



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento
di Lingue, Letterature
e Culture Straniere

IN CONVERSATION WITH GLOBALIZATION 2023/24

Teaching Programme

LM:

- Lingue moderne per la Comunicazione e la Cooperazione internazionale
- Planning and Management of Tourism Systems

Contact:

Prof. Dorothee Heller

STUDENTS' FEEDBACK



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“The project *In conversation with globalization* represents **a precious opportunity for personal enrichment, both from a human and academic point of view.** The chance to discuss the main issues of our present time, exchanging ideas with students from the other partner universities, is truly a unique opportunity. **Bringing together the different perspectives presented by the Indian, German and South African students enriches one's personal view and sharpens one's critical and problem-solving skills.** This is emerging as an increasingly crucial skill in today's world, where we are confronted with more and more complex, pressing challenges that need to be tackled with a special shrewdness.

The combination of an online course and the project week in Mumbai at St. Xavier's College constitutes the peculiarity of this educational programme. Specifically, this year the whole project has centred around two pivotal topics, which are closely interconnected to form the core of the reflection we have been conducting over the past few months: sustainability and globalisation. **Through individual and group work, as well as through the contributions of subject matter experts, we have been able to analyse the various facets of sustainability, with particular reference to globalising dynamics.**

The project week, then, is worth all the effort put into the months of the online course. Simply an extraordinary experience. Finding the right words to describe the adventures I have experienced during this week is hard. A number of places, people, feelings and emotions, often conflicting, challenging and at the same time stimulating. All this in a city that perhaps best depicts what globalisation is and what challenges it poses to our current world and to us global citizens. The week in Mumbai was characterised by the alternation of morning visits to some distinctive sites, such as Gandhi's house, the Portuguese village and the excursion to Elephanta Island, and academic activities at St. Xavier's College in the afternoons. The perfect balance between research, leisure and moments of discovery of the city's incredible cultural and historical heritage.

On the whole, *In conversation with globalization* is **a unique international experience that allows students to gain a deeper insight into the reality that surrounds us and the delicate balances that govern our era.** A study and travel opportunity that also made it possible for me to find new friends from Germany, South Africa and India. With them, I shared moments that I will always carry in my heart and I am strongly committed to building a lifelong friendship.” (MA)





Project week in Mumbai

**10-17 February
2023**



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Bergamo team at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai



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“Taking part in the project “In Conversation with Globalization” was **a unique opportunity to broaden my knowledge on important topics such as politics, economics, culture and art and it gave me the chance to observe different phenomena from a global perspective** and from the point of view of countries completely different from Italy. Working with students from different and distant countries and fields of study helped me to gain an all-round view of the topics discussed, which often deviated from the topics normally covered in the lectures of my master’s degree.

Both on the academic and human level, **this experience enriched me in a way I could have never imagined before starting the course**: the first part of the project, which consisted of online lectures, individual and group work, gave me the necessary skills to reflect on topics that were initially unfamiliar to me, and it made me more confident in my ability to adapt and learn.

The second part of the course, the project week in Mumbai, allowed us to put into practice what we learnt in the online lessons. Talking about globalization is now essential and integrated in the study of any subject, but often understanding the real implications of this phenomenon can be complex if studied only theoretically; **having the opportunity to travel, meet and work with students from India, South Africa and Germany has opened my eyes on how much these countries, although culturally and geographically distant, present similar issues regarding the topics we dealt with**, in the case of this year’s edition regarding sustainability.

As a student of PMTS, I believe **that having participated in this project has given me the tools to understand more deeply the topics addressed in my course of study, analysing them from a global perspective, but also from a local one, by speaking and discussing with people who live in countries that experience tourism in ways that are totally different from ours.**” (AB)





Stuttgart meets Mumbai Festival



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“In Conversation with Globalisation has been an experience that enriched me both from a personal and academic point of view. It allowed me to enrich my cultural heritage, allowing me to create a bridge between my field of study and my personal passions and interests.

As regard the academic aspect, it was crucial for putting into practice my field of study: intercultural cooperation. **Coming into contact with people with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, adopting a different point of view, working together for the realization of a common project and presenting it orally in English in front of an auditorium of 20 people who use English language as their lingua franca has allowed me to experience what I hope will be a future working situation that I'll find myself in.**

On the other hand, from a personal point of view, I believe that **having to adapt to different cultural habits, having to flatten one's point of view on the sense of culture and belonging, broaden one's gaze and grasp what lies at the heart of a country's culture** was an experience that awakened my greatest passions: traveling and learning. Crucial to the realization of this was certainly the presence and availability of the locals, the Indian students, who through their hospitality and knowledge made the profound, complex yet fascinating Indian culture accessible - as well as having allowed us to create deep relationships in short time.

I will always have a precious memory of my master's years thanks to this program promoted by the University of Stuttgart, as I feel it really enhanced fostering intercultural relations and building intercultural knowledge.” (EB)





“The *In Conversation with Globalization* project represents an opportunity out of the ordinary for personal growth and learning, an experience that, personally, has had many positive results for both my personal and academic growth.

