**Highlights**

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CROSSROADS ASIA CONFERENCE AROUND THE CORNER**

The conference on ‘Crossroads Studies: Mobilities, Immobilities and the Issue of Positionality for Rethinking Area Studies’, taking place 27-28 November 2014 in Bonn, will provide a forum to identify empirically based lines of thought and emic patterns of defining socio-cultural and physical spaces relevant for the rethinking of their disciplinary constructs, especially as pertains to Area Studies. The panels include guests and researchers from all over the world.

The following pages provide an overview of the conference programme. Download the conference flyer here.

Registration is open until **20 November 2014** via crossroads@uni-bonn.de.

**NEW CROSSROADS ASIA FELLOW**

**NIDA KIRMANI**, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), at ZMO in Berlin until mid-December, is investigating how transregional social interaction and mobility dynamics play out in the Lyari district of Karachi.

**CROSSROADS ASIA AT THE 4TH ASIAN BORDERLANDS CONFERENCE, HONG KONG, 8-10 DECEMBER 2014**

The research network Crossroads Asia is organizing two panels at this year’s Asian Borderlands Conference “Activated Borders: Re-openings, Ruptures, and Relationships” in Hong Kong, 8-10 December 2014. Click here for the conference programme; for more information about the Crossroads Asia panels, please see p. 5.

**NEW CROSSROADS ASIA WORKING PAPERS**

4th Crossroads Asia Conference

Crossroads Studies: Mobilities, Immobilities and the Issue of Positionality for Rethinking Area Studies

Please see our website for more information.

Programme

Thursday, 27 November

09:30-11:00 Welcome Note: Anna-Katharina Hornidge: Crossroads Studies: Mobilities, Immobilities and the Issue of Positionality for Rethinking Area Studies

Keynote: Peter Jackson (Australian National University): 21st Century Legacies of Area Studies: Theoretical and Strategic Responses to Multiplying Hegemonies and the Neoliberal University

11:30-13:00 Panel 1: To Be or Not to Be is Not the Question: Rethinking Area Studies in its Own Right

Chair: Claudia Derichs (University of Marburg/University of Duisburg-Essen)

Cynthia Chou (University of Copenhagen): The Case for Reconceptualising Southeast Asian Studies

Ali Fathollah-Nejad (German Orient Institute & Free University of Berlin): Rethinking “Middle Eastern Studies”: Analytical and Conceptual Queries and Propositions

Dandekar Deepra (University of Heidelberg): Margins of Center? Kokani Sufi Muslims between India and ‘Arabastan’

14:30-16:00 Panel 2: The Nexus Mobility/Immobility in Rethinking Area Studies

Chair: Dietrich Reetz (Crossroads Asia/Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin)

Seonyoung Seo (National University of Singapore): Transnational Spaces and Governmentality in Nepal - South Korea Labour Mobility

Henryk Alff (Crossroads Asia/Centre for Development Studies Berlin): Red Lines for Uncivilised Trade? Fixity, Mobility and Position on Almaty’s Changing Bazaars

Aftab Nasir (Center for Development Research Bonn): Boon or Burden: The Obligations of Vartan Bhanji and Coping Strategies of Poor Households of Different Biraderis Living in Rural Punjab

Friday, 28 November

09:00-10:30 Panel 4: Positionality: Situating Knowledge(s) between Multiple Verges

Chair: Christoph Antweiler (University of Bonn)

Catherina Wenzel, Ulrike Kollodzeiski & Karsten Schmidt (University of Frankfurt): Configurations of Positioning and Dialogue in the Dynamics of European-Asian Encounters in the 17th/18th Century

Bianca Boteva-Richter (University of Vienna): The Society of Betweenness - Migration and Identities of Migrants

Andreas Benz (Crossroads Asia/Centre for Development Studies Berlin): Positionality at the Crossroads: Gendered Lifeworlds, Social Situatedness and the Relational Production of Place in the Context of Student Migration to Gilgit, Pakistan

10:30-12:15 Panel 5: ‘Mid-Range Concepts’ as Tools for Emic-Etic Practice

Chair: Conrad Schetter (Crossroads Asia/Bonn International Center for Conversion)

