

## Crossing Borders: The “Global Dome” Workshop and Intellectual Exchange

By David Carlson and Hannah Peckham



Prof. Patrick Griffin speaking to Global Dome participants

This past July marked the triumphant return of the “Global Dome” International Ph.D. Workshop in Literature and History, an intensive two-week exchange program that brings together graduate students from the Departments of History and English at the University of Notre Dame with counterparts at partner institutions across the Atlantic. This year, participants from Notre Dame, the University of Edinburgh and Heidelberg University met at Notre Dame’s London Global Gateway and at the Heidelberg University’s Center for American Studies in Heidelberg, Germany. Designed to accelerate progress towards completion of the dissertation as well as facilitate the building of international intellectual networks, the workshop enabled participants to

discuss their projects in an interdisciplinary setting with faculty and students beyond their own specialization and discipline.

The itinerary for each day was split among workshops devoted to student dissertation chapters, faculty presentations of their own research projects, and career development. Faculty presentations consisted of visiting faculty from institutions including the University of Edinburgh, the University of Notre Dame, Heidelberg University, and the University of Oxford detailing their research projects, all of which were in various stages of completion. Some described their trajectory of completing their dissertations, others explained the process by which they arrived at their most recent book publication, and still others shared rough outlines of projects at their opening stages. Faculty presentations allowed participants to gain a greater understanding of the various stages of scholarly production and the diverse methods by which historians and literature scholars conceptualize projects from brainstorming through to writing, publishing, and promoting a completed book.

Daily student workshops focused on dissertation chapters across multiple stages of completion, from rough drafts written early in the dissertation process through to polished chapters produced near dissertation defense. All participants for the day, including visiting faculty, were expected to arrive both having read the student's chapter and prepared to discuss it. The presenting student would offer a few comments to help frame the overall project and the chapter's position within it, and then the session passed over to a student moderator who would offer a few comments of their own on the student's chapter, ask one or two questions to get a conversation started, and then begin to moderate the discussion. Some students also took notes throughout the presentation which were shared with presenting students following the workshop.

Career development workshops consisted of tenured faculty talking about their own career trajectories and then focusing on a different aspect of professional development. Workshops focused on topics such as dissertation completion, the significance and process of publishing as a graduate student, pedagogical practices, and the hiring practices of various universities.

While the schedule was intensive, there was still plenty of time to relax and enjoy the riches of London and Heidelberg. The first week, some participants availed themselves of the London theater, explored world-class museums, and sampled some of the best of London's food scene, in addition to enjoying the conviviality of a simple pint with colleagues; in the second week, despite record heat, most of the workshop participants climbed up to the Heidelberg Castle, and took a leisurely hike to a brewery. Conversations that began in the daily workshops continued over meals in a relaxed setting, and by the end of the two weeks, new friendships had been forged and existing associations strengthened.

The opportunity to spend two weeks in Europe with colleagues in the academy, while receiving detailed and focused feedback on one's dissertation across disciplines and specializations, from graduate students and faculty from multiple universities, is unparalleled.

Participants in this year's workshop included:

From the University of Notre Dame:

Mayra Cano, English  
David Carlson, History  
Kyriana Lynch, English  
Hannah Peckham, History  
Jorge Puma, History

From the University of Edinburgh:

Benjamin Anderson, History  
Aijami Oksman, English  
Carolina Palacios, English  
Miles Stanley, History

From Heidelberg University:

Nicole Colaiainni, History  
Valentina Lopez Liendo, English  
Edward Manger, History  
Lara Track, History