

## Speakers at the Area Studies' Futures Conference, 22-23 September 2016

**Dr. Henryk Alff** is a postdoctoral researcher in Human Geography/Development Studies and a member of Crossroads Asia. Within the network's working package "Socio-Spatial Transformation in trade and education migration hubs: The relational constitution of the local" he has focused on trade in the borderlands of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang (PR China). He is currently a research fellow at the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography. LINK: <http://www.ifl-leipzig.de/en/about-ifl/visiting-researchers/alff-henryk.html>

**Dr. Andreas Benz** holds a senior lecturer and researcher at the Institute of Geography at Augsburg University. His research focuses on education and migration in the context of rural development and socio-economic change in the Himalaya-Karakoram region, with a particular interest in the role of social networks and translocal processes. As a member of 'Crossroads Asia' since 2011, he has been responsible for the project 'Networks of Knowledge: Structures, Flows and Processes in Migration Networks from the Karakoram-Himalaya Region', conducted at Centre for Development Studies (ZELF), Freie Universität Berlin. LINK: [http://www.geo.uni-augsburg.de/lehrstuhl\\_professur/humgeo/team/benz/](http://www.geo.uni-augsburg.de/lehrstuhl_professur/humgeo/team/benz/)

**Just Boedeker** recently defended his PhD dissertation at Humboldt University in Berlin on the socio-political negotiation processes of Baloch groups along the Afghan, Iranian and Pakistani borders. His research interests include border studies, migration and study of religion with a focus on Central Asia, in particular Afghanistan and Iran. Currently he works with refugees in Berlin, and his article on "The Flexibility of Social Institutions among Baloch groups in Afghanistan" will be released in an Indiana University Press anthology soon.

**Dr. Bianca Boteva-Richter** is lecturer of philosophy at the institute of philosophy of the University of Vienna, Austria. Her research interests include intercultural philosophy, modern Japanese philosophy, east European philosophy, social philosophy, and social movements with a focus on migration. Her current research looks at migration from time perspective and east European philosophy. Contact: [bianca.boteva-richter@univie.ac.at](mailto:bianca.boteva-richter@univie.ac.at)

**Helena Cermeno** is a Junior Researcher and PhD candidate at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn. After receiving her diploma in Architecture (2010), Helena earned an MSc in Water Management (2013). Her research interests include urban governance, social and cultural change and adaption, inequality and poverty with a focus on India and Pakistan.

**Gennaro Errichiello** is a PhD student at Loughborough University (UK). He has published on Muslims in Western countries and international migration in the Arab Gulf countries. His research interests include Islam, migration, globalization, nationalism and ethnic relations in the Arab Gulf region. His PhD explores the dynamics and complexities of migration for high-skilled Pakistani migrants in Dubai. It also looks at the importance of immigrant association to the Pakistani community. Link <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/socialsciences/staff/errichiello-gennaro.html>

**Prof. Shelley Feldman** recently retired as International Professor at Cornell University and as Visiting Professor, Binghamton University. Previously she served as Director of Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies, the South Asia Program, and President of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. She has written extensively on agrarian change, gender relations, civil society, and democracy in Bangladesh and on precarity and social in/security in the US. She is currently researching the making of the Bangladeshi Hindu citizen as other, a theme that interrogates borders, belonging, citizenship, rights, and law.

**Prof. Jelena Gledić** teaches Chinese Language, Literature and Culture at the University of Belgrade, Serbia. Her work has been focused on identity and difference, especially the ways they are constructed in media and science. She is also an avid researcher in the field of education. Part of her current research on Asian identities in studies of cultural differences will be included in *Modern Japan: Social Commentary on State and Society*, published by Springer later this year.

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**Prof. Jenny Gunnarsson Payne** is an associate professor in European Ethnology and research leader at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES) at Södertörn University, Sweden. Her general research interests include gender, sexuality, intimate citizenship, political movements, postsocialism and poststructuralist political theory. Recently she has been working especially on theoretical and empirical issues related to the social, cultural and political consequences of reproductive technologies (e.g., egg-donation and surrogate motherhood) in a European context. LINK: [http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh\\_personal\\_profil\\_en\\_251323](http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh_personal_profil_en_251323)

**Prof. Anna-Katharina Hornidge** is Professor of Development and Knowledge Sociology at the University of Bremen, as well as head of the Department of Social Sciences at the Leibniz-Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) in Bremen, Germany. As former coordinator and current executive board member of Crossroads Asia, she has driven the network's activities on synthesizing empirical research for the rethinking of area studies. Her research interests include epistemic cultures and knowledge regimes, innovation diffusion and sustainable resource use, with regional specializations in the post-soviet southern Caucasus and Central Asia as well as Indonesia. LINK: <http://www.zmt-bremen.de/en/Page3176.html>

**Dr. Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi** is a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Agnieszka received her MA in Chinese Studies from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland) and her PhD in social anthropology from the University of Bern, Switzerland. She has worked as a university lecturer and researcher at the University of Bern, St. Gallen and LMU Munich. Her research interests focus on the anthropology of infrastructure; mundane processes of nation and state; anthropology of place, space, borders and territory; identity politics and ethnicity in western China and in Chinese-Central Asian borderlands.