Gudrun Lachenmann (University of Bielefeld): Developing Mid-Range Concepts in ‘Global Ethnography’: From Researching Knowledge Systems and Systems of Ignorance to Translocal Structuration of (Gendered) Fields and Spaces
Antía Mato Bouzas (Crossroads Asia/Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin): Re-Bordering: Some Reflections on the Kashmir Space


Andreas Wilde & Katja Mielke (Crossroads Asia/University of Bamberg & Center for Development Research Bonn): The Social Order Concept: An Invitation to Non-Normative Ordering in Research Approaches to Past and Contemporary Local Politics

13:30-15:00 PANEL 6: DESCHOOLING (ACADEMIC) SOCIETY: PEDAGOGY, PRACTICE AND POLICY

Chair: Ines Stolpe (University of Bonn)

Jeanine Dagyeli (Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin): Fluid or Perpetual? Conceptions of the Central Asian Region and its Study in Local Textbooks

Philip Paje (University of the Philippines): Positioning ‘Civilization Blocs’ in the Teaching of Area Studies Courses

Annika Fuhrmann (Cornell University): “This Area is [NOT] Under Quarantine”: Rethinking Southeast Asian Studies With (New) Media

Epifania Amoo-Adare (Crossroads Asia/Center for Development Research Bonn): Teaching to Trangress: Crossroads Studies and Adventures in [?]-Disciplinarity

15:30-17:00 Panel discussion: Area Studies as a Building Block for Science Policy: Making Sense of Interdisciplinary Complexities

Chair: Detlef Müller-Mahn (University of Bonn)

Heike Holbig (University of Frankfurt): The Fluidity of Regions – Rethinking (East and Southeast) Asian Area Studies at the Intersections of Cultural Studies and Social Sciences

Olaf Kaltmeier (University of Bielefeld): The Americas as Space of Entanglement: An outline for a New Approach to Area Studies

Vincent Houben (Dorisea/Humboldt Universität zu Berlin): New Area Studies at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Matthias Middell (CrossArea/ University of Leipzig): CrossArea: Interest Group Formation in Research and Education

Sabine Eilers (Federal Ministry of Education and Research): Purpose and Content of the BMBF Funding Priority ‘Strengthening and Advancing Area Studies’

17:00-17:30 CLOSING REMARKS Ingeborg Baldauf (Crossroads Asia/Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Activities in the Network

CROSSROADS ASIA CONFERENCE - PAST

On 11 October 2014 the Crossroads Asia Conference “Spaces of Conflict in Everyday Life” took place at LMU Munich. The aim of the conference was to investigate the ‘how’ of conflicts – modes of action and mobilization, imaginaries and narratives, and structures and linkages created through conflicts. For more information please see the conference website.

Lectures and Presentations of Crossroads Asia members at the conference:


UPCOMING CONFERENCE

DEMOCRACY, STATE AND INFORMAL POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

ORGANIZERS: Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague and & Taipei Cultural & Economic Office in Prague.

DATE: 20 November 2014.

CONTACT: Stepan Suchy or visit their website.
Crossroads Asia Lectures - Upcoming


Crossroads Asia Lectures - Past


Recent Publications


**Lectures, Workshops & Presentations - Upcoming**


**Boedeker, J.:** “Spatial and Social Fictions: Effects of Border Dynamics on Cross Border Relations of Baloch Groups in Iran”, 4th Asian Borderlands Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, Hong Kong, China, 8-10 December 2014.

**Hornidge, A.-K.:** “Entwicklungsforschung – Von der Konstitution einer Disziplin”, public inaugural lecture, Dies Academicus of the University of Bonn, 3 December 2014.


**Mielke, K.:** “Afghanistans Flüchtlinge, Rückkehrer und Staatenlose - aktuelle Einblicke”, public lecture, Dies Academicus of the University of Bonn, 3 December 2014.


