**Highlights**

**BOOK PUBLICATION: PAKISTAN’S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONTRASTS**

„Pakistan: Land der Extreme. Geschichte, Politik, Kultur” by Katja Mielke and Conrad Schetter was published on 18 September 2013. The authors portray the history of the islamic and multiethnic state Pakistan and offer insight into the prolonged conflict with India. For further information please visit C.H. Beck.

**CROSSROADS ASIA MEMBERS PRESENT AT WORKSHOP ON AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN TAJIKISTAN**

The conference “Agricultural Knowledge and Knowledge Systems in Post-Soviet Societies” organized by Anna-Katharina Hornidge and Anastasiya Shtaltovna. Held on September 12 and 13 at ZEF, the conference focused on: cultures of knowledge production and sharing in agriculture, local governance arrangements and knowledge production, and agricultural advisory service development. For detailed information and the conference report, please visit the ZEF homepage.

**NEW CROSSROADS ASIA PUBLICATIONS**

The following Crossroads Asia Working Papers have been published:

» Issue No. 12: “Migration and patrilineal descent: the effects of spatial male mobility on social female mobility in rural Kyrgyzstan” by Aksana Ismailbekova.

» Issue No. 13: “The Ontological Sources of Political Stability and Economy: Mahalla Mediation in the Rural Communities of Southern Tajikistan” by Hafiz Boboyorov.
Activities in the Network

**Crossroads Asia Fellows**

**GULNARA KUZIBAEVA** will join I. Baldauf’s team at HU Berlin beginning next month for a 3-month fellowship to pursue research on “Migration for Sex Work: The Case of Uzbekistan.” She is an Associate Professor at the National University of Uzbekistan in Tashkent and an affiliated researcher at The Sociology Center “Sharh va Tavsiya” with an array of project management and consulting experience. Her main areas of interest include migration, demography and gender, as well as social policy analysis, with a focus on Central Asia.

**RUNE STEENBERG**, hosted by H. Kreutzmann’s team at ZEFL, FU Berlin, begins this month with his fellowship project “Trading networks across the Chinese-Kyrgyz border from a kinship/relatedness perspective.” He aims to provide the working group with a differentiated analysis of the role of kinship in ‘modern’ societies by demonstrating how closely kinship and economics are connected across South Xinjiang and Kyrgyzstan.

**Crossroads Asia Lectures - Upcoming**


**HILL, J. & SOW, P.:** “Research Ethics in Development Research”, drawing from fieldwork experience with Crossroads Asia, ZEF, right conference room, 15 January 2014 at 11 am.

**STEENBERG, R. (FU BERLIN):** “Network or community. The utility of two models of social relations on the case of urban Uyghur Kashgar, Xinjiang, China”, ZEF, 19 February 2014 at 11 am.

**Crossroads Asia Lectures - Past**


**Recent Publications**


**Staff Changes at the Crossroads Asia Network Office / ZEF**

Farewell to **JANA JÜSSEN**: After two and a half years organising the network office of Crossroads Asia, Jana Jüssen is leaving the network. Crossroads Asia would like to thank Ms. Jüssen for her contribution to the network over the past few years and wish her all the best. Ms. Jüssen will be replaced by **NELLI NOKKALA, nelli.nokkala@uni-bonn.de**.

Welcome to **EPIFANIA AMOO-ADARE**: Crossroads Asia welcomes Epifania Amoo-Adare at ZEF and in the network. From November 2013 onwards Ms. Amoo-Adare will contribute to the network’s aim of bringing the empirical research of the different work packages together by analysing the data through a spatial lens and linking discussions on the multidimensionality of space with ongoing debates (further fostered also by Crossroads) on rethinking area studies and their defining bases.


Save the Date


The workshop at ZMO and as part of the Crossroads Asia programme seeks to explore the shifting meaning of regional belonging across the neighbouring regions of South and Central Asia. It proposes to read the transregional interaction here in terms of social, economic, cultural and religious interaction. It thereby focuses on new forms of clustering of such patterns of interaction which allow for new forms of belonging.

For more information, please download the call for abstracts or contact Christian.Kuebler@zmo.de.

Details: 21 March 2014 at ZMO Berlin.


Lectures and Presentations - Past


Lectures and Presentations - Upcoming


New Projects


HORNIDGE, A.-K.: “Follow the Innovation: Collective learning, change adaptation and transition management”, transdisciplinary innovation component of the project BiomassWeb, Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn and Food Security Center (FSC), University of Hohenheim (implementing institutions), Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), July 2013-June 2018.

NADJIMABADI, S. & HARDENBERG, R.: “Religious resources: achieving and converting resources in Central and Southern Asia.” This component of the DFG-funded project “ResourcenKulturen”, carried out at the University of Tübingen, 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 via extensive fieldwork in India, Kyrgyzstan and Iran. These case studies illustrate the sociocultural practices necessary for achieving and converting religious resources; they serve to identify the interdependencies between religion, economy and state; and they help to understand how conflicts concerning religious resources develop. The project will be financed from 2014-2017. For further information visit their website.

Shaping (Science) Policy


HORNIDGE, A.-K.: Presentation “ASEAN’s Wissensgesellschaften und ein asiatischer Bologna Prozess?” at the one-day expert meeting “Effects of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 Processes on Research Cooperation between Germany and Southeast Asia”, organised by BMBF, Bonn, 30 October 2013.

Interviews

MIELKE, K. & SCHETTER, C.: Interview to WDR5 about the recently published book “Pakistan: Land der Extreme”.

“Cross”-blogging

In her blog entry, “The (non)arrival of three families – final destination or transit-stop in a long displacement”, Katja Mielke shares experiences from her field research in Afghanistan (11 October - 9 November, 2013):

“The Malek: ‘This camp is like a jungle. There are 57 families. We are better off here than in Laghman. We can have a daily income from going around with carts [karachi] selling things. The land we are sitting on belongs to the neighbouring school, the school master says. When the would-be landlord who claims to own the land with his four brothers once came in the beginning to ask for rent payments and we denied it, he notified the municipality and asked to evict us.’

To read the rest of this “Cross”-blogging post, please visit our homepage.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

“FRAMING ASIAN STUDIES: GEOPOLITICS, INSTITUTIONS AND NETWORKS”

The international Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) and the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore are organizing a conference that aims to examine and critically reflect on the “social framing” of Asian Studies. It will consider how knowledge about Asia is being produced and disseminated, with attention paid to the roles of various institutions and their associated networks in this process.

CONTACT: Ms. Martina van den Haak at IIAS.

DETAILS: 18-20 NOVEMBER 2013 in Leiden, the Netherlands. View the conference program and register 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 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](http://www.crossroads-asia.de).