Within the framework of the ZEF Advisory Board Meeting, 16-19 September 2015, Markus Kaiser held a presentation for the ZEF Advisory Board members and ZEF researchers describing the research network Crossroads Asia.

The subsequent discussion was mainly centered on the following topics:

- Rethinking the term “area”, without giving it up
- Concepts of place and scale and their importance for flows
- Geopolitical and private interests still play an important role in AS research
- Improvements to interdisciplinarity needed: input from economists desirable
- Importance of conceptualizing the rethinking-AS-debate in the broader context of rethinking social and natural sciences
- Methodological advancements from project phases and synthesis work

A more detailed overview of the discussion can be found here.

**NEW CROSSROADS WORKING PAPER**

» Issue No. 30: “‘Functional’ governance as an alternative to ‘territorial’ governance? The case of the Kyrgyz irrigation sector and the implementation of Water User Associations (WUAs)” by F. Schmitt.

**NEW CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOWS**

Aksana Ismailbekova will be conducting research on boundary making through inter-ethnic marriages in Osh as fellow researcher at the Center for Development Research and the Institute for Oriental and Asian Studies, University of Bonn, from October to December 2015.

Aziz Ali Dad will be researching the marking of boundaries and markers of identities based on a case study of Gilgit-Baltistan. He will be hosted by Dr. Dietrich Reetz at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin from October to December 2015.
Activities in the Network

**MARKUS KAISER TO TAKE ON PRESIDENCY OF THE GERMAN-KAZAKH UNIVERSITY IN ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN**

Dr. Markus Kaiser has been appointed president of the German-Kazakh University (DKU), one of the few German Universities abroad, starting 1 September 2015. In his new capacity, he would like to extend an invitation for continued cooperation and new joint projects, especially on water management issues, area studies, development studies, minority and migration studies, as well as transnational educational projects. Markus Kaiser can be reached at: kaiser@dku.kz.

**MATTHIAS SCHMIDT GRANTED PROFESSORSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUGSBURG**

Crossroads Asia member, Dr. Matthias Schmidt, has been appointed Professor of Human Geography at the Institute of Geography, University of Augsburg. Dr. Andreas Benz will join Professor’s Schmidt’s team as a post-doctoral researcher and lecturer. Contact Matthias Schmidt at schmidt@geo.uni-augsburg.de.

**ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: “Dynamics of inter-ethnic relationships: kinship and marriage in the aftermath of conflict in Osh, Kyrgyzstan”, ZEF, University of Bonn, 2.12.2015.**

**CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST**


**SHANATIBIEKE, M.: “China Kazakhs’ Emigration to Kazakhstan from a Modernity Perspective”, ZEF, University of Bonn, 23.09.2015.**


**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


**CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - UPCOMING**


**Newsletters**


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**Mobilizing Religion: Networks and Mobility**

*by Stephan Conermann and Elena Smolarz* (eds.) (2015)

**EB Verlag**

This edited volume draws attention to religious aspects in modern, historical, political and social processes: spatial and social mobility, establishment of networked and globalized traditions as well as social development. What religious aspects might influence these processes and how? Scholars of Area Studies (Islamic Studies, Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Mongolian Studies, Central Asian Studies) as well as of Development Studies, Social and Cultural Anthropology, Political Studies and Studies of Comparative Religion discuss the role religion plays in these processes.


**Organization of Workshops**


**Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Upcoming**


**Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Past**


**Bech Hansen, C.**: “Subaltern voices from the post-Soviet periphery: The translation of western epistemic cultures in Central Asia”, presentation at the conference “Orientalism, colonial thinking and the former soviet periphery”, Centre of Oriental Studies, Vilnius University, 27.08.2015.


JONIAK-LÜTHI, A.: “Roads in borderlands: Beyond the political geography of the state”, panel at the 14th Bi-Annual Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS), Zurich, 8-11.10.2015.


KAIser, M.: “Forms of transsociation as counter-processes to nation building in Central Asia”, presentation at the workshop “Current Developments in Central Asia: Politics, Society and (Inter)Regional Cooperation”, Center for German and European Studies, Bielefeld University, 23-24.10.2015.

KAIser, M.: “There and back again. Imagined and lived homeland, returning strategies and belongings of late German repatriates” presentation and “Economics and Politics in Kazakhstan” panel at the 14th Bi-Annual Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS), Zürich, 11.10.2015.


KZAKH-GERMAN UNIVERSITY
WATER MANAGEMENT AND AREA STUDIES
COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

KGU projects on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Central Asia are part of the Berlin Declaration on water diplomacy in Central Asia supported by the Foreign Office. Master courses are offered in Integrated Water Management in cooperation with FU Berlin and Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies.

More information is available here:

Water diplomacy in Central Asia
MA Degree Program Integrated Water Management (KGU Almaty)
At the German-Kazakh University all IWRM related activities are headed by Dr. iur. Barbara Janusz-Pawletta (PhD).

