



CROSSROADS ASIA



Anna-Katharina Hornidge and Markus Kaiser listen to Elena Smolarz present during the "Crossroads Perspective" Workshop at ZEF on 6 March 2015.

Contents

<i>Highlights</i>	1
<i>Activities in the Network</i>	2
New Colleagues in the Network	2
Crossroads Asia Lectures	2
Recent Publications	2
Lectures, Workshops & Presentations	3
New Projects	4
Interviews	4
"Cross"-Blogging	5
<i>Book Review</i>	6

Highlights

CROSSROADS ASIA WORKSHOP

To mark the beginning of the second phase of Crossroads Asia, running from 2015 - 2016, the network partners convened for a kick-off workshop on 6 March 2015, at ZEF in Bonn.

The workshop included presentations from **all seven work packages**, which not only offered presenters an opportunity to acquire feedback to their individual projects, but also provided a forum for generating cross-cutting exchange and paved the way for inter-related common future projects.

Furthermore, all network members participated in a fruitful discussion on how to bundle and synthesize previous and ongoing work package results into concrete methodological and theoretical contributions to a "Crossroads Perspective". The network began to articulate a fluid approach to core concepts and methodologies, rather than defining new static notions or containers. The "Crossroads Perspective" will remain at the core of the network's activities in the coming two years.

CONNECT WITH US AT ACADEMIA.EDU

Crossroads Asia has extended its online presence to *Academia.edu*. We are looking forward to improved communication with collaborating researchers, and encourage you to sign up and follow us [here](#).

NEW CROSSROADS WORKING PAPERS

- » **Issue No. 25:** *"Spatialities of Knowledge in the Neoliberal World Academy. Theory, Practice and 21st Legacies of Area Studies"* by P. Jackson
- » **Issue No. 26:** *"Uzbekistan – A Region of World Society (?) Variants of Differentiation in Agricultural Resources Governance"* by A.-K. Hornidge, K. von Assche & A. Shtaltovna.

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOWS

WALI MOHAMMAD KANDIWAL, Coordinator of humanitarian projects at The Liaison Office (TLO) in Kabul, will be joining BICC as Crossroads fellow from June to August 2015. His research follows the formation of social networks as a coping mechanism for displaced populations in informal settlements in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad.

MAYINU SHANATIBIEKE, Ph.D. Candidate at the Institute of Geographic Sciences at the FU Berlin will be joining ZELF in Berlin between July and September 2015. She investigates the current situation of Chinese Kazakhs' emigration to Kazakhstan and the role of cultural identity in this emigration from a modernization perspective.



Activities in the Network

NEW COLLEAGUES IN THE NETWORK

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA RESEARCHER AT ZEF

As of March 2015, Dr. [Claus Bech Hansen](#) has joined the Crossroads Asia team as a Senior Researcher at the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn. Claus holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence and, before joining ZEF, he held various postdocs and visiting assistant professor positions at the Humboldt University, Central European University and Bogazici University.

Having specialized on East European/Eurasian history and politics in the 20th and 21st centuries, Claus' work focuses on modern nation- and state-building, regime change and power relations, thus contributing to research on the Soviet Union and post-Soviet regimes, comparative and transnational history, totalitarian and authoritarian states as well as on Islam and Muslim culture in the Soviet Union and CIS-region. More recently Claus has expanded his work to include research on EU foreign policy, drug and human trafficking, organised crime as well as political and armed conflicts in the CIS-region and southern Central Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran). As part of the Crossroads Asia project, Claus will work on synthesizing and theorizing the project results in Crossroads Asia's final phase.

ANNA-KATHARINA HORNIDGE TO TAKE ON PROFESSORSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

PD Dr. Hornidge has been appointed full professor at the University of Bremen and the Leibniz-Center for tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) beginning 1 May 2015. Ms. Hornidge's research group, 'Development and Knowledge Sociology', works to strengthen the social science department of the institute.

Despite this move, Ms. Hornidge will remain an active member of the executive board of Crossroads Asia.

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - UPCOMING

NING, WU: "Opportunities and Challenges for Transboundary Conservation and Development in Karakoram-Pamir Landscape", 5 May 2015, ZELF, FU Berlin.

BEHAL, M.: "Natural Resource Management and its Linkages to Women's Development in India's Northeast", 16 June 2015, GeoCampus Lankwitz, ZELF, FU Berlin.

