of a top-down, state-centric, univocal nation engaging in diplomatic and commercial relations, instead describing a more heterogeneous presence forged by diverse actors. At the same time, broad efforts to historicize the global reach of European empires, global China, or the United States in the world are grounded in the understanding that these are powerful nations and that the study of their global expansion is thus relevant.

This article makes a historiographical proposal for exploring the role of peripheral and Latin American nations in the history of globalization. It uses Argentina as a case study to contemplate how a history of a peripheral nation outside its borders might contribute important observations to the broader fields of Latin American and global history. Recent historiography underlines that though peripheral countries are, by definition, not global hegemony with clear power or presence across vast sectors of the globe, they are important protagonists in the history of globalization, since their cultures, industries, politics, and products do travel beyond their own borders.

To write the history of a peripheral nation outside its borders is to make an effort to compile and historicize the kinds of processes and encounters that take place when the goods, people, capital, ideas, industries, and representations of a nation on the periphery travel, thrive, or find fertile ground in contexts, institutions, or places beyond its borders. In some cases, these are, on their own, global phenomena; in others they are transnational histories, and in others still, regional or subregional in scope. Taken together, however, they can articulate a global history of that nation. Discussions of the nation refer to a unit with territorial and political borders as well as a heterogeneous, hybrid, and dynamic entity that is socially, economically, and culturally constructed by multiple actors (see, e.g., García Canclini 2005; Baradó 2022).

This article argues that taking up this frame of analysis can contribute to the scope and agenda of national historiographies of Latin America, enrich our understandings of the

¹ Adelman (2004); see the *Hispanic American Historical Review* forum titled "Placing Latin America in World History" (Vaughan and Weinstein 2004), including contributions by Lauren Benton (2004), Susan Besse (2004), and Micol Seigel (2004) in addition to Adelman's.

global presence of those nations, and contribute more broadly to a better understanding of the history of globalization from the vantage point of the periphery.

Argentina, Latin America, and the global historiographical turn

In the last decade, a critical discussion emerged regarding the extent to which Latin America has been fully integrated into global history. On the one hand, scholars have pointed out that Latin America has long been exposed to and shaped by global processes. As Adelman (2004, 400) observed, “there is a special relationship between Latin American and world history that has a longstanding history of its own.” The region’s historiography has reflected this: many foundational texts and classic debates have contended with colonialism, imperialism, immigration, and dependency and its legacies, and grappled with how global forces, ideas, and cultures have shaped the history of the region.² On the other hand, historians have also portrayed the subfields of global history and Latin American history as disconnected or somewhat at odds. Matthew Brown, for example, contended that Latin America was overlooked in the grand narratives of global history; he observed that, despite contending with questions of a global nature, including imperialism, neocolonialism, Latin Americanists remained largely focused on the national paradigm, resistant to integrating new frameworks (Brown 2015). Recently, however, a diverse array of studies, and forums have traced and debated transnational and global histories of the region. Many have engaged national histories while employing various international frames. Thus, even while some argued that global history had not fully embraced Latin America in its narratives, the persistent prominence of nation-based histories proved not to be an obstacle for the emergence of global narratives of the region. Histories that engaged the national but reframed those histories with a global twist have been in clear emergence.

A compelling constellation of studies on the new transnational history of South America serve as example. Recent work by Ori Preuss (2016) has explored the transnational South American connections and mutual cultural and diplomatic influences between jurists, intellectuals, and statesmen in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil in the late nineteenth century. In a similar vein, Edward Blumenthal (2019) has shown how the experience of exile has strongly shaped the process of state and nation building in Argentina and Chile in the earlier part of that century. The transnational history of South America has also emerged as a topic for Diego Galeano and Martin Albornoz, who traced anarchist South American Atlantic networks and police disciplinary reactions and practices (Albornoz and Galeano 2017). Martín Bergel (2020) has invited us to contemplate the global ties that informed the emergence of South American populisms. These studies are joined by other contributions that have suggested that international networks and forums informed labor advances and the construction of international legal ideas and institutions in the twentieth century (Scarfi 2017; Palacio 2018; Fink and Palacio 2018), examined the global origins and reach of Latin American cinema and music (Palomino 2020; Manzano 2014), and traced South-South connections and Latin American interventions in the Global Cold War (Stites Mor 2022; Bystrom, Popescu, and Zien 2019; Joseph and Spenser 2008; Gleijeses 2002).

Although these studies speak to different themes, reflect diverse interests, and respond to different concerns, they have collectively illustrated the benefits of the transnational frame and illuminated networks of contacts and political, legal, social, and cultural exchanges that were previously overlooked. While some have revealed how unforeseen geographies of connection constituted and constructed the idea of a region, others have

² These themes are central to key early works like Ortiz ([1940] 1983) and Crosby (1972) and to many foundational texts including Halperin Donghi (1985, 1982), Stein and Stein (1980), Platt (1980), Baily (1999), Moya (1998), and Devoto (2008).

revisited subjects that were traditionally written with a national scope and brought to light networks of international connection and transnational forces at play (Karush 2017; Palomino 2020; Semán 2017; Scarfi 2017; Lida 2019; Tossounian 2020; Ubelaker Andrade 2014; Nállim 2017; Manzano 2017).

