On Thursday afternoon (22 Sept.) there will be a keynote by Prof. Shelley Feldman (Cornell University) on “Decommodifying Knowledge: Recuperating the Interdisciplinarity of Area Studies”. This public lecture will explore how area studies can be re-appropriated as a corrective to the commodification of knowledge in the academy. The presentation will draw on feminist, postcolonial and queer theory as well as border studies to highlight the potential of decommodification to challenge hegemonies and counteract the colonizing of world regions.

Find the full preliminary program and schedule, as well as information on the conference speakers, here.

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA COORDINATION

The network congratulates Nelli Nokkala on a new position at the University of Cologne and extends its heartfelt thanks for her five+ years of commitment to Crossroads Asia. Dr. Claus Bech Hansen will take over her responsibilities and remain coordinator of the network through December 2016.

NEW CROSSROADS WORKING PAPER

Activities in the Network

**Crossroads Asia Lectures - Upcoming**

**FELDMAN, S.**: “Decommodifying Knowledge: Recuperating the Interdisciplinarity of Area Studies”, keynote lecture at the 5th International Crossroads Asia Conference: Area Studies’ Futures, ZEF, University of Bonn, conference rooms, ground floor, 22.09.2016, 3:00 pm.

**Schetter, C.**: “Selected Fields of Development Policy - Peacekeeping”, panel at the Summer School on Development Policy, organized by the University of Bonn and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Bonn, 11.08.2016.

**Organization of Workshops - Upcoming**

**Schetter, C.**: Workshop of the BICC project “Local security-making in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan”, funded by the VW Foundation, Osh/Kyrgyzstan, 17 – 20.08.2016.

**Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Upcoming**

**Amoo-Adare, E.:** “Post-disciplinary Science Futures: (Un)thinking Research, Praxes for a Pluriversal World”, ZEF, University of Bonn, 09.06.2016.

Epifania Amoo-Adare has been following a figuration of processes related to knowledge generation (including both learning and unlearning), since she joined the research project Crossroads Asia in 2013. In this lecture, Amoo-Adare presented her current project, developing a guide for MA-level students that is aimed at inspiring critical reflection on how we make sense of our complex, chaotic and unpredictable world. She hopes to encourage modes of inquiry that foster connectivity across boundaries and spark the “collaborative creativity and ethical imagination” needed to “face uncertain futures”. Read a full summary by Catherine Reynolds [here](#).

**NEW BMBF FUNDING LINE FOR SMALL DISCIPLINES (GERMAN)**

„Kleine Fächer – GROSSE POTENZIALE“ RICHTLINIE ZUR FÖRDERUNG VON WISSENSCHAFTLICHEM NACHWUCHS IN DEN GEISTES- UND SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTLICHEN KLEINEN FÄCHERN


Mehr Informationen [hier](#).

**KONTAKT:** Alla Nevshupa

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**Call for Papers**

**Contradiction Studies: Mapping the Field — Inaugural Conference on Concepts of Contradiction in the Humanities**

This international and interdisciplinary conference seeks to outline the new field of “Contradiction Studies” in the Humanities, focusing on the interactions between seemingly contradictory socio-cultural phenomena and practices. This will allow an understanding of distinct, yet related categories such as antagonism, paradox, antinomy, and their uses within and beyond disciplinary boundaries. Participants will explore material instances and aspects of contradiction, as well as its theories and practice(s).

More information [here](#).

**Contact:** woc@uni-bremen.de

**Venue:** University of Bremen, Germany

**Dates:** 9–11 February 2017

**Deadline:** 31 August 2016
Crossroads Asia Newsletter No. 21 / July 2016

**Organization of Workshops - Past**

**Amoo-Adare, E.** “(Un)thinking Research Practice: Decolonizing Theory, Mobilizing Methodologies, and Open-Ended Becoming(s)”, workshop facilitated at the Advanced Performance and Scenography Studies (A.PASS) post-masters and Ph.D. level institute for artists, Brussels, 9-10.05.2016.


**Schetter, C.** „Ehemalige militärische Liegenschaften im urbanen Raum - Konversion für die Zukunftsstadt?” workshop organised by BICC, Bonn, 23.05.2016.

**Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Past**

**Amoo-Adare, E.** “Hierarchies, Boundaries and the Production of New Knowledge”, workshop facilitated at the “Refugees Welcome? Refugees at German Universities Conference,” organized by Die Junge Akademie, 13.05.2016.

**Benz, A.** „Translokale Entwicklung im pakistanischen Karakorum - Migration, translokale Livelihoods und Bildungsexpansion in Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan”, joint meeting of the “Hochgebirge” work group (VGDH) and the ARGE Comparative High Mountain Research, Berchtesgaden, 26.05.2016.