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST

ALIMIA, S.: "Dehumanising Afghans in Pakistani Discourses: Reproducing Islamophobic Rhetoric on the Afghan 'Other' ", 23 April 2015, ZEF, Bonn.

LAWOTI, M.: "Federal Model and Constitution Writing Challenges in Nepal", 31 March 2015, ZEF, Bonn.

PATHAK, S.: "Explorer Extraordinary: Pundit Nain Singh Rawat's Contribution to Himalayan Geography", 21 April 2015, ZELF, FU Berlin.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A. (2015): Xinjiang's geographies in motion. In: *Asian Ethnicity*.

KREUTZMANN, H. (2015): Das Great Game – Asien als Bühne eines imperialen Machtkampfes. In: M. von Brescius, F. Kaiser, S. Kleidt (eds.): *Über den Himalaya – Die Expedition der Brüder Schlagintweit nach Indien und Zentralasien 1854 bis 1858*. Köln, Weimar, Wien: Böhlau-Verlag, 89-95.

KREUTZMANN, H. (2015): Die Brüder Schlagintweit im Great Game. Prolog und Epilog zum tragischen Ende von Adolph Schlagintweit in Kashgar. In: M. von Brescius, F. Kaiser, S. Kleidt (eds.): *Über den Himalaya – Die Expedition der Brüder Schlagintweit nach Indien und Zentralasien 1854 bis 1858*. Köln, Weimar, Wien: Böhlau-Verlag, 97-112.

KREUTZMANN, H. (2015): Kashmir. In: J. Stone, R. M. Dennis, P. S. Rizova and A.D. Smith (eds.): *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

KREUTZMANN, H. (2015): Pastoralists in China. In: J. Stone, R. M. Dennis, P. S. Rizova and A.D. Smith (eds.): The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

SHTALTOVNA, A. & HORNIDGE, A.-K. (2015): Zwischen staatlicher Kontrolle und Liberalisierung. Baumwollanbau in Usbekistan und Kasachstan im Vergleich. In: Zentralasien-Analysen Nr. 86.

VAN ASSCHE, K. & HORNIDGE, A.-K. (2015): Rural Development. Knowledge and Expertise in Governance. Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - UPCOMING

BENZ, A.: „Gesellschaftlicher Wandel und Entwicklung im Pakistanischen Karakorum: Bedeutung und Beitrag von Bildungs- und Migrationsstrategien“, lecture series “South Asia”, Institut für Geographische Wissenschaften, FU Berlin, 12 May 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: „‘Frieden’ statt ‚Sicherheit‘ als Leitbild – Interdisziplinäre Entwicklungsforschung als Handlungsgrundlage“, Public Presentation in the series “Frieden und Sicherheit in Zeiten globaler Umbrüche”, URANIA Berlin, in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, 11 May 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Transformative Science for a better World”, welcoming address at the Bonn Conference for Global Transformation, Bonn, 12-13 May 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: „Liquid Disciplinaryities? Nah- und Mitteloststudien in Zeiten der Globalisierung“, panel contribution on the occasion of the publication of META No. 4 ‘Area Studies’, University of Marburg, 26 May 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „... dem Frieden der Welt zu dienen“, expert talk at Evangelische Akademie Berlin, 4 May 2015.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - PAST

ALFF, H.: “A sense of multiple belonging? Translocal relations and narratives of change among a Dungan community”, presentation at the workshop “Exploring Translocality: Methodological Reflections and Ethnographic Cases”, American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 8 April 2015.

BALDAUF, I. & SCHETTER, C.: “Basic Questions of Area Studies”, Workshop of the German Research Foundation (DFG), Como, Italy, 25 – 27 March 2015.

BENZ, A.: “Studies in Place – Placing the Students: Education Migrants’ Shifting Socio-Spatial Positionalities in Gilgit, Pakistan”, presentation at the FRIAS Workshop: Translocal Spatial Practices, Urban Transformations: Migration and Mobile Urbanism in South and South-East Asia, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Freiburg i.Br., 15 January 2015.

