Scholars within and beyond the Crossroads Asia Network are attending the ‘Tajikistan’s Episteme, Crossroads Asia & our marine Future’ workshop, writeshop & networking platform organized by the Leibniz-Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) at the University of Bremen, from July 28-29, 2015.

The workshop is designed as a platform for jointly reflecting on past work on Tajikistan, as well as thinking about future research, including the linking of marine and coastal research with ongoing activities of the Crossroads Asia Network. The publication of a “Crossroads Studies” textbook will also be among the main discussion topics.

An overview of the workshop program can be found here.

NEW CROSSROADS WORKING PAPERS

» Issue No. 27: “Off the Grid: Environmental Degradation and Citizenship at the Margins” by A. Harms.

» Issue No. 28: “Mobility and Urban Conflict: A Study of Lyari, Karachi” by N. Kirmani.

» Issue No. 29: “Vartan bhanji-exchange practices and social (im-)mobility: Exploring the coping strategies of low-income households of different biraderis in rural Punjab” by A. Nasir & K. Mielke.

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOWS

Olaf Günther’s research will focus on the entangled perspective of areas as actors and actors in areas, with particular emphasis on remoteness. He will join the Central Asian Seminar at the Humboldt Universität Berlin under the academic supervision of Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf from September to November 2015.

Stephen Adaawen will explore how a Crossroads Perspective can be applied to migration flows in an African context, building on his dissertation work in Ghana, during a fellowship with Prof. Dr. Anna-Katharina Hornidge at the University of Bremen from September to December 2015.
Activities in the Network

**CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST**

**ALFF, H.**: “Translocal Relations and Narratives of Change among a Dungan community”, ZELF, FU Berlin, 23.06.2015.

**BEHAL, M.**: “Natural Resource Management and its Linkages to Women’s Development in India’s Northeast”, ZELF, FU Berlin, 16.06.2015.

**BENZ, A.**: “Translocality and Sustainable Mountain Development in Gojal, Gilgit-Baltistan”, ZELF, FU Berlin, 23.06.2015.

**NING, W.**: “Opportunities and Challenges for Transboundary Conservation and Development in Karakoram-Pamir Landscape”, ZELF, FU Berlin, 5.05.2015.

**CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - UPCOMING**

**VAN SCHENDEL, W.**: Visual history in Mizoram, India (Full title and lecture abstract to be announced soon), ZELF, FU Berlin, 27.10.2015.

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**


**LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - UPCOMING**

**BECHEL 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 Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies, Zurich University, 8-11.10.2015.

**Kaiser, M.**: “Migration in Eurasia”, presentation at the conference “Orientalism, colonial thinking and the former soviet periphery”, Centre of Oriental Studies, Vilnius University, 27.08.2015.

**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”, Bielefeld University, 23-24.10.2015.


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### Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Past


**Kaiser, M.**: „Einmal Deutschland und wieder zurück Umkehrstrategien von (Spät-)Aussiedlern im Kontext sich wandelnder Migrationsregime” guest lecture at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 9.07.2015.


RZEHAK, L.: “Fillers, emphasizers and other adjuncts in spoken Dari”, paper presented to the Sixth International Conference on Iranian Linguistics (ICIL 6), Tbilisi, Georgia, 23-26.06.2015.


SCHETTER, C.: „... dem Frieden der Welt zu dienen“, expert talk at Evangelische Akademie Berlin, 4.05.2015.


CALL FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The InterAsia Program Transregional Research Junior Scholar Fellowship (formerly known as the Postdoctoral Fellowship for Transregional Research) is aimed at supporting transregional research under the rubric InterAsian Contexts and Connections. Its purpose is to strengthen the understanding of issues and geographies that do not fit neatly into existing divisions of academia or the world and to develop new approaches, practices, and opportunities in international, regional, and area studies. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, these fellowships help junior scholars (one to five years out of the PhD) complete first books or undertake second projects.

Further information is available here.

CONTACT: Holly Danzeisen
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25 August 2015
INSTITUTION: Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York

INTERVIEWS

KAISER, M.: “Ethnic Tolerance: Is Kazakhstan’s experience unique or instructive? A European perspective” (Опыт Казахстана уникален поучителен - с точки зрения Европейца) M. Kaiser interviewed by Yuri Kirinitsiyanov in Argumenti i Fakti (Аргументы и факты), No. 19, p. 6, 6-12.05.2015.


SCHETTER, C.: „Kriegs rhetorik in Münster“, WDR, 21.06.2015.

Schetter, C.: „Wegelagerer in Uniform“, Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (E+Z), 4.05.2015.

**FIELD RESEARCH**


Reetz, D.: Field research in Duschanbe, Tajikistan, funded by main ZMO programme (Muslim Globalities), May - June 2015.

**“CROSS”-BLOGGING**

**ENTANGLED EPIPHANIES**

By Epifania Amoo-Adare

“The recent Politics of Entanglement in the Americas conference, held from 25 to 27 June, was definitely not for the academic faint-hearted.[...]

What was clear from both the conference title and the rich menu of presentation topics is that the noun “entanglements” held high currency in the roll out of this timely forum, organized by the Center for InterAmerican Studies (CIAS) at Bielefeld University. More specifically, the presentations sought to highlight what Olaf Kaltmeier, in his welcome address, described as the importance of “entanglements” as a useful metaphor for rethinking Area Studies, which—in their case—needed to be an engagement in open-ended and contestable debates on the politics of entanglements in the Americas, simply because this “Area” is not limited to a given space, with a single story that can be easily identified and then, truthfully, re-told. To this end, “entanglements” was also viewed as an instrumental conceptual approach for understanding the social dimensions of the politics of entanglement [...].”

Continue reading here.

**BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following books 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.

**Die Politik der Peripherie. Protest und Öffentlichkeit in der Republik Kyrgyzstan**

Author: Alexander Wolters
Publisher: Transcript
Series: bibliotheca eurasica (edited by Crossroads coordinator Markus Kaiser)

**From Padi States to Commercial States**

Reflections on Identity and the Social Construction of Space...

Author: Frédéric Bourdier et al.
Publisher: Amsterdam University Press

**Transnational Migration and Asia**

The Question of Return

Author: Michiel Baas
Publisher: Amsterdam University Press
Series: Global Asia
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.