



CROSSROADS ASIA



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Image from Crossroads Asia Fellow Stephen Adaawen's fieldwork on migration in Northern Ghana. © Stephen Adaawen

Highlights

LAUNCH OF NEW AREA STUDIES BLOG: ELL-PSES.NET

Themes such as the 'quiet' production of spaces, points of divergence and confluence, in-betweenness and blind spots have all underpinned efforts within the Crossroads Asia network to reposition Area Studies for the 21st century. All of these topics have one element in common: as subjects they are elusive, intangible and/or uncategorizable.

Building on this thread, the Crossroads Asia network is launching a blog entitled ell-ps.es.net as a platform for publishing area studies and related research for a general audience.

Ellipses, literally referring to the printing marks that stand for an omission of words, i.e., [...], are understood metaphorically as spaces that seem empty at first glance, but are full of meaning.

The new blog ell-ps.es.net will incorporate posts from the former "Cross"-blog and continue to grow beyond the duration of Crossroads Asia's funding.

For more information, or to express an interest in contributing to the blog, please contact the network coordination office at crossroads@uni-bonn.de.

AREA STUDIES' FUTURES - 5TH INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS ASIA CONFERENCE UPDATE

With the Area Studies' Futures Conference rapidly approaching, Crossroads Asia would like to thank the many researchers from all corners of the world who have expressed their desire to share their work at the conference on 22-23 September in Bonn. The conference will tackle themes such as 'Power and Knowledge', 'Spatial Conceptualizations', 'Methodological intersections' and 'Positionality and Epistemic Regimes'. A conference program will be published shortly on the Crossroads Asia website and ell-ps.es.net.

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOW

Judd Kinzley (University of Wisconsin-Madison) will be conducting research under the supervision of Martin Sökefeld on "Natural Resource Production, Capital, and Defining the Limits of State Power in Xinjiang" at **LMU** from **MAY TO JULY 2016**.

Insights into the Crossroads Perspective

INTERVIEW WITH CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOW STEPHEN ADAAWEN

In autumn 2015, Stephen Adaawen successfully completed a Crossroads Asia Fellowship at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT). One of the outcomes was the Crossroads Asia Working Paper No. 33, “Reflections on Migration Dynamics in Northern Ghana from the ‘Crossroads Perspective’”, in which he studies internal migration in Ghana by focusing on motivations, patterns and consequences of spatial mobility, as well as the relationship between mobility and social transformation. After his [Crossroads Lecture at ZEF](#) in February 2016, we spoke to him about his findings. The following is an excerpt from the interview.

Q: Migration is often seen as a ‘rite of passage’. In your paper, you mention a strong (traditional) generational hierarchy in Ghana. Can you elaborate on the intersection of social and spatial mobility for young people in your case study?

A: *Aside from economic opportunity or accumulation, migration also facilitates social mobility, in terms of challenging existing traditional power hierarchies that tend to discriminate against the younger generations and women. Intergenerational tensions and the quest for independence and freedom from existing social control are important factors that tend to trigger the desire to migrate. Despite the risk of downward mobility through migration, spatial mobility in Northern Ghana is typically a means or facilitator of upward social*



© Stephen Adaawen

mobility. It is seen as a way to economic empowerment, improving household welfare and negotiating socially constructed boundaries.

Q: Looking back on your field work, how do you think your positionality as a young, male researcher from northern Ghana affected your ability to carry out your research?

A: *Being a young researcher coming from the area facilitated my acceptance in the communities and also helped tease out the necessary information for the research. Whilst ‘researcher fatigue’ and failed promises from previous researchers, who promised ‘heaven on earth’ to people in order to extract information, had already nurtured a disinterest in talking to me, it was nonetheless interesting to see how readily people opened up after exchanging pleasantries.*

In a patriarchal society, I was also aware that I had to accept my position as a young person and to assume a subordinate role in order to relate with the research subjects, who were mostly elderly household heads. I also realized that the issue of separating the different gender and age categories was indeed crucial to collecting data. This is because women were hesitant to talk in the presence of men or children when discussing sensitive issues.