Despite their emphasis on regional and global connections, it is worth emphasizing that many of these studies have not abandoned the nation as a frame of reference. This points to a longer tradition in the region's historiography in which the global and the national were conceived as not necessarily incompatible. As noted, Latin America's national historiographies have long contended with global history, narrating the impacts of global structural relations of economic dependency, as well as global processes of colonial dissolution and independence (Halperin Donghi 1985, 1982; Stein and Stein 1980; Platt 1980).

Transnational frameworks have also enriched national historiographies. Specifically for Argentina, an abundance of new projects and works have sought to understand how national histories can be enriched by analysis of global connections and entanglements: transnational, regional, and global in scope. Recent contributions by Paula Alonso and Marcela Ternavasio, among others, frame debates about democracy and representative government in Argentina as constituted through connections with other South American nations (Alonso and Ternavasio, *forthcoming*; Blumenthal 2019; Ternavasio 2021). Other historians have shown the degree to which inter-American intellectual networks became critical to the development of a thriving national book industry (Sorá 2017, 2021), revealed the ties both migratory and political between Argentina and the Middle East (Balloffet 2020), examined the connections between local Catholic and Protestant practices and the global trajectories of those religions (Seiguer 2019; Lida 2015), and illustrated how Buenos Aires figured as a critical node in the formation of other regional and trans-Atlantic intellectual and political networks (Stites Mor 2022; Semán 2017; Nállim 2017; Manzano 2017).

Although these contributions are quite scattered in subject matter, they have collectively served to illustrate that Argentina is not only a place where global forces are grappled with but also a nation with active agents who moved, collaborated, and catalyzed global processes. Taken within the broader transnational and global turn in Latin American historiography, they also suggest that, while the peoples and states of the Global North have been traditionally seen as the protagonists of the history of globalization, those in global peripheries, like Latin America, were also initiators of global processes in their own right. That is, ideas, products, industries and movements originating in Latin American nations and bearing the marks of those cultures, economies, and environments have moved beyond their own borders and played varying roles around the globe.

Dynamics of globalization from the periphery

The contribution of a history of Argentina outside of Argentina to global history stems from a suggestion that if we attempt to more deliberately map the global processes that originate in nations on the periphery, we might open the field of global history to new terrains of inquiry and be able to visualize new geographies of interaction that were previously minimized. Furthermore, examining these questions more closely could reframe our understanding of Latin America's role in both global history and the history of globalization. One likely outcome is that such a project will find that Argentina's (and other Latin American countries') history of international trajectories does not mirror the more coherent global reach or "outward shadow" typical of a world power, but more closely resembles disparate shadows and fragmented scattered resonances in different regions and areas of the world. Reconstructing these stories means filtering in such a way as

to illuminate and make sense of their centrifugal forces, periodization, and their unsettled forms of influence and dissemination across the globe.³

It is worth clarifying that the term *globalization* here does not seek to allude to mere capitalist integration to the world economy, North-South world hegemony, or a borderless world. It refers instead to the formation of cultural, social, and economic spaces of interaction and networks shaped by centuries of uneven industrial, economic, and capitalist connections, the use of technologies of communication connecting peoples and their ideas, and instances with accelerated movements of people and goods (Osterhammel and Petersson 2019, 24–28).

Thanks to the rise of global history, sociological approaches to globalization have been reinterpreted in a new contextual and historical key, highlighting the need to explore the origins and development of globalization as a historical phenomenon (Beck 2000; Osterhammel 2014). Sociological perspectives stressed that globalization essentially entailed the progressive integration of the world economy into international institutions of global governance, transnational migration, and the homogenizing effects of global communication and connections. By contrast, the history of globalization emerged as a field devoted to the exploration of “the history of the construction of spaces [of interaction], the conformation of networks and the history of their mutual inter-connections” (Osterhammel and Petersson 2019, 26).

Latin Americanists of many stripes have illustrated that ongoing contact between cultures, along with colonial projects and uneven power dynamics, have been formative in the creation of dynamic and hybrid local histories (García Canclini 2005; Pratt 1992; Joseph 1998). They have historicized processes of globalization, highlighted the complex and multiple forms of colonial and imperial relationships, and illuminated the ways in which connectivity, within a framework of asymmetrical global relations, has shaped local, social, and political formations and cross-border connections. In this light, the new transnational and global historiography emerging in Latin America, read alongside the globally minded national historiographies that preceded them, invites us to contemplate how these nations on the periphery have become active agents in such processes, even while existing within a context of unequal relations, economic unevenness, regional collaboration, and varied connectivity.

To reframe our historical understanding of globalization as seen from the peripheral context of Latin America, it is worth engaging with what David Armitage (2013, 20) has called the “spatial dimensions of context,” an effort to revisit the spatial dimensions of history and call into question assumptions about the globalization of ideas, goods, and policies. The recent emphasis on places and locations of knowledge have contributed to denaturalizing the universality of scientific reason and shown that the collection of knowledge and scientific innovation takes place in fragmented and uneven interstices (Withers 2009; Finnegan 2008). The “spatial turn” builds on the notion that globalization has been both uneven and framed by histories of structural power; and invites us to reconsider the extensions of globalization as distributed across different locations and frontiers.⁴ It suggests that mapping the “extensive” global hegemonic power as well as “intensive” or more dispersed but place-based effects would likely reveal peripheral

³ Unlike global history, the history of globalization has emphasized the importance of understanding regions and regionalisms to the extent that they have been viewed as central to its emergence (see Hopkins 2010). At the same time, the unsettled place of Latin America as a region situated in between the West and non-West also has contributed to reinforcing this orientation and the disengagement of historians of Latin America from these global debates (see Fawcett 2012).

