



CROSSROADS ASIA



Claudia Derichs chairs the opening panel of the 4th International Crossroads Conference.
Source: Yesim Pacal (2014).

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Highlights

CROSSROADS ASIA ENTERS NEW PHASE

Thanks to the generous financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Crossroads Asia competence network can look forward to two further years of in-depth collaboration and research starting this month (January 2015). When the network was established four years ago, network members were organized into three working groups, focusing on conflict, migration and mobility, respectively. Based on the rich empirical findings emerging from this initial phase, the Crossroads Asia network will now proceed toward an overarching analysis, synthesizing prior research projects, with the ultimate aim of identifying an all-encompassing approach to Area Studies. This so-called “Crossroads Perspective” will constitute an interdisciplinary research paradigm. Achieving this result will entail narrowing down a range of tested concepts and methodologies to an essential core. In addition, the Crossroads paradigm will contain an ethical component, to guide Area Studies researchers in reflecting on the tangible impacts of the research they conduct.

In this new phase of its existence, the Crossroads Asia network will continue its investigation of figurations, a concept that implies that changes, minor or major, within one element of a constellation always affect the constellation as a whole. However, a new emphasis

will be placed on the communicative construction of reality within the figurations observed. Thus, social interactions are taking center stage in our research. We are particularly interested in the implications of social interaction for the construction of spatial realities. What makes borders and boundaries that limit particular spaces take on significance; what causes their meaning to be altered or even lost? The network will investigate the interactive negotiation of not only geographic, but also political, socio-cultural and ethnic boundaries. In addition to the investigation of boundary making and boundary weakening taking place through social interaction, we will focus on processes of social and geographic (im)mobility. Within the constructed spaces that emerge, who can transgress borders and who stays put?

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation over the next two years as we continue to grow and our network expands. We hope you will follow our progress in the pursuit of the conceptual, methodological and ethical pillars of the new Crossroads Perspective.

NEW CROSSROADS WORKING PAPER

- » **Issue No. 24:** “Strategic Positioning and the Reproduction of Inequality. The case of the Johari Shauka of the Kumaon Himalaya, India”, by A. Benz.

Activities in the Network

NEW COLLEAGUES IN THE NETWORK

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA COORDINATOR

Dr. **MARKUS KAISER** took over the position of scientific coordinator of Crossroads Asia in January 2015. He previously held visiting professorships/lectureships at the Eurasian National University (ENU, KAZ), American University in Bishkek (AUCA, KYR) and the Faculty of Sociology, State University of St. Petersburg (SPbGU, RUS) and served as director of the Center for German and European Studies at the St. Petersburg State University (RUS). Dr. Kaiser is a sociologist by training with a specialisation in development sociology (University of Bielefeld, later Trier). His particular fields of interest comprise transnationalization and migration, transformation, globalisation of knowledge, development studies, and countries in transition.

Crossroads Asia extends its thanks to outgoing scientific coordinator PD Dr. **ANNA-KATHARINA HORNIDGE**, who will remain with the network in her capacity both as Director of ZEF's Department of Political and Cultural Change and a member of the University of Bonn faculty. You can watch her inaugural faculty lecture from December 2014 [here](#).

NEW CROSSROADS ASIA RESEARCHER AT LMU

Dr. **AGNIESZKA JONIAK-LÜTHI** has joined the network as a post-doctoral researcher affiliated with LMU's Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Agnieszka received her MA in Chinese Studies from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland, and her PhD in ethnology from the University of Bern, Switzerland. In the past years she worked at the Universities of Bern and St. Gallen and was a visiting scholar at the University of Washington, Xinjiang University and University of Oslo. In her project for Crossroads Asia, Agnieszka is going to explore the expansion of transportation networks in Xinjiang, and between Xinjiang and Central Asia. Her conceptual take on this expansion is anchored in theories of space and place, especially the multivocality of places and multiplicity of spatial production. She also intends to explore the interaction between the materiality of transportation infrastructure and its social effects, and the involvement of transportation infrastructure in the negotiation and performance of ethnic and national identities.

DR. KATJA MIELKE MOVES FROM ZEF TO BICC

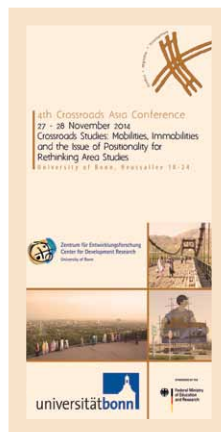
As of April 2015, Dr. **KATJA MIELKE** will be joining the network member institute Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC). She will continue with her work package "Menschen im Zwischenraum: Umgang mit erzwungener Immobilität in Kabul".