Read the full interview on ell-pses.net.

Interview conducted by the Crossroads Asia Coordination office. Stephen Adaawen can be contacted at adaawen@hotmail.com.



Advertisement for southbound transportation from Bongo district, Northern Ghana. © Stephen Adaawen

Activities of the Network

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA WORKING PAPERS

- » **Issue No. 31:** “Not Quite Home or Alone: A Conversation on Belonging in a Digital Age” by M. Bier and E. Amoo-Adare.
- » **Issue No. 32:** “Reflections on Migration Dynamics in Northern Ghana from the ‘Crossroads Perspective’” by S. Adaawen (Crossroads Asia Fellow 2015).
- » **Issue No. 33:** “China Kazakhs’ emigration to Kazakhstan from a modernity perspective” by M. Shanatibieke (Crossroads Asia Fellow 2015).

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - UPCOMING

BENZ, A.: „Translokale Entwicklung im pakistanischen Karakorum – Migration, translokale Livelihoods und Bildungsexpansion in Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan”, invited talk at the conference “Hochgebirgsforschung im Zeichen des globalen Wandels”, Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung und AK Hochgebirge, Berchtesgaden, 27.05.2016.

BENZ, A.: „Translokale Entwicklung im Karakorum”, Colloquium of the Institute of Geography, Universität Augsburg, 04.07.2016, 17:30, Building B, Room 1002/B.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Governance Challenges for Deep-Sea Resources and the role of Science”, European Maritime Day, Turku, 18.05.2016.

REETZ, D.: “Between Knowledge, Activism and the Global Market: International Students at Islamic Madrasas and the International Islamic University in Pakistan”, Paper at International Workshop convened by Prof. Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, “Student Mobilities and Mobilisations in South Asia. Global Challenges - Local Action,” at ZiF Bielefeld, 16-18.06.2016.

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST

ADAAWEN, S.: “Reflections on Migration Dynamics in Northern Ghana from the ‘Crossroads Perspective’”, ZEF, Bonn, 24.02.2016.

HAGEN, J.: “Social Engineering, National Demography, and Political Economy in Nazi Germany: Gottfried Feder and the Calculation of Space, Place, and Society”, FU Berlin, 09.02.2016.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - PAST

BECH HANSEN, C.: Talks “Power and Negotiation: De-Stalinization in the Central Asian Periphery” and “Power and Purification: Sovietization in the late-Stalinist Uzbek SSR” at the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (BASEES) Annual Conference, Cambridge, 02-04.04.2016.

BECH HANSEN, C.: “Violence in late-Stalinist Central Asia”, presentation at Central Asian Survey Authors’ Workshop, Humboldt University, Berlin, 18-19.03.2016.

HORNIDGE, A.-K. & FITNER, M.: “Epistemic Mobilities and the Governance of Environmental Risks in Island Southeast Asia”, poster presentation at a DFG-SPP Sealevel Change Project Proposal Evaluation, 02.03.2016.

ANNA-KATHARINA HORNIDGE NEW HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE LEIBNIZ CENTER FOR TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY (ZMT)

Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge on her new role as the head of the Department of Social Sciences at ZMT.

“I especially look forward to continue to shape the social-scientific differentiation within the department and to thus further strengthen the interdisciplinary profile of the institute,” says Prof. Hornidge about her new position.

More Information [here](#).

Contact Prof. A.-K. Hornidge at:
anna-katharina.hornidge@leibniz-zmt.de

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A.: "Fragile connectivity: An anthropology of roads in northwest China", lecture in the Ethnology Colloquium, Institute of Social Anthropology and Empirical Cultural Sciences, Zurich University, 01.03.2016.

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A.: "Let us not talk about it: Disciplines, silences and fieldwork under surveillance", lecture in the series "Culture in Perspective: South and East Asia," Department of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University, 17.02.2016.