⁴ The so-called spatial turn has led a number of scholars to pay increasing attention to space and geographies in the study of the past, establishing connections between global history, geography, geohistory, and even cultural geography as well as the study of frontiers and boundaries (see Torre 2008).

and semi-peripheral nations as producing contradictory spatial effects of integration into a global system and fragmentation.⁵

This construction inverts a more traditional path of histories of globalization. It argues that cultures, media, political movements, ideas, goods, athletes, exiles, and industries, and so on that have originated in a country like Argentina have had a varied international trajectory. Those global processes merit exploration with historical rigor and should be understood as the likely consequence of motors of expansion that are distinct from those that have catalyzed and shaped the globalization of traditional central powers from the Global North and are also particular to its history of nation formation, politics, connectivity, and economy. How can such a history be imagined? How might it contribute to our understanding of globalization and, in turn, global history?

Patterns of peripheral globalization: Observations from the history of Argentina outside of Argentina

Any exploration of outward globalizations from the periphery must be attuned to the history and contexts from which they came. There is no doubt that the history of Peru outside of Peru will be unique and reveal different qualities from that of Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Ecuador, or Argentina. The driving factors of any peripheral nation's globalization, as well as its periodization, the actors and industries involved, and the specific dynamics and arenas of engagement, will reflect the politics, cultures, roles in international economic and political orders, and other qualities unique to that place. In this sense, the impacts of Argentina book publishing or its football industry are certainly unique in scope and character; the international trajectories of Cuban exiles, Peruvian cuisine, or Brazilian abolitionists are likewise singular and connected to specific histories. In each case, an understanding of national and local contexts as well as investigation into the nature of various global paths will prove decisive.

At the same time, however, it is worth contemplating how a peripheral position may inform the production of global processes, differentiating these histories from a traditional historiography that focuses on hegemonic nations. With this in mind, and taking the history of Argentina outside Argentina as just one example, this section provides some preliminary observations about the characteristics of global processes originating in the periphery. Specifically, it considers the intermittent role of the state, the critical role of material and human forms of connectivity, and a muddled peripheral influence.

First, it is possible to observe that unlike the processes that characterize the global presence of European nations, the United States, or China, those that originate in the periphery find paths to transnational, regional, or global integration without the sustaining backdrop of their nation's imperial ambitions or strategic programs: they are often conceived outside state or bureaucratic-led offices. For starters, most peripheral and semi-peripheral countries do not have at their disposition large, empowered bureaucratic apparatuses built to control or organize calculated programs of global dissemination and expansive impulses, nor do they exhibit the type of imperial, military, or even commercial reach that could allow the state to accompany industries in their outward expansion. As a result, many first emerge outside the bounds of state control (sometimes explicitly so) or see the state as an intermittent actor, eager to capitalize on a global presence rather than to generate or back it explicitly.

For Argentina, in fact, numerous cases illustrate how local ideas found audiences abroad in direct opposition to state policy (Moya 2005). The processes of exile and migration and

⁵ Ian Clark (2001) has proposed that globalization has produced antagonist forces of isolation and fragmentation alongside the conventional globalizing and hegemonic effects of diffusion and integration in international society throughout the twentieth century, especially during the Cold War period.

the creation of networks emerge as key components to the circulation of ideas. One example can be found in the coordinated efforts of political exiles in the nineteenth century. While living abroad, exiles of the Rosas era coordinated critiques of their home country while also placing the Argentine experience in conversation with debates abroad, thus contributing to broader, global debates about democracy and the Republican experience (Blumenthal 2019; Alonso and Ternavasio, *forthcoming*). For the twentieth century, recent scholarship in queer history has foregrounded that the Frente de Liberación Homosexual in Argentina, an activist organization that emerged in the 1950s, developed specific traits as a form of resistance and response to local political restraints and social factors. By connecting to an international network of queer activists, the movement not only found avenues to sustain its project but also constructed avenues by which local ideas about queerness, activism, and organizing could flow outward from Argentina (Fernández Galeano 2019; Palmeiro 2011).

The connections formulated by Argentine anarchists provides a third example: José C. Moya (2004) has shown how Argentine anarchist factions developed unique strategies and ideas that responded to their national political environment. Yet he also shows that organizers did not statically engage with the national field alone; rather they traveled, were expelled by the Argentine state, and reconvened in foreign locales, a movement that did not diminish their experience or formation in Argentina but informed their insertion abroad and, in turn, left its mark on the global anarchist movement.