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - UPCOMING

SHIOYA, A.: "New Horizons in Central Asian History: Archival Sources and Environmental Studies", 3 February 2015, ZEF, Bonn.

CROSSROADS ASIA EVENTS - PAST

4TH INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS CONFERENCE AT ZEF



The "Crossroads Studies" Conference, held on 27-28 November 2014 at ZEF, searched for alternatives to the conventional "world regions" as defining bases for Area Studies and tried to find a more constructive approach for linking Area Studies to the systematic disciplines.

You can find video footage of the following conference events at our website:

- Welcome note by **ANNA-KATHARINA HORNIDGE** (ZEF)
- Keynote by **Peter A. Jackson** (Australian National University)
- Lecture by **BIANCA BOTEVA-RICHTER** (Uni Vienna): "The Society of Betweenness - Migration and Identities of Migrants"
- Panel 7 - **AREA STUDIES AS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR SCIENCE POLICY: Making Sense of Interdisciplinary Complexities**
- Closing remarks by **INGEBORG BALDAUF** (HU Berlin) (continued on following page)

- Interviews with the following conference participants:

- » *Andreas Benz (FU Berlin)*
- » *Jeanine Daguayé (ZMO, Berlin)*
- » *Gudrun Lachenmann (Uni Bielefeld)*
- » *Dietrich Reetz (ZMO, Berlin)*

- » *Conflicting “Lines of Control” and “Soft Borders” in Kashmir (Antía Mato Bouzas, ZMO, Berlin);*
- » *The Rhizomatic State: An Ethnographic Approach to the China-Pakistan Border (Alessandro Rippa, University of Aberdeen);*
- » *‘Home’ and ‘Away’ — Identity or Infrastructure (Rune Steenberg, FU, Berlin).*

Click on the image above for a link to the [conference program](#) with a list of all speakers.

ACTIVATED BORDERS – RE-OPENINGS, RUPTURES AND RELATIONSHIPS

The 4th Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, 8-10 December 2014, Hong Kong, hosted two panels organized by Crossroads Asia members.

ANNA-KATHARINA HORNDIGE & KATJA MIELKE organized and chaired the panels “Transgressing Borderlands in Academia: (Im-)Mobilities, Boundary-Practices & Positionality for Rethinking Area Studies I + II”, with the following presentations:

- » *Crossroads Studies: Towards a Research Programme Crossing Conventional Area Studies’ Boundaries (Katja Mielke, Uni Bonn);*
- » *Paved with Good Intentions: Resurrecting Area Studies in Western Europe (Manuela Boatcă, FU Berlin);*
- » *Shifting Epistemologies: From Center to Margin (Claudia Derichs; Uni Marburg);*
- » *Presence, Return and Absence: Interpreting Mobility Transitions in Rural Asia (Jonathan Rigg, National University of Singapore);*
- » *Gay and Lesbian Asia Across Borders: Emerging Regional Sexual Identities and Challenges to Euro-American Queer Theory (Peter Jackson, Australian National University);*
- » *Southeast Asian Area Studies. Concepts and Directions for an Emerging Academic Field (Christoph Antweiler, Uni Bonn);*
- » *‘The Cognitive in Rethinking Area Studies – Which Borders, Mobilities and ‘Areas’ are we talking about?.’*

ANTÍA MATO BOUZAS & HENRYK ALFF organized and chaired the panel “Connectivities, Disruptions and Emerging Spatialities in Border Dynamics at Asian Crossroads”, with the presentations:

- » *Spatial and Social Fictions: Effects of Border Dynamics on Cross- Border Relations of Baloch Groups in Iran (Just Boedeker, ZMO, Berlin);*

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST

BEHAL, R.: “One hundred Years of servitude: colonialism, labour history and Assam”, 9 December 2014, ZELF, FU Berlin.

KAISER, M.: “A Crossroads Perspective on Migration Patterns in Eurasia”, Crossroads Asia Lecture and ZEFa Research Colloquium, 28 January 2015, ZEF, Bonn.

ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP IN BORDER STUDIES, UC DAVIS

The University of California, Davis is granting a two-year Visiting Assistant Professorship for 2015-2017 in Comparative Border Studies. Applicants should be specialists in research on one or more border zones, such as: US-Mexico, Israel-Palestine, Afghanistan-Pakistan, North- South Korea, East-West Germany, North Africa-Europe, etc. Junior scholars including recent PhDs will be considered. To apply, please send a letter of interest, CV, and contact information for three (3) references through the online application form found [here](#).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 6 February 2015

KIRMANI, N.: “Narrating and Negotiating Urban Conflict: A study of Lyari, Karachi”, 4 November 2014, ZMO, Berlin.

MIELKE, K.: “Negotiating urban being and becoming in Kabul, Afghanistan”, 15 January 2015, ZEF, Bonn.

RENZI, B.: “Re-thinking secular-nationalism and untouchability in contemporary Central India”, 9 December 2014, ZELF, FU Berlin.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ALFF, H. (2014): Review of Brox, T. & I. Beller-Hann (eds.) (2014): *On the Fringes of the Harmonious Society: Tibetans and Uyghurs in Socialist China*. Copenhagen: NIAS Press, in: *Central Asian Survey* 33 (4), 575-7.

ALFF, H.; BENZ, A. & M. SCHMIDT (EDS., 2014): Mobilities in Asian Contexts. Special issue of *Internationales Asienforum/ International Quarterly for Asian Studies* 45 (1-2). With contributions from the network: 1) Alff, H.; Benz, A. & Schmidt, M.: Mobilities in Asian Contexts, 7-23; 2) Ismailbekova, A.: Mobility as coping strategy of Osh Uzbeks in the aftermath of conflict, 49-68; 3) Smolarz, E.: Unterwegs wider Willen. Mobilität in den Schilderungen russischer Sklaven im Buchara des 18. und 19. Jahrhunderts, 85-111; 4) Mielke, K.: Book review. Kuzmits, B.: *Borders and Orders in Central Asia*, 225-227.

BENZ, A. (2014): Mobility, multi-locality and translocal development: Changing livelihoods in the Karakoram, in: *Geographica Helvetica* 69 (4), 259-270.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.; K. VAN ASSCHE & A. SHTALTOVNA (2014): 'Agricultural Resources Governance in Uzbekistan: A System Theory-Inspired Perspective on Evolutionary Governance', in: Beunen, Raol & K. van Assche (eds.) 'Evolutionary Governance Theory: Theory and Applications', Springer, 87-106.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.; M. UL HASSAN & L. VAN VELDHIJZEN (2014): 'Follow the Innovation: Transdisciplinary Innovation Research in Khorezm, Uzbekistan,' in Lamers, J. P.A., A. Khamzina, I. Rudenko, P. Vlek (eds.) 'Restructuring land allocation, water use and agricultural value chains, Technologies, policies and practices for the lower Amudarya region', Bonn: Bonn University Press/Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Unipress, 341-362.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A. & J. FÉAUX DE LA CROIX (EDS., 2014): Special Issue on Futures and Belongings in Kyrgyzstan. *The Anthropology of East Europe Review (AEER)* 32 (2). With contributions: 1) Introduction, 1-16; 2) Securing future lives of children through ritualised parenthood in the village of Bulak, Kyrgyzstan, 17-32.

KAISER, M./SCHÖNHUTH, M. (EDS., 2015): *Zuhause? Fremd? – Migrations- und Beheimatungsstrategien zwischen Deutschland und Eurasien*. Bielefeld: transcript. As well as the contributions by Schönhuth/Kaiser : 1) Zuhause? Fremd? Eine Bestandsaufnahme, 9-24; 2) Einmal Deutschland und wieder zurück. Umkehrstrategien von Spätaussiedlern im Kontext sich wandelnder Migrationsregime, 275-290.

KAISER, M. & SCHÖNHUTH, M. (2014): *Umkehr von der Rückkehr. Spätaussiedler, auf dem Weg zurück*, in: Menzel, B. & C. Engel (eds.): *Rückkehr in die Fremde? Ethnische Remigration russlanddeutscher Spätaussiedler*, Berlin: Frank & Timme, 247-266.

CALL FOR PAPERS

DOING POLICY ANALYSIS WITH SKAD (10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN INTERPRETIVE POLICY ANALYSIS)

The Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Discourse (SKAD) is seeking for a number of papers which examine power/ knowledge relations in political conflict and policy-making with SKAD or with related approaches of Discourse Analysis.

Every paper presentation should contain at least four common elements: a short description of the empirical case, an explanation of SKAD application/modification, an exemplification of interpretive inquiry, and finally a synoptic illustration of (preliminary) findings. For further information please have a look on the [Abstract](#).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 3 February 2015. Please send your proposals to **PD Dr. Anna Katharina Horndige** or **Dr. Wolf J. Schünemann**.