CALL FOR PAPERS

APPLYING MIXED METHODS - STUDYING WORK IN ASIA WORKSHOP AT GIGA HAMBURG

The workshop aims at exploring how mixed-methods research might contribute to improve labour research with a focus on Asia. Labour research is interdisciplinary, as it endeavours to address a number of themes such as skills, productivity, gender stereotypes, wage bargaining, globalisation, the intensification of paid work, formal/informal and self-employment, domestic work, value chains, and the demand for labour during growth and recession. The aim of the workshop is to explore the challenges labour-focused mixed methods studies face and to introduce new and rigorous methods of creating, analysing and interrogating data in a mixed methods manner.

More information is available [here](#).

CONTACT: neff@giga-hamburg.de

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 5 May 2016

DATE: 14 June 2016

LOCATION: GIGA, Hamburg

KREUTZMANN, H.: "Pamirs at the Crossroads: Changing challenges and perspectives", workshop organized at the Centre for Development Studies (ZELF), FU Berlin, 20-23.04.2016.

KREUTZMANN, H.: "Mountain Societies: Ramifications of a term", lecture at the Ismaili Centre Toronto, 25.03.2016.

MIELKE, K., GRAWERT, E. & BLUMERT, C.: „Mehrwert figurativen Denkens für das Verständnis von Konfliktdynamiken und Wandel von Ordnung“, panel organized at the conference „[Braucht Frieden Ordnung?](#)“, Annual Conference of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (AFK), Bonn, 03-05.03.2016.

MIELKE, K., SCHETTER, C.: workshop "Security, Conflict and Everyday Life in Kyrgyzstan" of the Volkswagen-funded research project "[Forms of local security-making in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan – The emergence of securityscapes](#)" at BICC, 26.02.2016.

REETZ, D.: "Identity and Belonging in Minority Contexts", panel chaired at 3rd annual meeting of the British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS), University of London, 11-12.04.2016.

SCHETTER, C.: "Civilian-Military Relations", panel at the conference "Lessons from the Coalition: International Experiences of the Afghanistan Reconstruction", organised by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Washington, D.C., 19-20.04.2016.

SCHETTER, C.: „[Die Bundeswehr in Afghanistan](#)“ presentation and discussion of the book „[Die Bundeswehr in Afghanistan](#)“ by Dr. Philipp Münch at Bundespresseamt, Berlin, 05.04.2016.

SCHETTER, C. & BRINKMANN, K.: „[Afghanistan: Erkenntnisse und Lehren](#)“, lecture and discussion at BICC, Bonn, 16.03.2016.

SCHETTER, C.: „[Kultur – Konflikt – Kooperation: Interkulturelle Herausforderungen](#)“ panel participation at SIETAR Forum, Bonn, 19.02.2016.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

AMANKWA, K., SHTALTOVNA, A., KELBORO, G. & HORNIDGE, A.-K. (2016): A critical review of the follow-the-innovation approach: Stakeholder collaboration and agricultural innovation development. In: African Journal of Rural Development 1:1, 35-49.

BENZ, A. (2016): The power of translocal networks and remittances. In: Wymann von Dach, S. et. al. (Eds.): Investing in sustainable mountain development: Opportunities, resources and benefits. Bern, Switzerland: Centre for Development and Environment (CDE), University of Bern, 36-37.

VON BOEMCKEN, M. & SCHETTER, C. (2016): *Security – What Is It? What Does It Do?* Think Piece No. 9, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Berlin.

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A. (2016): *Blurring boundaries and negotiating subjectivities: The Uyghurized Han of southern Xinjiang, China.* In: Ethnic and Racial Studies, 1-18.

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A. & BULAG, U. (2016): Introduction: Spatial transformations in China's northwestern borderlands. In: Inner Asia 18:1, 1-16.

MIELKE, K. & GRAWERT, E. (2016): *Warum Afghanistan kein sicheres Herkunftsland ist.* In: BICC Policy Brief 1/2016.

MIELKE, K. & SCHETTER, C. (2016): Der Fall Kundus: Ein Plädoyer für eine kritische Bestandaufnahme statt militärischem Aktionismus. In: Afghanistan Info No. 78, 11-12.