Looking beyond political and social movements, one can find a wealth of instances in which Argentine industries, cultures, and ideas find fertile ground abroad without a bureaucratic apparatus to propel, monitor, or capitalize on their popularity. The global story of tango, one of the cultures most associated with Argentina worldwide, is a classic example. As is often noted, the dance flourished as a local popular culture, but it took transnational recognition in Paris before its sounds and traditions became fully embraced as a national art form. In tandem, one might consider the international stardom of tango singer Carlos Gardel, who was propelled to international fame not by his own talents alone but with the help of transnational satellite production studios, the international reach and popularity of radio in Argentina, and the national and international film industries that promoted his rise. International recognition and a global tango trend preceded any attempt by bureaucratic forces to capitalize on its popularity.⁶

This is not to say that the state plays no role at all. At many times in its history, Argentina's state actors have worked within a sometimes paradoxical position; politicians, diplomats, and other state actors have expressed aspirations for regional leadership in a variety of fields and a desire for the nation to become a player in global political affairs. However, on many occasions bureaucratic and economic constraints (including external dependencies) limited the ability to take such a protagonist role. Ambitions for regional or even interregional leadership were sometimes possible but were also often curtailed by limited resources (military, economic, or tools of political coercion) (see Salvatore 2008; Plotkin and Zimmermann 2012, 2013). The state's ability to consolidate clear leadership in formal global affairs has also depended on the agenda of its political administrations.

The ability or interest of the state to act in promotion or defense of Argentina's global presences, has, as a result, expanded and contracted over time, depending on the interests and impulses of specific administrations. Scholarship on protectionist policies, including those in the film industry, are suggestive of the ways in which national policies have shaped the local industries that would eventually go on to find international audiences,

⁶ For more on transnational and national constructions of Argentine and Latin American music, see Palomino (2020) and Karush (2017). On Gardel's transnational trajectory, see Navitski (2011).

even if these policies were not written with an international projection in mind (Ramírez Llorens 2017).

More specifically, recent studies on Peronist diplomacy have illuminated efforts to use labor policies and Peronist ideas to generate spheres of influence and collaboration (Semán 2017; Balloffet 2020). In some of these instances, it is evident how personal and professional networks laid the groundwork for state diplomatic projects to capitalize. Lily Pearl Balloffet's research into the connections between Argentina and the Middle East, for example, illustrates how immigration from the Middle East to Argentina, and the communities that formed as a result, became an important channel of communication outward from Argentina in the twentieth century. Arabic-speaking Argentines not only translated key Peronist texts but also acted as emissaries of Peronism amid Gamal Abdel Nasser's rise in Egypt in the late 1950s, promoting Peron's Third Position as "viable and influential" in that region (Balloffet 2020, 145). This compelling narrative serves as just one illustration of how state political projects often built on existing social and cultural networks for outward communication; at the same time it suggests that such state efforts are not always successful in their goals, in part, perhaps, due to that peripheral status.

These examples underline that, in the place of political or commercial global hegemony, other forms of connectivity—human (personal, migratory, and professional) and material (technological access and economic resources)—play a major role in the where, why, and how of processes from the periphery gain international reach. We know, for example, that Argentina's industries and its communities were rarely lacking in cultural and intellectual desire for global connection. The examples already noted highlight how intellectual, activist, and migratory networks became key pathways for the transmission of ideas, and the exportation of products.

However, and as the example of Carlos Gardel's success might intimate, material connections are also critical. Lila Caimari's recent research into the materiality of global communication in the nineteenth century underlines that there existed a very entrenched desire for (and fetishization of) "connection" to Europe in Buenos Aires, but investments in material connection (often dictated by private interests) were also important facets in establishing everyday forms of global networks (Caimari 2016). Put in conversation with work on other communication industries, including radio, television, and film, it becomes clear that access to material connectivity, and in particular, the human, technological, and economic means for production, created a context in which international projections of the nation became possible.

Economic investment in communication industries not only provided connection but also generated channels whereby local productions and representations could reach audiences abroad and local thought could gain international authority. Although the international success of Argentine film is one clear example, one could also take example of Argentina's book industry. Gustavo Sorá's contributions to the history of Spanish-language publishing industry have shown that Argentina's publishing houses grew in prominence across the Spanish-speaking world in the early twentieth century (Sorá 2021; Heilbron, Sorá, and Boncourt 2018). The international prominence of these houses not only transformed into an important commercial industry but also elevated the works of Argentines—and their intellectual priorities—far beyond national borders.

Argentine radio channels provide another example. At a time when some neighbor nations in the region were recently acquiring technology and building up a national radio cultural program, Argentina's own radio channels had an extensive reach. Listeners in plazas as far away as Quito, Ecuador, tuned into to local Buenos Aires channels, integrating the sounds of tango and the voices of *porteño* sports announcers into their own cultural histories. The trajectory of regionalizing media like radio, of course, was built on a longer history of Argentine economic, technological, and commercial privilege in the region, a history of uneven regional development. Unlike the expansion of radio from other more

imperial or central nations, the influence or impact of these sounds were also uncoordinated to state projects and likely even occurred without the deliberate recognition of those transmitting in Argentina. In these cases, international presence may not have resulted in a state-utilized field of political power but reflected structural factors and the momentary conditions of an uneven industry. These types of migrations reveal much about how culture moves, where it goes, and why.