CONTACT: janusz-pawletta@dku.kz.

Area Studies are conducted within the Research Institute for International and Regional Cooperation at the German-Kazakh University including Eurasian integration studies, ethnic Germans in Kazakhstan, and Kazakhstan-German relations.

The institute is headed by Director Prof. Dr. Bulat Sultanov.

CONTACT: sultanov@dku.kz
**KREUTZMANN, H.:** “Present state and future prospects for sustainable development in the Pamirian Knot”, keynote lecture at the Global Mountain Forum, Pasu (Gilgit-Baltistan), 29.08.2015.

**MIELKE, K.:** “Negotiating Development in Rural Afghanistan: Property, Access, and Glocal Politics”, presentation at the conference “The Glocalization of Development” organized by the Center for Conflict Studies of Philipps University Marburg, Hannover (Volkswagen Foundation), 8-11.07.2015.

**MIELKE, K.:** ‘Afghanistan as a less properly glocalized setting’. A review of localizing property institutions in the last decade”, presentation and “Forms of ‘re-traditionalization’ processes as response to global and national norm promotion”, panel at the 14th Bi-Annual Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS), Zürich, 8-11.10.2015.

**NOKKALA, N.:** “Die arabischen Golfmonarchien im Umbruch” presentation at „Werkstattgespräche für Nachwuchswissenschaftler“ at DAVO Jahreskongress (Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient), University of Bochum, 24.09.2015.

**RZEHAK, L.:** “Language and Identity”, lecture at the inaugural ceremony of the Oriental department of Krakow University, 2.10.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Networks of war: The example of Afghanistan” presentation as part of the Bonner Friedenstage, BICC, 22.09.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Die Zukunft Afghanistans aus der Sicht der Forschung des BICC”, lecture at the Rotary Club Bonn, Golf Course Bonn, 16.09.2015.


**SÖKEFELD, M.:** “Politics of Disaster”, presentation in the workshop “Disasters and the State in South Asia”, Development Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Bath, 7-8.09.2015.

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**INTERVIEWS**

**KREUTZMANN, H.:** “Der Sinn von Expeditionen - Die Schlagintweits und das Weltwissen”, BR 2, „IQ - Wissenschaft und Forschung“, 22.10.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Taliban Offensive: Herbe Niederlage für das Selbstverständnis Deutschlands”, Sputnik Deutschland, 2.10.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Aktuelle Lage in Kundus – Gespräch mit Afghanistansexperte Conrad Schetter zur Eroberung Kundus durch die Taliban”, Bayern2, 30.09.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Kundus nach der Bundeswehr”, WDR Aktuelle Stunde, 30.09.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Taliban erobern Kundus – Afghanistan am Rande des Bürgerkriegs?”, Detektor.fm, 29.09.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Blickpunkt Afghanistan”, NDR-Info, 29.09.2015.

**SCHETTER, C.:** “Der verdrängte Krieg: Nichts ist gut in Afghanistan – oder doch?”, HR-Info, 18.08.2015.
The workshop “TAJIKISTAN’S EPISTEME, CROSSROADS ASIA & OUR MARINE FUTURE” brought together an assortment of social science researchers from diverse schools of thought working on issues as disparate as farm debts in rural Tajikistan and the recuperation of mangroves in coastal Brazil. Held at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) and convened by Prof. Anna-Katharina Hornidge, the workshop took lifeworlds of coastal inhabitants as one starting point for analysis. From a Crossroads Asia perspective there was, on the one hand, a great deal of optimism about what marine research can offer the debate on rethinking Area Studies. Water lends itself to the notion of fluidity, and marine environments are intuitively better understood as consisting of flows rather than zones/areas. On the other hand, it became clear that container thinking is still prevalent in marine research. Even the often used word “coastlines” implies a very limited and limiting notion of space. [...] Taking anti-container thinking even farther, the workshop asked, why do we distinguish between marine and terrestrial spatialities at all?

CONTINUE READING here.
The competence network Crossroads Asia derives its name from the geographical area extending from eastern Iran to western China and from the Aral Sea to northern India. The scholars collaborating in the competence network pursue a novel, ‘post-Area Studies’ approach, making thematic figurations and mobility the overarching perspectives of their research. The concept of figuration implies that changes, minor or major, within one element of a constellation always affect the constellation as a whole; the network employs this concept for understanding the complex structures framed by the cultural, political and socio-economic contexts in Crossroads Asia. Mobility, the other key concept for studying Crossroads Asia, has always been a space of entangled interaction and communication, with human beings, ideas and commodities on the move across and beyond cultural, social and political borders. Figurations and mobility thus form the analytical basis of our research.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Crossroads Asia competence network was established in spring of 2011. It aims to mediate between the academic study of Crossroads Asia and efforts to meet the high demand for information on this area in politics and the public. Findings of the project feed into academic teaching, research projects beyond the competence network, and public relations efforts. Further information on Crossroads Asia is available at www.crossroads-asia.de.