

"The Four Ways of World-Making and Global History: Past, Present and Future"  
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Abstract

I propose to introduce the four ways of world making in this presentation and engage in a discussion of their past, present, and future importance in the writing of history in general and of global history in particular. Adapted from civilizational analysis, the ways of world making are a set of ideas developed in collaboration between Hans Ulrich Vogel and myself to advocate and have been utilized to develop and explain alternate and competing thematic tropes, divergent and convergent perspectives, and outline promising future historiographical developments in global history. My presentation is organized into three parts; in the first, the four 'ways of world making' – wealth, power, meaning, and knowledge – will be theoretically and conceptually introduced and discussed. In the second, I will connect my discussion of the four 'ways of world making' to the past and present developments in the writing of global history. This section, in particular, will explore how present research efforts may be enriched through the use of this construct in developing differing or integrating atypical units of analysis and historical perspectives into our narratives. In the third and final section, I shall provide some concluding remarks and standing questions for discussion and/or debate on the utility or viability of the incorporation of two or more of these ways of world making into future narratives in global history.