Such an example also points to a third consideration: the question of influence and other forms of impact. The influence of Argentina outside of Argentina could be defined as the capacity to potentially modify or have a direct effect on the development of social habits, practices and ideas or other people's behavior as they evolve in other regions, countries or continents. It is tempting to frame the history of Argentina outside of Argentina as an analysis of peripheral influences on the rest of the world. Certainly, as in the cases of the publication industry, influence can often be clearly visualized or argued, even if it does not translate into state strategy. In the case of publishing, the reach of the Argentine publishers generated not only an international readership of Argentine ideas, but also made the country an important pole in the circulation of ideas in the Spanish-speaking world. Other realms of industry or commercial dominance create similar frames of influence. Argentine *fútbol* (soccer) would be a second example: the sport is a particular realm of global integration—a massive and truly globalized commercial industry, a social practice, and a cultural enterprise of entertainment. As recent work by Klaus Gallo (2017) has underlined, Argentine players, coaches, and style of play have had an immense impact on the global sport. While the fame and reputation of legendary Argentine players like Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi have certainly generated a singular reputation for the nation, the broader presence of Argentine coaches, players, and club philosophies in European leagues have prompted some to assert that the sport has been informed by an Argentine style of play.

While these examples are notable, structuring a history of Argentina outside of Argentina in terms of influence also runs the risk of conflating an effort to compile the history of global processes that originate from a peripheral nation with material or abstract gain for the country in question. This may not always be so. There are also ample examples of more muddled influence or integration; cases in which migration of people, ideas, objects and products made an impact but that impact did not translate into tangible influence or even result in awareness or recognition of their place of origin.

This is likely even more the case when industries, individuals, or ideas integrate in places farther afield where the peripheral nation is less well known or even lacks name recognition. In such contexts, globalizing processes might become disassociated from their place of origin, becoming vaguely Latin American or even more generically exotic. One could observe in the case of *mate*, the archetypical drink of the Río de la Plata region, which, due to immigration and exchanges to and from Argentina, has undergone an important commercial migration to the United States (where it has been rebottled as an energy drink) and, even more notably, become an article of consumption among Druze communities in Syria and Lebanon. These transregional cases are propelled by migration as well as entrepreneurial efforts to commodify the drink in foreign markets (Folch 2010). However, in the process, *mate* has undertaken its own codes and meanings of consumption (Pite 2020) and has been recoded as South American or Latin American, or has lost associations with those places altogether, integrating into local patterns and cultures of consumption.

Global processes originating in the periphery not only hold hybrid origins but may well be mutated and altered in their globalization; they can also be absorbed, taken up, or dissolved into a broader global or transnational context. This act of disappearance or invisibility, however, should not be disregarded or discounted—on the contrary, the shedding of a national or even regional association may be a key aspect of peripheral global processes.

When a place of origin lacks the hegemony or imperial scaffolding to accompany their globalizing articles with other forms of power, integration may look and be perceived differently: to put it one way, while mass consumption of Coca-Cola in Paris might sound alarm bells of “Americanization” (see, e.g., Kuisel 1991; Emmanuel 1958), the consumption of *mate* in Syria or Lebanon is unlikely to be perceived as imposing a broader “Argentinization” of the Middle East. When political movements, symbols, cultures, and products that are generated out of a place-based history move outward from the periphery, they might have their national ties erased or deemed irrelevant when integrated abroad. These types of movements are not just worthy of study; taken together, they will likely be revealing of a type of global process that would otherwise be ignored.

Conclusion

Any historiographical proposal that explores the global dimensions of a single nation certainly runs the risk of overstating its dimensions (Kramer 2018; Pérez 2002). At the same time, while Argentina offers an interesting case for exploring the global dimensions of the nation in the periphery, this article seeks to underline that it is critical that such a mapping not unintentionally feed into narratives of national exceptionalism. By contrast, moving the map and recentering it on Argentina should serve only as a distinctive case example for understanding how global engagement manifests from the periphery. A similar exercise could be, and should be, done in other nations of the region, and of the world. These would likely reveal equally peculiar histories, trajectories, periodizations, and cartographies of global expansion and engagement, as well as fragmentation. Moreover, the motors of other nation’s trajectories—be they the result of exile, immigration, environmental, political movements, revolutionary ideas, or agricultural exports—will likely be distinct and revealing of their own national contexts and their interactions with the global phenomena. They will inform and relate to the specificities of those national histories. Taken together, such projects will undoubtedly shed light on the diversity of international projections from the periphery and semi-periphery and provide important alternative approaches to the global.

This article has explored the contribution and impact of the recent global historiographical turn in the field of Latin American studies, in particular the transnational history of Argentina, showing the prominent historical role of Latin America and Latin American nations such as Argentina in global arenas and its regional engagement with the broader history of globalization. Argentina is an example of a semi-peripheral nation with a rich historiographical tradition that has had clear relevance outside of its borders, creating peripheral forms of intervention in the global arena, but which has not seen these global trajectories comprehensively examined. The case of Argentina offers an opportunity to reconsider how the global history of such peripheral nations outside of their borders should be explored and written. Second, the article has reconsidered the history of globalization as seen and experienced from the periphery and semi-periphery, suggesting that the waves of connection, expansion, and influence from such peripheral nations tend to be scattered, fragmented, and dispersed but still worth exploring through a renovated framework that adapts itself to those terms. Third, the article has assessed the bureaucratic political and social dynamics that are implicated in the globalization of peripheral and semi-peripheral nations, considering the challenge of writing these histories when state power and bureaucracy is intermittent and thus less cohesive, coordinated, and expansive, but still measurable and full of complex global resonances. It has also grasped through a series of examples the ways in which connectivity and influence as seen from the vintage point of Argentina adopt unique and alternative features. The extensive and intensive power of connectivity and influence projected from Argentina have generated other