**Crossroads Asia at the 4th Asian Borderlands Conference “Activated Borders: Re-openings, Ruptures, and Relationships”, Hong Kong, 8-10 December 2014**

The research network looks forward to two Crossroads Asia panels at this year’s Asian Borderlands Conference:

“**CONNECTIVITIES, DISRUPTIONS AND EMERGING SPATIALITIES IN BORDER DYNAMICS AT ASIAN CROSSROADS**” (Convenors: Antía Mato-Bouzas & Henryk Alff)

**Boedeker, J.:** “Spatial and Social Fictions: Effects of Border Dynamics on Cross-Border Relations of Baloch Groups in Iran”

**Mato-Bouzas, A.:** “Conflicting ‘Lines of Control’ and ‘Soft Borders’ in Kashmir”

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**Call for Papers**

**THE MANY HISTORIES OF THE PRESENT: WORKSHOP, 17-19 APRIL, DURHAM NC**

What can the past tell us about the present in the muslim world?

The organizers invite graduate students of anthropology and history (ABD stage) and recent PhDs to submit their reflections.

**Deadline:** 7 January 2015.

For more information please see the website.

**Upcoming Workshop**

**ANNUAL PAKISTAN WORKSHOP AT THE ROOK HOW: “NARRATIVE, BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY” (8-10 MAY 2015)**

The Pakistan Workshop 2015 invites researchers of Pakistan and the Pakistani diaspora to submit abstracts on narratives, (hi)stories and (auto) biography.

**Location:** Rook How Meeting House in the Lake District, UK.

**Deadline:** 28 February 2015. For more information please see the website.

Steenberg, R.: “Home and Away - Identity of Infrastructure”

“Transgressing Borderlands in Academia: (Im-)Mobilities, Boundary-Practices & Positionality for Rethinking Area Studies”

(Convenors: Anna-Katharina Hornidge & Katja Mielke)


Boatcă, M.: “Paved with Good Intentions: Resurrecting Area Studies in Western Europe”

Derichs, C.: “Shifting Epistemologies: From Center to Margin”

Rigg, J.: “Presence, Return and Absence; Interpreting Mobility Transitions in Rural Asia”


Antweiler, C.: “Southeast Asian Area Studies. Concepts and Directions for an Emerging Academic Field”


Schetter, C.: Participation in panel discussion “Bad times for arms control and disarmament?”, BICC, 4 September 2014


Lectures, Workshops and Presentations - Past


Upcoming Conference

The second annual interdisciplinary conference on Central Asia in Hamburg will address the dynamic and multifaceted modes of interaction between state and society. Participation in the conferences is free; the working language will be German.

Dates: 5 December 2014

Location: Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik der Uni Hamburg (ISFH)

Contact: za.tag2014@gmail.com
Crossroads Asia Newsletter No. 14 / October 2014


NEW PROJECTS

NADMABADI, S. & HARDENBERG, R.: RELIGIOUS RESOURCES: ACHIEVING AND CONVERTING RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN ASIA (SFB 1070 Ressourcen Kulturen: Universität Tübingen): This project deals with the role of resource complexes for the creation, maintenance and expansion of important religious institutions in South and Central Asia. Ethnographic and ethno-historical data about religious resources will be collected in extensive fieldworks in India, Kyrgyzstan and Iran.


NEWS FROM THE FIELD

DURDU, A.: Fieldwork in Afghanistan on the silent mobility of women, August-October 2014).

HILL, J.: Short re-visit to Kyrgyzstan. In country to teach qualitative research methods in Bishkek, and re-visiting field site in Alaikuu and NGO and government offices in Kara Kulja and Osh, October 2014.


“CROSS”-BLOGGING

NADMABADI, S.: The Consequences of the ‘North-South Corridor’ for Eastern Iran, June-August 2014.

INTERVIEWS & MEDIA COVERAGE

MIELKE K.: Interview on labor conditions in football producing industry of Sialkot, Pakistan, Radio Eldorado (Dortmund University), 7 October 2014.


Crossroads Asia - Background Information

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 post-Area Studies approach, making thematic figurations and mobility the overarching perspectives of their research in Crossroads Asia. 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 will test the value of 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 frame of all three main thematic foci of our research: conflict, migration and development.

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 will feed into academic teaching, research outside the limits of the competence network, and public relations efforts. Further information on Crossroads Asia is available at www.crossroads-asia.de.