**Prof. Seema Kazi** was educated in India, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. She has worked with NGOs and women's groups in the area of Muslim law and women's rights. She is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi and is the author of *Between Democracy and Nation: Gender and Militarisation in Kashmir*.

**Dr. Madlen Kobi** is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zürich. Her research focuses on urban anthropology, anthropology of architecture and urban space use with a regional focus on China and in particular Xinjiang. She obtained her PhD from the University of Bern and has recently published her thesis with the title "Constructing, Creating and Contesting Cityscapes. A Socio-Anthropological Approach to Urban Transformation in Southern Xinjiang, PR China" with Harrassowitz publishing house (2016). LINK: <http://www.musethno.uzh.ch/de/museum/mitarbeitende/madlen-kobi.html>

**Prof. Patrick Köllner** is Director of the Institute of Asian Studies at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies and a professor of political science at the University of Hamburg. His research interests revolve mainly around political organizations and institutions in Northeast Asia and in comparative perspective. LINK: <https://www.giga-hamburg.de/de/team/k%c3%b6llner>

**Prof. Sandra Kurfürst** is an assistant professor of Cross-cultural and Urban Communication at the Global South Studies Center Cologne (GSSC) of the University of Cologne. Her research interests include urbanism, media and communications, popular culture, and social movements with a focus on Southeast Asia and Vietnam in particular. Her current research looks at differing meanings of urban gardening practices from a cross-cultural perspective. LINK: <http://cross-urban.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de>

**Prof. Rebecka Lettevall** is director of the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies at Södertörn University, Stockholm and associate professor in intellectual history. After a BA in Literature and Cultural Studies, she obtained her doctoral degree in History of Ideas at Lund University, Sweden. Her research interests cover political and philosophical ideas on concepts such as peace, cosmopolitanism, internationalism, Europe East and West, and neutrality, often with a background from Kant and German Idealism. LINK: [http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh\\_personal\\_profil\\_en\\_577233](http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh_personal_profil_en_577233)

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**Dr. Zarifa Mamedova** is a research associate at the Department of Philosophy and Political Science, Faculty of Human Sciences and Theology of the Technical University of Dortmund. Her research interests include the issues of politicized identity, theories on subjectivization, linguistic discourse analysis, ideology, and power manifestations with a focus on Central Asia and Turkmenistan in particular. Her current research is about the creating of “the independent Turkmen” where she discusses the linguistic dimension of how identity and subjects are constructed within the discourse of Independence in Turkmenistan. LINK: <http://ifpp.fk14.tu-dortmund.de/cms/ifpp/de/personen/wissmi/mamedova.html>

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**Andreas Mandler** is a PhD candidate at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) working on governance and knowledge in agriculture with a focus on Tajikistan. He received his Magister Artium (MA) at Humboldt University in Berlin in German Philology, East European History and Central Asian Studies. In recent years Andreas has published on the social and political context of agriculture in the Zarafshan Valley in Tajikistan.

**Lenny Martini** is a PhD candidate at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, affiliated also with the Department of Social Sciences, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), University of Bremen. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a Masters in Management Science from Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. Before joining ZEF, she worked as a lecturer at the School of Business and Management, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia. Her current research interest include urban development, creative city, knowledge related subject and human development

**Dr. Antía Mato Bouzas** is a researcher at Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin. She has been working on issues of bordering process and conflict in the Kashmir borderland and has several publications on the topic. Her research interests include border studies, conflict issues and political theory, with a special focus on the South Asian region.

**Prof. Kazimierz Musiał** is research leader at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEEs) at Södertörn University. He also holds a position of associate professor at the University of Gdansk (Institute of Scandinavian Studies) in Poland. His research interests include international relations and regional integration in the Nordic-Baltic area, with particular focus on the role of epistemic communities, higher education networks and political framing of the regional agenda. LINK: [http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh\\_personal\\_publ\\_en\\_616462](http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/content.nsf/aget?openagent&key=sh_personal_publ_en_616462)

**Maggie Paul** is a research scholar at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai – having completed her MPhil dissertation titled “Political Subjectivity, Slums and Urbanization in Mumbai: A Problematization of Methodological Assumptions”. Her research interests include migration and migrant citizenship practices; religion and political subjectivities in the urban context of Mumbai; gender and livelihoods; social theory; methodological aspects in social sciences and educational philosophy. She is also a Dalai Lama Fellow (2015-16 cohort). A profile of her slum-based project in Mumbai could be visited here: <http://www.dalailamafellows.org/fellow/maggie-paul/>.