complex forms of expansion, engagement as well as fragmentation. Finally, the article examines the broader implications of exploring the history of Argentina outside of Argentina for writing new global histories of peripheral nations within and outside Latin America. It suggests the need to place an emphasis on local and national contexts for understanding the complex and intermittent performance of peripheral and semi-peripheral nations in global arenas. The article thus makes an explicit case for reconsidering the role of peripheral nations in global history and the history of globalization.

Acknowledgments. Preliminary versions of this paper were presented at the LASA 2019 Congress held in Boston in May 2019, as well as in the context of the Global History Workshop (Taller de Historia Global) that we co-organized (with Eduardo Zimmermann, Laura Cucchi, Ana Romero, Cecilia Tossounian, Miranda Lida, and Flavia Macías) at the Universidad de San Andrés in Argentina in November 2019. We are grateful to the reviewers whose detailed comments much improved this article. We also thank José Moya, Eduardo Zimmermann, Lila Caimari, Diego Armus, Pablo Palomino, Eduardo Posada-Carbó, Christine Mathias, Laura Cucchi, Ana Romero, Cecilia Tossounian, Miranda Lida, and Flavia Macías for their helpful comments and suggestions.

Juan Pablo Scarfi completed his PhD in Politics and International Studies at the University of Cambridge. He is a research associate at the Argentine National Scientific and Technological Research Council (CONICET) and teaches global history and international relations at the University of San Andrés, Argentina. His most recent books are: *The Hidden History of International Law in the Americas: Empire and Legal Networks* (2017) and *The New Pan-Americanism and the Structuring of Inter-American Relations* (2022) (coedited with David Sheinin).

Lisa Ubelaker Andrade completed her PhD in History at Yale University. She is currently an assistant professor of history at San Andrés University in Argentina. She is coeditor (with Diego Armus) of *The Buenos Aires Reader* (Duke University Press, forthcoming).

References

- Adelman, Jeremy. 2004. "Latin American and World Histories: Old and New Approaches to the Pluribus and the Unum." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84 (3): 399–410.
- Albornoz, Martín, and Diego Galeano. 2017. "Anarquistas y policías en el atlántico sudamericano: Una red transnacional, 1890–1910." *Boletín del Instituto de Historia Argentina y Americana Dr. Emilio Ravignani*, 3rd series, 47: 101–134.
- Alonso, Paula, and Marcela Ternavasio. Forthcoming. "Political Cultures and Practices in Spanish South American Cities." In *Re-imagining Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1780–1870*, edited by Joanna Innes, Eduardo Posada-Carbó, and Mark Philp. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Armitage, David. 2013. *Foundations of Modern International Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Baily, Samuel L. 1999. *Immigrants in the Lands of Promise: Italians in Buenos Aires and New York City, 1870–1914*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Balloffet, Lily Pearl. 2020. *Argentina in the Global Middle East*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Baradó, Máximo. 2022. "China in Argentina: Ethnographic Perspectives of a Global Expansion." In *China in Argentina: Ethnographies of a Global Expansion*, edited by Máximo Baradó, 179–197. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Beck, Ulrich. 2000. *What Is Globalization?* Cambridge: Polity.
- Beezley, William H. 2011. *Mexico in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bender, Thomas. 2006. *A Nation among Nations: America's Place in World History*. New York: Hill and Wang.
- Benton, Lauren. 2004. "No Longer Odd Region Out: Repositioning Latin America in World History." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84 (3): 423–430.
- Bergel, Martín. 2020. "Sobre los orígenes globales del populismo latinoamericano: Haya de la Torre y el Kuo-Min-Tang." *Global Studies Review* 4: 1–18.
- Besse, Susan K. 2004. "Placing Latin America in Modern World History Textbooks." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84 (3): 411–422.
- Blumenthal, Edward. 2019. *Exile and Nation-State Formation in Argentina and Chile, 1810–1862*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Boucheron, Patrick, ed. 2019. *France in the World: A New Global History*. New York: Other Press.
- Brown, Matthew. 2015. "The Global History of Latin America." *Journal of Global History* 10 (3): 365–386.

