

Editor's Note

Increasing discussions on global perspectives in historical studies reveal a new tendency to reconsider the established and standardized definitions and interpretations of historical terms which have been derived from combinations among historical texts, empirical case studies, and theoretical rationale.

Discussions on rethinking previous definitions of historical terms have been caused by new findings of source materials, different interpretations of texts, and new methodologies of empirical case studies. Interestingly enough, on the contrary, local insights sometimes shed broad light toward global perspectives. As a result, historical studies are now in a cyclical reciprocating motion between global and local perspectives.

The special theme of this issue concerning the comparative study of slavery and bondage has also varieties of connotations of emerging discussions between global and local perspectives, asking us to join the cyclical reciprocating motion in historical studies.

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