KHAN BANERJEE, B. & M. SCHMIDT (2015): *Einheit in Vielfalt? Politische Separationsbestrebungen in Indien am Beispiel von Khalistan und Gorkhaland*, in: *Geographische Rundschau* 67, 1, 32-39.

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL TRAVEL AND THE POLITICS OF TRANSNATIONAL MOBILITY IN ASIA

This workshop aims to provide a platform for discussing empirical and conceptual works on international medical travel in the context of the politics of transnational mobilities in Asia. Viewing Asia as a region of diverse and dynamic transnational mobilities, we are interested in papers that explore the ways in which international medical travel has developed in the region, the local, national and regional mechanisms that both impede and aid international medical travel, and the negotiations and contestations that accompany it. For further information, please click [here](#).

CONTACT: [Chee Heng Leng](#) & [Andrea Whittaker](#)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
30 March 2015

CONFERENCE DATES: 26-27 August 2015

LOCATION: NU Singapore

KREUTZMANN, H. (2014): The Central Asian oases - from trading towns to centres of modernisation, In: Marshall A., Lavie E., Chaléard J-L., Fort M., Lombard J. (eds.): Actes du colloque international Les oasis dans la mondialisation: ruptures et continuités, Paris, 16 et 17 Décembre 2013 (= Actes du colloque "Oasis dans la mondialisation: ruptures et continuités"), 125-130.

RAUCH, T., SCHMIDT, M. & D. SEGBART (2014): New rural dynamics and challenges in the Global South, in: Geographica Helvetica 69, 225-226.

REETZ, D. (2014): Indien: Das zweitgrößte islamische Land der Erde. [Online-Dossier Indien](#). Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

REETZ, D. (2014): 1) Tablīghī Jamā'at, 30-36; 2) Laïcité and Piety - The Tablīghī Jamā'at in France, 195-200; in: F. Peter & R. Ortega (eds.): Islamic Movements of Europe: Perspectives on Public Religion and Islamophobia. London: I.B. Tauris.

SCHMIDT, M. (ED.) (2014): Aktuelle Forschungen zu den Mensch-Umwelt-Verhältnissen in Kirgistan. Hannoversche Geographische Arbeiten 62. Münster: Lit. As well as the contributions : 1) Wandlung von Natur und Gesellschaft in Kirgistan, 1-10; 2) Die Walnuss-Wildobst-Wälder Kirgistans im Fokus divergierender Interessen und Akteure, 20-33; 3) Lebensunterhaltssicherung, Armut und Verwundbarkeit im zentralen Tien Schan, 87-104.

SHTALTOVNA, A.; K. VAN ASSCHE & A.-K. HORNIDGE (2014): 'Accounting in Evolving Organisations', in: Beunen, R. & K. van Assche (eds.) 'Evolutionary Governance Theory: Theory and Applications', Springer, 267-290.

SHTALTOVNA, A.; A.-K. HORNIDGE & P. P. MOLLINGA (2014): 'Caught in a Web – Travails of a Machine-Tractor-Park in Khorezm, Uzbekistan' in Lamers, J. P.A., A. Khamzina, I. Rudenko, P. Vlek (eds.) 'Restructuring land allocation, water use and agricultural value chains, Technologies, policies and practices for the lower Amudarya region', Bonn: Bonn University Press/Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Unipress, 317-340.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - UPCOMING

REETZ, D.: "Global Ambitions and Local Grievances: Understanding Political Islam.", invited participant at the Ditchley Foundation, Oxford, 19-21 March 2015.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - PAST

BENZ, A.: "Studies in Place – Placing the Students: Education Migrants' Shifting Socio-Spatial Positionalities in Gilgit, Pakistan", 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.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: The ZEFa-Director gave her inaugural talk as Privatdozent (PD) at the Dies Academicus entitled "Entwicklungsforschung" - Von der Konstitution einer Disziplin. University Bonn, 3 December 2014.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: co-organized "Interdisziplinärer Zentralasientag" in Hamburg with Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix (Uni Tübingen), Dr. Anja Franke Schwenk (Uni Kiel) and Dr. Sebastian Schiek (IFSH Hamburg), 5 December 2014.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: "Marriage as a coping strategy in the aftermath of conflict" presented at the conference organized by Dr. Sophie Roche on "Family in the History of Central Asia" at the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality" at Heidelberg University, 26-28 November 2014.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: "Construction of women's' authority through custom: mobility, reflexivity, and temporality", invited speaker at the Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality" at the Heidelberg University, 4 December 2014.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: "Aktuelle Forschungsfragen in den Zentralasienstudien. The Crossroads Asia Perspective.", at the Interdisziplinärer Zentralasientag in Hamburg, 5 December 2014.