**Prof. Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha** is an Associate Professor in the Department of English in Kazi Nazrul University, India. His research interests cover areas of the Anthropocene, Critical Theory, postcolonial politics and neo-subalternity. His current research project funded by ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research) engages with paradigm shifts in new social movements, civil society and media with special focus on South Asia. He is one of the founding members of the Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS) and co-edits Kairos the Journal of Critical Symposium (<http://www.kairotext.in/>). For more details visit <http://knuedu.academia.edu/ANINDYASEKHARPURAKAYASTHA>

**Prof. Cornelia Reiher** is Assistant Professor for Japanese Society in the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. She received her PhD from Leipzig University. Her current research focuses on globalization, food safety and food policies in Japan and the global agro-food system. Her recent publications include Umkämpftes Essen – Produktion, Handel und Konsum von Lebensmitteln in globalen Kontexten [Contested Food: Production, Trade and Consumption of Food in Global Contexts]. Website: [www.geas.fu-berlin.de/people/faculty/reiher.html](http://www.geas.fu-berlin.de/people/faculty/reiher.html)

**Prof. Wolfram Schaffar** is Professor of Development Studies and Political Science at the University of Vienna. His research interests include social movements, democracy theory and globalization, as well as modern history, language and power dynamics in Southeast Asia. Recent publications by Professor Schaffar have touched on politics of the Thai-Burmese borderland, transnational alliances and the nexus between intellectual property rights and public health. More information: <http://ie.univie.ac.at/mitarbeiterinnen/wolfram-schaffar/>

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**Dr. Sarah Ruth Sippel** is a Senior Researcher at the University of Leipzig, Germany. Her research explores the nexus between global food security, financialization of natural resources, and emerging forms of solidarities within global agri-food systems. She is Principal Investigator of a 4-year research project on imaginations of land (C04, SFB 1199) funded by the German Research Foundation.

**Dr. Elena Smolarz** is a research associate at the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies at the University of Bonn and a member of the Crossroads Asia research network. She studied Islamic Studies, Eastern European History and Comparative Religion at the University of Bonn, earning her PhD on the establishing mechanisms of interaction patterns between 'ulama' and government in the Russian Empire (1788-1860). Her research focuses on transformation of autochthonous societies under Russian imperial rule, historical anthropology of Central Asia, comparative studies on slavery and studies on social interaction in frontier regions. LINK: <http://crossroads-asia.de/netzwerk/mitarbeiter/smolarz.html>

**Prof. Martin Sökefeld** heads the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. His field of specialization is the anthropology of politics, in particular politics of identity, diasporic mobilization, conflict and the politics of "natural" disasters. Most of his field research takes place in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan's high mountain area, where he works on the area's political status in the context of the Kashmir dispute and, recently, the politicization of the Attabad landslide.

**Prof. Manja Stephan-Emmrich** is an assistant professor for the cross-section "Islam in Asian and African Societies" at the Institute for Asian and African Studies of the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Her research interests include Islamic education/knowledge travel, the Anthropology of religion/Islam, Islamic piety, urban religion, youth and family studies, the entanglement of migration/mobility and religion. Her regional focus is on Central Asia, esp. Tajikistan. She has done fieldwork in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and the United Arab Emirates.

**Prof. Ines Stolpe** is Professor of Mongolian Studies at the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies at the University of Bonn. After graduating in Mongolian Studies and Education in Berlin and Ulaanbaatar, she obtained her PhD in Central Asian Studies from Humboldt-University Berlin on the interdependencies of social and spatial mobility in contemporary Mongolia. Her research interests and areas of teaching include Mongolian language, cultural and political history and social change, educational philosophy, civil society, and Post-Socialist Studies. LINK: <https://www.ioa.uni-bonn.de/abteilungen/zentralasien/mitarbeiter/prof.-dr.-ines-stolpe>

**Prof. Elena Trubina** is professor of Social Theory and Philosophy at the Institute of Social and Political Studies of the Ural Federal University. Her research interests include neoliberalism, mega-events, and infrastructure with a focus on post-socialist urban space, subjectivities, culture and media. Her latest publications include: Manipulating neoliberal rhetoric: Clientelism in the run-up to international summits in Russia, *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 2015, 22(2): 128-142. She currently conducts research on the 2018 World Cup. LINK: <https://urfu.academia.edu/ElenaTrubina>

**Thomas White** is a PhD student in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. His PhD thesis examines the relationship between ethnic Mongolian pastoralists, animals and the Chinese state in a desert region of Inner Mongolia. He is particularly interested in the spatial aspects of human-animal relations in the context of pastureland enclosure, urbanisation and infrastructural development. LINK: <https://cambridge.academia.edu/ThomasWhite>

**Prof. Eva Youkhana** is the interim director of the Dept. of Political and Cultural Change at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn and a member of the executive board of Crossroads Asia. She is a social anthropologist with regional expertise spanning Africa, Latin America and Europe. Her research interests include migration and mobility, development discourses, the global south, spatial theory, actor network theory, urban studies, privatization of the water sector, transboundary water resources management, tourism and regional development. LINK: [http://www.zef.de/index.php?id=2232&tx\\_zefportal\\_staff\[ref\]=2252&tx\\_zefportal\\_staff\[uid\]=409&no\\_cache=1](http://www.zef.de/index.php?id=2232&tx_zefportal_staff[ref]=2252&tx_zefportal_staff[uid]=409&no_cache=1)