BENZ, A.: “Translokale Livelihoods und Entwicklung im Karakorum”, lecture in the series “Regional Geography”, Institut für Geographische Wissenschaften, FU Berlin, 2 February 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Entwicklungs- und Wissenssoziologie in den deutschen Meereswissenschaften”, presentation, strategic planning of Leibniz-Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen, 23 April 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Forum Mensch, Governance & Ressourcennutzung”, panel contribution, Konsortium Deutscher Meereswissenschaften, 15-17 April 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Crossroads Studies – From (Im-) Mobilities to Differentiated Spatialities”, presentation at conference “Mongolistik – Perspektiven akademischer Kooperation”, University of Bonn, 9 April 2015.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Development Research – Its Pasts and Futures”, opening lecture of the ARTS-Program Lecture Series (Agricultural Sciences and Resource Management in the Tropics and Subtropics), Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bonn, 9 April 2015.

ISMALBEKOVA, A.: “Urban Uzbeks at the Margins of Osh”, lecture in the lecture series “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Marginality in Africa, the Middle-East and Asia”, at Urban Studies Seminar 2014/15 at ZMO, Berlin, 13 April 2015.

JONIAK-LÜTHI, A.: “Production of spatial meaning and shifting geographies at China’s northwestern border”, MIASU Lunch Seminar, Social Anthropology Unit, University of Cambridge, 10 March 2015.

KREUTZMANN, H.: “Environmental changes and challenges: Local, regional and global perspectives”, keynote at the IIG Congress, Guwahati, Assam, India, 25 February 2015.

KREUTZMANN, H.: “Earth, society and sustainability – a tragedy of responsibility?”, presentation at the IIG Congress, Guwahati, Assam, India, 27 February 2015.

KREUTZMANN, H.: „Von der Wahrheitssuche zur Multiperspektivität“, ceremonial address for the opening of the exhibition “Über den Himalaya. Die Expedition der Brüder Schlagintweit nach Indien und Zentralasien 1854 bis 1858”, Alpines Museum München, 18 March 2015.

KREUTZMANN, H.: „Asien als Bühne eines imperialen Machtkampfes. Prolog und Epilog zum tragischen Ende von Adolph Schlagintweit in Kashgar“, lecture at „Die Expedition der Brüder Schlagintweit nach Indien und Zentralasien und die aktuelle Wissenschaft“, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften München, 23 April 2015.

REETZ, D.: “Global ambitions and local grievances: understanding political Islam”, talk at the Ditchley Foundation Conference, Oxford, UK, 19 – 21 March 2015.

REETZ, D.: “Muslims in Germany and PEGIDA – assumptions and realities”, talk at the Quilliam Foundation, London, UK, 14 April 2015.

REETZ, D.: “Muslims in the West C”, chair of the panel at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the British Association of Islamic Studies (BRAIS), London, UK, 13 – 15 April 2015.

REETZ, D.: “Alternate Globalities? Muslim Networks from South Asia as Global Actors” paper for the workshop “Diaspora as Agents of Global Cooperation”, Centre for Global Cooperation Research/Käte Hamburger Kolleg, Duisburg, 20-22 April 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „Stell dir vor, es ist Krieg. Zum Umgang mit kriegerischer Gewalt“, Annual Colloquium of the German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies (AFK), Berlin, 19 – 21 March 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: “Future Conflicts – Conflicts about the Future”, Institute of Geography, University of Bonn, 15 April 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „Lehrstunde Afghanistan“, colloquium at Deutsch-Atlantische Gesellschaft, DGAP and NATO, Berlin, 22 April 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: “Riskscapes”, workshop at the Institute of Geography, University of Bonn, 30 April 2015.

NEW PROJECTS

SCHETTER, C./BICC (2015-2018): “Local Security-Making in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The Production of Security-scapes by Everyday Practices”.

In contrast to the ‘securitization’-debate, which dominated academia over the last decade, this project will focus on the everyday practices of people coping with security challenges. The three-year research project focuses on overlapping security-scapes as individual, as well as collective space-making approaches. The intention is to investigate everyday practices of the production of security-scapes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The project is interdisciplinary by design and will be based on intensive, long-term field research. It will be carried out jointly and equally by all three partners, the Research Center for Contemporary Processes and Future Planning of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan, the Regional Studies Department of the University of Osh as well as the Bonn International Center for Conversion. Emphasis will be placed on intensive training of young scholars (PhD and Post-Doc-level) as well as to capacity-building at the Central Asian partner institutions.