- Bystrom, Kerry, Monica Popescu, and Katherine Zien, eds. 2021. *The Cultural Cold War and the Global South: Sites of Contest and Communitas*. London: Routledge.
- Caimari, Lila. 2016. "News from Around the World: The Newspapers of Buenos Aires in the Age of the Submarine Cable, 1866–1900." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 96 (4): 607–640.
- Clark, Ian. 2001. *Globalization and Fragmentation: International Relations in the Twentieth Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Conrad, Sebastian. 2016. *What Is Global History?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Conrad, Sebastian. 2021. "Response to Juan Pablo Scarfi and Eduardo Zimmermann." *Perspectivas en Diálogo, Población & Sociedad* 28 (1): 237–240.
- Crosby, Alfred W. 1972. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*. Westport, CT: Praeger.
- Devoto, Fernando. 2008. *Historia de los italianos en la Argentina*. Buenos Aires: Biblos.
- Emmanuel, Pierre. 1958. "Is France Being Americanized?" *Atlantic Monthly* 201 (June 1958): 35–38.
- Fawcett, Louise. 2012. "Between West and Non-West: Latin American Contributions to International Thought." *International History Review* 34 (4): 679–704.
- Fernández Galeano, Javier. 2019. "Cartas desde Buenos Aires: El movimiento homosexual argentino desde una perspectiva transnacional." *Latin American Research Review* 54 (3): 608–622.
- Fink, Leon, and Juan Manuel Palacio, eds. 2018. *Labor Justice across the Americas*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Finnegan, Diarmid A. 2008. "The Spatial Turn: Geographical Approaches to the History of Science." *Journal of the History of Biology* 41 (2): 369–388.
- Folch, Christine. 2010. "Stimulating Consumption: Yerba Mate Myths, Markets, and Meanings from Conquest to Present." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52 (1): 6–36.
- Gallo, Klaus. 2017. *Las invasiones argentinas: Nuestros futbolistas en Inglaterra*. Buenos Aires: Editorial Planeta.
- García Canclini, Néstor. 2005. *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Giardina, Andrea, ed. 2017. *Storia mondiale dell'Italia*. Roma-Bari: Laterza.
- Gleijeses, Piero. 2002. *Conflicting Missions. Havana, Washington and Africa, 1959–1976*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Halperin Donghi, Tulio. 1982. "Dependency Theory and Latin American Historiography." *Latin American Research Review* 17 (1): 115–130.
- Halperin Donghi, Tulio. 1985. *Reforma y disolución de los imperios ibéricos, 1750–1850*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.
- Heilbron, Johan, Gustavo Sorá, and Thibaud Boncourt, eds. 2018. *The Social and Human Sciences in Global Power Relations*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Hopkins, A. G. 2010. "The Historiography of Globalization and the Globalization of Regionalism." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 53 (1/2): 19–36.
- Hubbert, Jennifer. 2019. *China in the World: An Anthropology of Confucius Institutes, Soft Power, and Globalization*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Immerwahr, Daniel. 2019. *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Joseph, Gilbert. 1998. "Close Encounters: Toward a New Cultural History of US-Latin American Relations." In *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of US-Latin American Relations*, edited by Gilbert Joseph, Catherine LeGrand, and Ricardo Salvatore, 3–46. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Joseph, Gilbert, and Daniela Spenser, eds. 2008. *In from the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Karush, Matthew. 2017. *Musicians in Transit: Argentina and the Globalization of Popular Music*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Kramer, Paul A. 2018. "How Not to Write the History of U.S. Empire." *Diplomatic History* 42 (5): 911–931.
- Kuisel, Richard F. 1991. "Coca-Cola and the Cold War: The French Face Americanization, 1948–1953." *French Historical Studies* 17 (1): 96–116.
- Lee, Ching Kwan. 2018. *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment in Africa*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lida, Miranda. 2015. *Historia del catolicismo en la Argentina*. Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI Editores.
- Lida, Miranda. 2019. *Amado Alonso en la Argentina: Una historia global del Instituto de Filología*. Bernal: Universidad Nacional de Quilmes.
- Manzano, Valeria. 2014. *The Age of Youth in Argentina: Culture, Politics, and Sexuality from Perón to Videla*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Manzano, Valeria. 2017. "Desde la "revolución total" a la democracia: Siloísmo, contracultura y política en la historia argentina reciente." *Prismas* 21: 115–138.
- McKercher, Asa. 2019. *Canada and the World since 1867*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Moreli, Alexandre, ed. 2017. "Perspectivas globais e transnacionais." Special issue, *Estudos Históricos* 30 (60): 1–272.