I became aware of the course by meeting the participants of the previous editions, but their words were not enough to show the actual uniqueness and importance of this project. **As a student of Intercultural Cooperation, the course was a chance to put into practice the knowledge acquired during my years of study and, in particular, an opportunity to develop essential and indispensable skills for our academic career, which are also useful in the working environment.**

In fact, during the course, **we addressed numerous sustainability issues, not only environmental but also social, political, and economic, all from the cultural perspective of the various universities involved.** Furthermore, through the group work and lectures given by the academics, the project was able to help me **strengthen skills such as the ability to work in a team, the competence to analyse contemporary problems, and finally, the ability to reflect and learn from confrontation with others.**





In addition to its clear importance from an academic point of view, the course offers great possibilities for personal growth, mainly thanks to the project week, which represents the most important part of the project given that, during the last week, all students from the universities involved meet at one of the partner universities. This experience makes it possible to **meet new people and approach different cultures, helping openness towards others and the resulting relationships; moreover, analysing contemporary problems jointly, common to all countries despite having different focuses, makes it possible to overcome linguistic and geographical barriers**, activating not only intellectual but also human interaction, creating long-lasting friendships with an international character.



It was **a special experience, different from the other activities offered by the university, but equally important and educational.** This is why I would recommend all LMCCI students to apply for this course, which leads to great personal and academic gratification.” (JC)



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Group presentations



Group presentations



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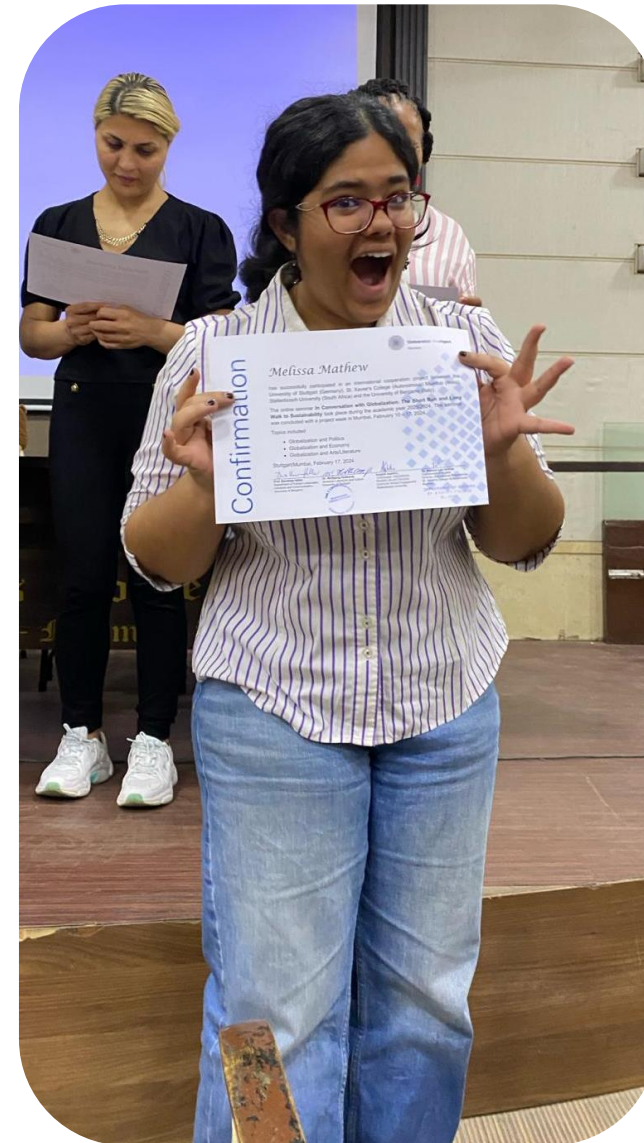
“The programme 'In Conversation with Globalisation' is one of the best programmes that a university can offer. Not only is it **an excellent tool for enriching one's knowledge on current and global topics, but it also offers the opportunity to encounter different international realities, allowing students to enrich their cultural experiences.**

The months focused on online lectures and writing assignments allow the students to **learn and deepen their academic knowledge on topics ranging from the environment, economics, art and culture, and to familiarise with different study and work methods, as well as to improve their analytical and argumentation skills.**

The Project Week, on the other hand, **provide the students with close and deep insights with different cultural, academic and personal backgrounds.** The group work also allows working closely with students from the other three universities, developing a project on interesting and engaging topics. **Throughout the week, there are unique opportunities for the students to get involved, get curious, to ask questions and to experience in person another culture thanks to the friendships created with the local students.**

Furthermore, the course is entirely in English and helps students to improve their listening, writing and presentation skills. In conclusion, I cannot but to heartily support the programme and encourage future students to take part in this unique experience.” (EdA)





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