INTERVIEWS

KAISER, M.: “Why Germans are joining the fight in eastern Ukraine”, Deutsche Welle, 16 March 2015.

REETZ, D.: „Angst vor dem Islam – berechtigt oder nicht?“, RadioEins, 9 January 2015.

REETZ, D.: „Ahmadiyya ist kooperativ“, Mittelbayrische Zeitung, 27 January 2015.

REETZ, D.: Studio talk with Thomas Klug, N24 News, regarding ISIS, the destruction of cultural heritage sites in Mossul and the reasons for joining ISIS of people like “Jihadi John”, 27 February 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „Resolute Schwäche. Interview with Conrad Schetter“, Detektor.fm, 4 March 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „Kulturgüterzerstörung als Kriegsmittel“, Deutschlandradio Kultur, 6 March 2015.

SCHETTER, C.: „Staatszerfall als Folge der Militärintervention? Libyen vier Jahre nach den NATO-Luftschlägen“, NDR-Info, 7 March 2015.

“CROSS”-BLOGGING

IMPRESSIONS ON MY INTERNSHIP: THINKING ABOUT REGIONS, BOUNDARIES AND SPATIALITY

BY LEA WILLEKE

“When I found out I would be able to do an internship at the Crossroads Asia Coordination Office, I started looking forward to learning about a ‘region’ I had not been working on during my studies so far. During my time in Bonn, however, I learned about much more than just a ‘region’.

There were many issues I had come across during my studies of Geography that I was happy to see discussed or applied at Crossroads Asia. It was good to see that essentialist and Eurocentric knowledge production, for example, which is still applied at some universities and disciplines in Germany, is questioned critically. (...)

I find the idea of a ‘Crossroads’ approach to Area Studies particularly interesting, as it contains aspects of mobility and dynamics. It also aims to combine concepts and methods from Area Studies and ‘systematic’ disciplines and thereby transcends epistemological boundaries and ‘containers’.”

CONTINUE READING [here](#).

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

INTERASIAN CONNECTIONS V: SEOUL
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
ASIA CENTER

InterAsian Connections V: Seoul is the fifth in a series of conferences showcasing innovative research from across the social sciences and related disciplines that explores themes that transform conventional understandings of Asia. Crossing traditional area studies boundaries and creating international and interdisciplinary networks of scholars working to theorize the intersection of the “global” and the “regional” in a variety of contexts, the conference reconceptualizes Asia as a dynamic and interconnected historical, geographical, and cultural formation stretching from West Asia through Eurasia, South Asia and Southeast Asia, to East Asia. For further information, please click [here](#).

CONTACT: interasia@ssrc.org

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
5 June 2015

CONFERENCE DATES: April 27–30, 2016

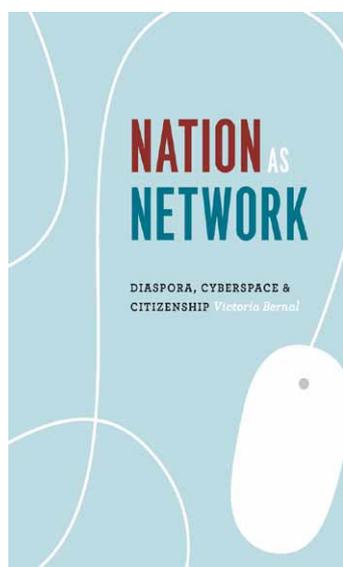
LOCATION:
Seoul National University Asia Center

NATION AS NETWORK: DIASPORA, CYBERSPACE, AND CITIZENSHIP BY VICTORIA BERNAL

REVIEWED BY LEA WILLEKE

In “Nation as Network” Bernal argues that questions of sovereignty and citizenship are transformed by new media and geographical displacement [1]. Her findings are grounded on ethnographic research conducted in the “Eritrean cyberspace”, in which she examined three websites constructed by people of the Eritrean diaspora as public spheres.

As websites are platforms enabling people to articulate meanings in their own words, the author states that they make dominant nationalist discourses as well as alternative perspectives visible [4]. This is especially interesting in the context of authoritarian governments where Bernal defines the role of cyberspace in opening channels for expression that challenge mainstream media and practices of secrecy and censorship [6]. Bernal misses out on describing consequences of criticizing the government for family members in Eritrea or for the availability of the websites on Eritrean territory.