- Moreli, Alexandre, ed. 2018. "Rethinking Power in Global and Transnational History." Special issue, *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional* 61 (2).
- Moya, José C. 1998. *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires, 1850-1930*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Moya, José C. 2004. "The Positive Side of Stereotypes: Jewish Anarchists in Early-Twentieth-Century Buenos Aires." *Jewish History* 18 (1): 19-48.
- Moya, José C. 2005. "Immigrants and Associations: A Global and Historical Perspective." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 31 (5): 833-864.
- Nállim, Jorge. 2017. "Transnational Spaces: Intellectuals, Politics, and the State in Cold War Argentina, 1950-1963." In *Making Citizens in Argentina*, edited by Benjamin Bryce and David M. K. Sheinin, 119-138. Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Navitski, Rielle. 2011. "The Tango on Broadway: Carlos Gardel's International Stardom and the Transition to Sound in Argentina." *Cinema Journal* 51 (1): 26-49.
- Ortiz, Fernando. (1940) 1983. *Contrapunteo cubano del tabaco y el azúcar*. La Habana: Editorial de Ciencias Sociales.
- Osterhammel, Jürgen. 2014. *The Transformation of the World: A Global History of the Nineteenth Century*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Osterhammel, Jürgen, and Niels Petersson. 2019. *Breve historia de la globalización: Del 1500 a nuestros días*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores.
- Palacio, Juan Manuel. 2018. *La justicia peronista. La construcción de un nuevo orden legal en la Argentina (1943-1955)*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores.
- Palmeiro, Cecilia. 2011. *Desbunde y felicidad: De la Cartonera a Perlongher*. Buenos Aires: Título.
- Palomino, Pablo. 2020. *The Invention of Latin American Music: A Transnational History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pérez, Louis A. 2002. "We Are the World: Internationalizing the National, Nationalizing the International." *Journal of American History* 89 (2): 558-566.
- Pite, Rebekah. 2020. "Hacia una historia global del consume desde América Latina." Presentation at Taller de Historia Global, Universidad de San Andrés, June 24.
- Platt, D. C. M. 1980. "Dependency in Nineteenth-Century Latin America: An Historian Objects." *Latin American Research Review* 15 (1): 113-130.
- Plotkin, Mariano, and Eduardo Zimmermann, eds. 2012. *Los saberes del estado*. Buenos Aires: Edhasa.
- Plotkin, Mariano, and Eduardo Zimmermann, eds. 2013. *Las prácticas del estado: Política, sociedad y elites estatales en la Argentina del siglo XX*. Buenos Aires: Edhasa.
- Pratt, Mary Louise. 1992. *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation*. New York: Routledge.
- Preuss, Ori. 2016. *Transnational South America: Experiences, Ideas, and Identities, 1860s-1900s*. London: Routledge.
- Ramírez Llorens, Fernando. 2017. "Empresarios, católicos y Estado en la consolidación del campo cinematográfico en Argentina." *Latin American Research Review* 52 (5): 824-837.
- Salvatore, Ricardo. 2008. "The Unsettling Location of a Settler Nation: Argentina, from Settler Economy to Failed Developing Nation." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 107 (4): 755-789.
- Scarfi, Juan Pablo. 2017. *The Hidden History of International Law in the Americas: Empire and Legal Networks*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Scarfi, Juan Pablo. 2018. "Globalizing the Latin American Legal Field: Continental and Regional Approaches to the International Legal Order in Latin America." *Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional* 61 (2): 1-12.
- Scarfi, Juan Pablo. 2021. "Latin America as a Laboratory: A Regional Case for Assessing the Potentialities and Limitations of Global History." *Perspectivas en Diálogo, Población & Sociedad* 28 (1): 229-232.
- Seigel, Micol. 2004. "World History's Narrative Problem." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84 (3): 431-446.
- Seigel, Micol. 2009. *Uneven Encounters: Making Race and Nation in Brazil and the United States*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Seiguer, Paula. 2019. "Los caminos de Penzotti: Las misiones protestantes en América del Sur y la construcción de la laicidad." *Iberoamericana* 19: 157-179.
- Semán, Ernesto. 2017. *Ambassadors of the Working Class: Argentina's International Labor Activists and Cold War Democracy in the Americas*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Serulnikov, Sergio. 2020. "O segredo do mundo: Histórias globais e locais na América Latina." *História da Historiografia: International Journal of Theory and History of Historiography* 13: 147-184.
- Serulnikov, Sergio, and Andrea Lluch, eds. 2014. "Latinoamérica y los enfoques globales." *Nuevo Mundo/Mundos Nuevos: Débats*, 2014.
- Sorá, Gustavo. 2017. *Editar desde la izquierda en América Latina: La agitada historia del Fondo de Cultura Económica y de Siglo XXI*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores.

- Sorá, Gustavo. 2021. *A History of Book Publishing in Contemporary Latin America*. New York: Routledge.
- Stein, Stanley J., and Barbara H. Stein. 1980. "D. C. M. Platt: An Anatomy of Autonomy." *Latin American Research Review* 15 (1): 131–146.
- Stites Mor, Jessica. 2022. *South-South Solidarity and the Latin American Left*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Ternavasio, Marcela. 2021. *Los juegos de la política: Las independencias hispanoamericanas frente a la contrarrevolución*. Buenos Aires: Siglo XXI Editores.
- Thornton, Christy. 2021. *Revolution in Development: Mexico and the Governance of the Global Economy*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Torre, Angelo. 2008. "A 'Spatial Turn' in History? Landscapes, Visions, Resources." *Annales* 63: 1127–1144.
- Tossounian, Cecilia. 2020. *La Joven Moderna in Interwar Argentina: Gender, Nation, and Mass Culture*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press.
- Ubelaker Andrade, Lisa. 2014. "La revista más leída del mundo': Selecciones del Reader's Digest y la cultura de la clase media en la Argentina, 1940–1955." *Contemporánea* 5 (5): 21–42.
- Vaughan, Mary K., and Barbara Weinstein. 2004. "HAHR Forum: Placing Latin America in World History." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84 (3): 391–392.
- Withers, Charles W. J. 2009. "Place and the "Spatial Turn" in Geography and in History." *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70: 637–658.
- Zimmermann, Eduardo. 2021. "A Swing of the Pendulum? Global History and Latin America." *Perspectivas en Diálogo, Población & Sociedad* 28 (1): 233–236.

Cite this article: Scarfi, Juan Pablo, and Lisa Ubelaker Andrade (2023). Peripheral Interventions in Global History: Toward a History of Argentina outside of Argentina. *Latin American Research Review* 58, 18–31. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lar.2022.76>