KREUTZMANN, H.: Discussant for the presentation of "Adapting Fee-Based Agricultural Advisory Services to Mountainous Regions in Tajikistan", Seminar für ländliche Entwicklung, HU Berlin, 18 November 2014.

KREUTZMANN, H.: "Wasserwirtschaft im globalen Spannungsfeld: Das Ferganatal in Zentralasien. Konflikte um die Georessource Wasser." Akademie-Vorlesung Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, 11 December 2014.

MIELKE, K.: "Local Governance, Politics, and the State – a Theoretical View", Paper presentation and Moderation of Policy Dialogue at the Conference "Local Representations of Power in South Asia" at Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan, 12/13 November 2014.

MIELKE, K.: "Afghanistans Flüchtlinge, Rückkehrer und Staatenlose - aktuelle Einblicke oder: Der Versuch, Mobilität in, um, nach und aus Afghanistan zu fassen", Presentation at the DIES Academicus, Bonn University, 3 December 2014.

REETZ, D.: "Islam and Globalization: South Asian Muslim Activists And Their Global Networking", lecture at National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS), Qaid-e-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad (Pakistan), in cooperation with Hans Seidel Foundation, 20 November 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: reported on the current situation in Afghanistan at the Parliamentary Evening of the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF) titled "New responsibility – more commitment on the promotion of peace? Potentials and options for German politics in times of escalating violent conflicts", Berlin, 12 November 2014.

SCHMIDT, M.: "Threats and challenges for pastoral livelihoods in Afar (Ethiopia)." Grenoble, Université Joseph Fourier, 6 November 2014.

SCHMIDT, M.: "Zentralasien zwischen Klimawandel, Transformation und Globalisierung." Berlin, Fachtag Geographie, 22 November 2014.

SCHMIDT, M.: "Aktuelle Forschungsfragen in den Zentralasienstudien" (Panel). Hamburg, Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik, 2. Interdisziplinärer Zentralasientag, 5 December 2014.

SCHMIDT, M.: 'Where Premodernism and Postmodernism Meet: Dynamiken in Nordpakistan.' Göttingen, Arbeitskreis Südasien, 24 January 2015.

SCHMIDT, M.: "Re-Orient: Kirgistans Gebirgsräume im Spannungsfeld der Globalisierung." Hamburg, Arbeitskreis Hochgebirge, 30 January 2015.

NEW PROJECTS & FELLOWSHIPS

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, FU BERLIN (2014-2017): 'Impacts of socioeconomic and environmental change on agricultural livelihoods in Nager, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan', DFG-Project. Staff: Michael Spies.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A. (11/4/14-12/15/2014): Visiting Fellowship at the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context: The Dynamics of Transculturality” at Heidelberg University.

INTERVIEWS

KREUTZMANN, H.: “Putin in Indien: Globale Auswirkungen einer Partnerschaft“, Golos Rossii (Stimme Russlands), 11 December 2014.

REETZ, D: Interview with RadioEins (RadioOne) of Berlin-Brandenburg public radio, on whether to be scared of Islam or not (live). (German) Große Themen - keine Meinung? [radioeins news talk show](#), 9 January 2015, 6:15 pm.

SCHETTER, C.: “Why Afghan Drug Lords Are Not Afraid of ISAF”, Sputnik News, 13 November 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Friedensforscher: Kriege sind vermeidbar”, Spiegel online, 7 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Bilanz eines Abschieds? Afghanistan auf sich gestellt“, HR2, 10 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “IS: Man hat das Problem zu spät erkannt“, Rbb inforadio, 14 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Vor Ort – Aktuelles zur Geiselnahme in Pakistan“, Phoenix, 16 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Gespräch mit Experte Conrad Schetter zum Anschlag auf Schule in Pakistan“, Bayern 2, 16 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Afghan Chaos spreads to Region“, Sputnik News, 17 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Was vom Einsatz bleibt“, Deutsche Welle, 28 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Afghanistan: Mission erfolgreich?“, Aktuelle Stunde, 29 December 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: “Was passiert denn, wenn man den IS machen lässt?“, Aachener Zeitung, 2 January 2015.



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

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