SMOLARZ, E. (2016): Imperskij vzgliad na mobil'nost' i formy social'nogo vzaimodejstvija v pograničnom regione Orenburzhja v natschale XIX veka. [Imperial perspectives on mobility and social interactions in the frontier region of Orenburg at the beginning of the 19th century]. In: Vosmie Bolshakovskie chteniia. Orenburgski krai kak istoriko-kul'turni fenomen. Orenburg: OGPU, 94-97.



Institutionsbildung im Islam unter russisch-imperialem Einfluss am Beispiel der Orenburger Geistlichen Versammlung des Mohammedanischen Gesetzes 1788-1860

by **ELENA SMOLARZ**
2016, EB Verlag

Wie kann eine multikulturelle Gesellschaft in Anbetracht steigender Migrationsströme auf die Dauer stabil bleiben? Einen entscheidenden Lösungsweg stellt die Modifizierung der bestehenden institutionellen Konfigurationen dar. Im Rahmen der vorliegenden Monographie werden unter sorgfältiger Auswertung mannigfaltiger Archivdokumenten und Handschriften die Entstehungs- und Etablierungsmechanismen einer muslimischen Institution in einem christlich geprägten Staat erörtert.

Weitere Informationen [hier](#).

INTERVIEWS

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A.: interview about her book *The Han: China's Diverse Majority*, for New Books Network, 16.02.2016.

SCHETTER, C. : „Sichere Gebiete' im unsicheren Land?“, interview for Detektor.fm, 18.02.2016.

FIELD RESEARCH

MIELKE, K.: Fieldwork in Kabul, Afghanistan, March-May 2016.

NEW PROJECTS

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: main applicant, “Ocean Governance for Sustainability - challenges, options and the role of science”, EU Cost Proposal. The project comprises a unique, transdisciplinary network of 58 proposers with regional and international outreach. The network aims to establish an integrative vision, and a series of approaches that informs research and future policy directions on crosscutting sustainability-driven issues related to the fragmented governance framework of oceans, seas and coastlines within regional waters, and the open ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

SCHETTER, C.: “Between civil war and integration – Refugees and the challenges and opportunities of societal change in North Rhine-Westphalia”, BICC. Focusing on North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), this project deals with four aspects of flight: lines of conflict between refugees abroad and their countries of origin, chances for conflict prevention in refugee camps, examples of long-term integration of refugees in NRW and the question of how refugees can be involved in the peace processes in their home countries. Financed by the state of NRW, it will analyse the risks posed to refugees and host communities by displacement, life in host countries and the prospects of return. Equally, this project aims to show the potential of conflict management, local integration and international networking amongst refugees, thus intending to foster sustainable refugee policies and to expand on existing approaches to research on displacement in Germany.

POLICY CONSULTANCY

MIELKE, K.: contribution as external expert for Afghanistan in the newly published 2016 Bertelsmann Transformation Index has been acknowledged. More information [here](#).

MIELKE, K.: participation in the national symposium of the Afghan Civil Society initiative “Roadmap to Peace” in Kabul, Afghanistan, 28-29.03.2016.

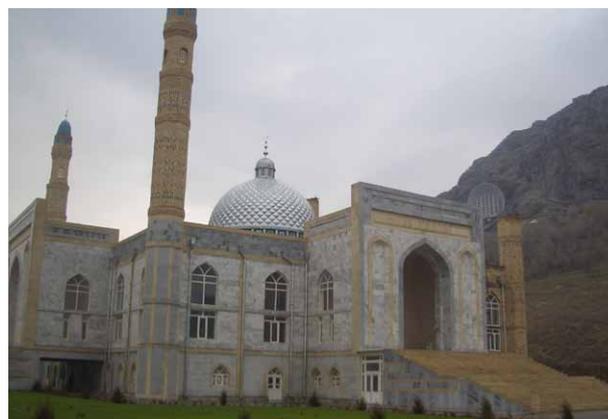
SCHETTER, C.: „Forschung zu Flucht und Migration”, Round Table participation at the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research, State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia, 26.04.2016.