Bernal, V. (2014): *Nation as Network: Diaspora, Cyberspace, and Citizenship*. Chicago, London: The University of Chicago Press.

The main results of her study are already presented in the introductory chapter, as well as an approach to three concepts she developed: “infopolitics”, “diasporic citizenship” and “sacrificial citizenship”. They are referred to in detail in the five following chapters, which contain a detailed analysis and presentation of the Eritrean case. At some points the reader might get the impression of repetitions since some specifics and details of Eritrea reappear in each chapter. On the other hand Bernal might have chosen to do so because it leads to a better understanding of each chapter without the context of earlier chapters [23]. Initially, Bernal illustrates the one-sided social contract between the state and its citizens. This so-called “sacrificial citizenship” is characterized by the state’s demand for sacrifice for the independence of the Eritrean nation, for example through martyrdom or financial support from the diaspora. Furthermore, the author perceives the online public sphere as an arena of infopolitical struggle and understands “infopolitics” as a central aspect of politics and power [2].

In the second chapter Bernal emphasizes that in constructing the online public sphere as a national space which blurs boundaries because of the influence on the Eritrean government, the diaspora’s online activities redefine the concept of nation and change the experience of the diaspora in that they are perceived and perceive themselves as within the nation and at the same time keep a geographical distance to the national territory [89]. This extension of the nation into the deterritorialized spaces of diaspora and cyberspace is what Bernal calls “diasporic citizenship”. The author continues by describing websites used as space to develop new political subjectivities in the third chapter. She argues that the diaspora started to use cyberspace as a platform through which the state could be challenged by civil society and dissent [89]. Bernal identifies as the subtext of these websites questions of power and infopolitical struggle: “who has the right to define Eritrea and its people?” [118]. The significance of this question becomes clearer in the fourth chapter where the author focuses on memorials in cyberspace created by the diaspora. Bernal describes this as taking on state’s responsibilities and in doing so, obscuring borders and distances. Bernal argues that this involvement of the diaspora in national agency leads to new understandings of nation which she identifies as based on connections between people rather than their relationship to the state [123]. In this sense she understands nation as a social formation, a network, instead of a territorial state [127]. The role of gender in the online public sphere is discussed in the fifth chapter which looks at debates about military rapes and the hegemony of dominant

groups and views on the websites. Furthermore, Bernal examines how social structures are reproduced in novel settings like diaspora and cyberspace [162]. In the Eritrean case women are seen as part of the nation, not as citizens, but as mothers or sisters of citizens.

This leads to the understanding that women are not part of politics and their opinion is not perceived as valuable and reliable.

“Nation as Network” is written in a clear and exciting manner. Bernal raises interesting ideas about the connections between political agency, new media and mobility, which offer possibilities of contributing to the “Crossroads”-perspective in reference to spatiality, border-crossing or border-transcending flows, and the internet as further space for research.

Bernal emphasizes that deep knowledge and understanding of the history, culture and way of expression of the examined community are important for websites as well as for every cultural space.

Lea Willeke is a student of Geography at the University of Bremen and was an intern with Crossroads Asia at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) in Bonn. © Lea Willeke, 2015.

We welcome reviews of books related to Crossroads Asia’s research from any interested party. Submissions will be considered for publication in the order that they are received at crossroads@uni-bonn.de.



Crossroads Asia staff from ZEF (Uni Bonn) and BICC, from left to right: Nelli Nokkala, Claus Bech Hansen, Roxana Bitá, Jannik Kaiser, Epifania Amoo-Adare, Catherine Reynolds, Katja Mielke, Markus Kaiser and Anna-Katharina Hornidge. Not pictured: Conrad Schetter and Wagma Bromand.

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.

Imprint

PUBLISHER:

Center for Development Research (ZEF)
Walter-Flex-Straße 3
53113 Bonn | Germany
phone: +49 (0)228 / 73 17 22
fax: +49 (0)228 / 73 12 972
email: crossroads@uni-bonn.de
www.crossroads-asia.de

RESPONSIBLE EDITOR: Dr. Markus Kaiser

LAYOUT: Catherine Reynolds and Helena Cermeno
Mediavilla

Crossroads Asia Newsletter is a quarterly publication, free of charge.

Crossroads Asia competence network is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