**Benz, A.** „Translokale Entwicklung im pakistanischen Karakorum”, colloquium at the Institute of Geography, Universität Augsburg, 12.07.2016.


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**Book Announcement**

**Area Studies at the Crossroads. Knowledge Production after the Mobility Turn**

by Katja Mielke & Anna-Katharina Hornidge (Eds.) 2017

**Publisher:** Palgrave Macmillan US

In this pioneering volume, leading scholars from a diversity of backgrounds in the humanities, social sciences, and different area studies argue for a more differentiated and self-reflected role of area-based science in global knowledge production. Considering that the mobility of people, goods, and ideas make the world more complex and geographically fixed categories increasingly obsolete, the authors call for a reflection of this new dynamism in research, teaching, and theorizing.

The book moves beyond the constructed divide between area studies and systematic disciplines and instead proposes methodological and conceptual ways for encouraging the integration of marginalized and often overseen epistemologies. Essays on the ontological, theoretical, and pedagogical dimension of area studies highlight how people’s everyday practices of mobility challenge scholars, students, and practitioners of inter- and transdisciplinary area studies to transcend the cognitive boundaries that scholarly minds currently operate in.

More information is available here.

The book will be presented at the 5th International Crossroads Asia Conference: Area Studies’ Futures on 22 September 2016 at 4:30 pm, at the Center for Development Studies of the University of Bonn, in the ground floor conference rooms.


Mato Bouzas, A.：“La disputa del Kashmir da una prospettiva “borderland”” [The Kashmir dispute from a borderland perspective], lecture at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Milan, 12.05.2016.


**Call for Applications**

**Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship: InterAsian Contexts and Connections & Global Summer Semester Residency at the University of Göttingen**

The Social Science Research Council is pleased to invite preliminary applications for its recently expanded and enhanced Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship, funded with generous support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In addition, working closely with the CETREN Transregional Research Network at the University of Göttingen in Germany, the SSRC is pleased to offer a new category of fellowship in 2016 – the SSRC Global Summer Semester Residency at the University of Göttingen (residency dates April 15, 2017–July 15, 2017). More information [here](#).

**Deadline:** 19 September 2016

**Call for Applications**

**Visiting Research Fellowships 2017 at the Zentrum Moderner Orient and the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies**

ZMO and the BGSMCS are inviting applications for Visiting Research Fellowships for the calendar year of 2017. Applicants should send their applications directly to their institution of preference – either BGSMCS or ZMO. The call is open to senior researchers and recent postdocs in the humanities and the social sciences. More information [here](#).

**Contact:** [zmo@zmo.de](mailto:zmo@zmo.de) or [office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de](mailto:office@bgsmcs.fu-berlin.de).

**Deadline:** 14 August 2016


**Recent Publications**


INTERVIEWS


NEW PROJECTS


NEW ON ELL-PSES.NET

THE POWER OF AREAS: REFLECTIONS FROM POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

BY CATHERINE REYNOLDS

In a recent contribution to Political Geography (Interventions in the political geographies of ‘area’), ten geographers address questions underpinning the rethinking of area studies. One theme that frequently surfaces is ambivalence toward emphasizing areal-based expertise. As pointed out in the introduction by Richard C. Powell and Ian Klinke (University of Oxford), areal knowledges have often been instrumentalized for geopolitical ends. And yet, the article also makes clear that theory production without deep knowledge of specific and contrasting places is insufficient.

CONTINUE READING HERE.
Crossroads Asia derives its name from the geographical area(s) extending from eastern Iran to western China and from the Aral Sea to northern India. The scholars collaborating in the network pursue a novel approach to Area Studies, which aspires to identify concepts of area that take into account key dynamics like the constant mobility of human beings, ideas and commodities across and beyond cultural, social and political borders. Mobility forms an analytical lens for investigating figurations, a concept implying that changes, minor or major, within one element of a constellation (e.g., a familial, religious, or economic network) always affect the whole; figurations can emerge in a given location but stretch to far-flung corners of the world, perhaps then returning to where they began. The research network uses methods from the disciplines geography, political science, sociology, linguistics and social anthropology, among others, to investigate phenomena related to multiple spatial realities, (im-)mobilities and (im-)mobilisation, borders and boundary-making/-weakening, and positionality.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and comprised of half a dozen research institutions, the Crossroads Asia competence network was established in spring of 2011. Integral to its academic undertakings, the network aims to meet the high demand on the part of political decision-makers and the public for information on countries within the scope of its research. Further information on Crossroads Asia is available at www.crossroads-asia.de.

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