BLOG POSTS ON ELL-PSES.NET

» [Not Just Bongo to Kumasi: Social and Spatial Mobility in Ghana – an Interview with Crossroads Asia Fellow Stephen Adaawen](#) (March 2016)

» [‘Iraqi Odyssey’ – unravelling history through life stories](#) film review by Roxana Bita (February 2016)

» [Coping Strategies in the Aftermath of Conflict – Lessons from Kyrgyzstan](#) by Roxana Bita (January 2016)



Mosque in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. © Joe Hill

POST-DOC POSITION AT THE LEIBNIZ CENTER FOR TROPICAL MARINE ECOLOGY (ZMT)

The ‘Development and Knowledge Sociology’ research group at ZMT is calling for a post-doctoral social scientist to join its team working on tropical regions, esp. tropical and coastal Africa and its concomitant marine spaces.

Deadline for applications: 20 May 2016

Proposed starting date: 1 July, 2016

Contact: Prof. A.-K. Hornidge

anna-katharina.hornidge@leibniz-zmt.de

More information [here](#).

BOOK AND FILM RECOMMENDATIONS

The following books and film were recommended by Crossroads Asia Network members.

Short book reviews (300-400 words) related to Crossroads Asia's research, as well as literature recommendations are welcome at any time from any interested party. The reviews will be published in our quarterly newsletter in the order that they are received at crossroads@uni-bonn.de.

CALL FOR PAPERS - JOURNAL

**THE RADICAL IMAGINE-NATION
AN INNOVATIVE AND ICONOCLASTIC
CHAPMAN JOURNAL**

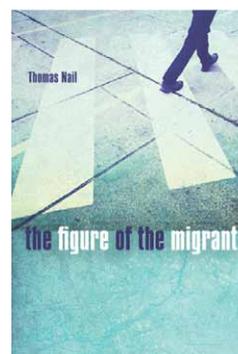
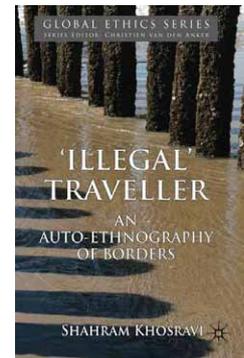
While historical amnesia runs deep among the educational establishment and teachers are often too bogged down in the myopia of everyday classroom life or buried under the mandates of a bureaucracy overwhelmingly shaped by conservative policymakers and white-collar elites defending their race and class privileges to make much headway along the path to serious educational reform, The Radical Imagine-Nation is a place to convene a gathering to look at the big picture and engage in serious conversations about strategy.

The Radical Imagine-Nation has been designed to be accessible to teachers and the wider public, and consistent in its message and its call for revolutionary changes in our education system with an emphasis on economic justice. But the Radical Imagine-Nation is far from a single-issue journal and offers a large tent for organization-building and collective strategizing, with 5 base areas that include Reinventing Freire; Public Intellectual; The Internationalist; Radicalizing Action; and Book Reviews.

Further information is available [here](#).

'ILLEGAL' TRAVELLER: AN AUTO-ETHNOGRAPHY OF BORDERS (2010)

Author: Shahram Khosravi
Publisher: Palgrave
Macmillan

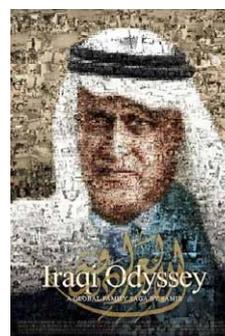
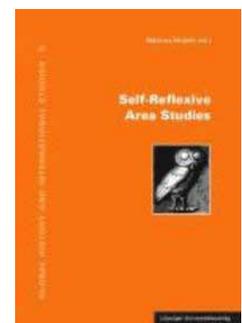


THE FIGURE OF THE MIGRANT (2015)

Author: Thomas Nail
Publisher: Wallstein
Verlag

SELF-REFLEXIVE AREA STUDIES (2013)

Editor: Matthias Middell
Publisher: Universität
Leipzig



IRAQI ODYSSEY (FILM, 2014)

Director: Samir (Samira
Jamal Aldin)
A Dschoint Ventschr
Filmproduktion AG
production

© Samir / Dschoint Ventschr
Filmproduktion

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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