

Decentering the analysis of political transformations to the margins

International Workshop (**attendance by invitation only**, rosercusso@univ-paris1.fr)
 Centre Malher, University Paris 1 - Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, 8-9 September 2025



The main goal of this workshop is to consider, through selected examples, the following question: what differs about the “non-center” approach and experience (i) as regards contemporary *narratives* which the “center” social sciences and historiography have typically generated, and (ii) as regards the *ways* they were generated?

Applied to analysis of Nation and State *forms*, the notion of “margin” will help to leverage methodologies.

Being situated outside the Western “centers” (i.e., USA, UK, France, Germany...) is not so much the disadvantage sometimes suggested (Wallerstein, 1974; Reynaud, 1981); the “margins” involve, in fact, different historical and political approaches and experiences which can stimulate innovative research. The countries and lands to be analyzed in the workshop (Hungary, Czechia, Catalonia, Brazil, Chile, Kurdistan...) have developed both on, and as, “imperial “borders”; yet, they do not merely constitute slight variations of Nation and State patterns of the Western centers. Experiences at the margins may be crucial in provoking new responses to current geopolitical crises.



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Sources of the maps: <https://ehne.fr/fr/encyclopedie/th%C3%A9matiques/%27europe-politique/construction-nationale-et-enjeux-europeens/histoire-des-empires-multinationaux-en-europe-au-19e-siecle> ; https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_world-regional-geography-people-places-and-globalization/s09-00-south-america.html ; <https://dadescat.com/2019/11/21/expansio-mediterrania-de-catalunya-arago/> ; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/07/who-yazidi-isis-iraq-religion-ethnicity-mountains>