The growing interconnectedness in the world we live in is reshaping international social relations. It is thus no surprise that “globalization” has become the buzzword of our age. But what is it? Is it a process or an already achieved condition? Is it a force of technological change or is it just a political fabrication? Is it the end of all fixed identities or does it perpetuate them? Most importantly, has globalization benefited everyone or only some at the expense of others? Join us as we come to a better understanding of our social existence in a rapidly changing world.

The culture of LA remains tough to see whole, even after decades of portrayal as a dream factory with a dark underbelly. The region’s postwar ages—cold war military industry & real estate, & finance/global trade—ineluctably mark this very typification of the contemporary city. The current *dim-sum-con-salsa* “ethnoburbs” or the older, secluded canyon suburbs in the Valleys or Orange County have all produced a fructifying bounty of images and texts for culture workers past and present. This summer, study L.A.’s 19th and 20th century history and survey the global context for cultural production in contemporary L.A.