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CROSSROADS ASIA

Conflict · Migration · Development

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Highlights

New Crossroads Asia Working Paper on coping strategies in the aftermath of the Osh Conflict

Aksana Ismailbekova (July 2012) - Coping strategies: public avoidance, migration and marriage in the aftermath of the Osh Conflict, Fergana Valley. Crossroads Asia Working Paper No. 4

New Crossroads Asia Working Paper on hill irrigation

Joe Hill (June 2012) - A post-area studies approach to the study of hill irrigation across the Alai - Pamir - Karakoram - Himalaya. Crossroads Asia Working Paper No. 3

Call for Applications Crossroads Asia Visiting Fellows

The competence network Crossroads Asia annually provides research fellowships for academics. Visiting fellows should feel obliged to the core concept of Crossroads Asia and carry out research on a relevant topic of the competence network, which is not yet covered by ongoing projects. Read more.

Hafeez Jamali joins competence network

We welcome **Hafeez Jamali** to the competence network. Hafeez Jamali is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin and a Visiting Research Fellow in the Crossroads Asia competence network at Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) Berlin. His research focuses on the anthropology of globalization and development, the history of Indian Ocean trade, and the politics of identity and place in Balochistan (Pakistan). His doctoral research examines how Pakistani government's investment in mega development projects such as transnational gas pipelines and commercial ports has affected the lives and transformed the political attitudes of ethnic Baloch people. His previous work has appeared in Cultural Dynamics, The Middle East Report, and Anthropology News. Read more.

Activities in the Network

Projects

Memorandum of Understanding reached between Ferdowsi University Mashhad and the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen

The Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen and the Ferdowsi University Mashhad have sealed a Memorandum of Understanding on research conditions and local teaching. The agreement was negotiated in April 2012 by Prof. Dr. R. Hardenberg, Head of Department of Anthropology at University Tübingen with various departments of the Ferdowsi University, and signed by the principals of the University of Tübingen and the Ferdowsi University, Mashhad in July 2012. Two students of Tübingen's Anthropology Department will take up their studies in Mashhad in September 2012.

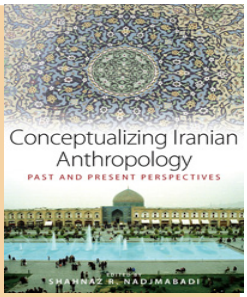
Related Event

Online Conference: Migration in a Changing World: Where do we go now? 5-9 November 2012

The next Wiley-Blackwell Exchanges online conference, Migration in a Changing World, is fast approaching! With 600 delegates registered from many locations around the globe, it's shaping up to be another exiting event with a full line-up of lectures, workshops and scholarly papers for discussion. See website for more information.

Publications

New Volume on Iranian Anthropology Published



Nadjmabadi, S. 2012: Conceptualising Iranian Anthropology. Past and Present Perspectives. Berghahn Books.

This volume is the result of discussions held at the first organized encounter between Iranian, American, and European anthropologists since the Iranian Revolution of 1979. It is considered an important first step in overcoming the dichotomy between "peripheral anthropologies" versus "central anthropologies". The contributors examine, from a critical perspective, the historical, cultural, and political field in which anthropological research emerged in Iran at the beginning of the twentieth century and in which it continues to develop today. Read more.

Alff, H. 2012: Zwischen Geburtsort und Land der Vorväter. Die Rolle sozialer Netzwerke von Kasachen aus der Mongolei im postsowjetischen Migrations- und Inkorporationsprozess. Berlin: LIT.

Benz, A. & Schmidt, M. 2012: Lokales Wissen und formale Bildung im Karakorum-Himalaya. In: Geographische Rundschau 64 (4), 50-57.

Schetter, C. 2012: Wer sind die Taliban? Lifestyle zwischen Stammeskultur, Islamismus und Globalisierung. In: Bernhard CHIARI (ed.): Auftrag Auslandseinsatz. Neueste Militärgeschichte an der Schnittstelle von Geschichtswissenschaft, Politik, Öffentlichkeit und Streitkräften. Freiburg i.Br.: Rombach, 307-320 .

Schmidt, M. 2012: Review of Schofield, V. (2010): Kashmir in conflict: India, Pakistan and the unending war; Gul, I. (2010): The most dangerous place: Pakistan's lawless frontier. In: Mountain Research and Development 32 (1), 101-102.

Watanabe, T., Ochiai, Y., Mizushima, K., Iwata, S. & Kreutzmann H. 2012: Current status of tourism and roles of proposed local guide association in Pasu, Northern Areas of Pakistan. In: Geographical Studies 86 [Hokkaido Geographical Society], 41-54.

Past Crossroads Asia Lectures

Benz, A.: "Turning translocal? Social networks and migration of the Wakhi of Gojal, Northern Pakistan." ZEF Bonn, 11 July 2012.

Jamali, H.: Lecture "Ports, pipelines and pipedreams of modernity: Ethnic Identity and the Politics of Place in Gwadar, Pakistan", at ZEF Bonn, 26 July 2012.

Khalyarov, A.: Lecture "Mobility of Uzbek migrants after 1990: Uzbek labor migration to Russia." at ZEF in Bonn, 27 June 2012.

Monsutti, A.: "The good, the bad and the ugly, or the politics of reconstruction in Afghanistan." Zentralasienseminar, HU Berlin, 20 June 2012.

Siddiqui, K.: "Wider megacity governance in South Asia? Orderly change or disaster?" ZEF Bonn, 23 May 2012.

Soekefeld, M.: "Figurations of natural disasters in Pakistan." ZEF Bonn, 27 June 2012.

Upcoming Workshops/Conferences/ Presentations

Conference on „Figurations of Mobility" to be held in November

This conference aims to provide a forum to discuss approaches of figurational sociology with the objective to re-conceptualize Area Studies. Hereby theoretical advantages and shortcomings of figurational sociology will be related to concepts such as networks or translocality as well as empirical case studies from across the world. The conference under the lead of HU Berlin will take place in Berlin, November 22-24, 2012. For further information, please visit our homepage.

Alff, H.: "Multi-facetted modernity: Negotiating wholesale and retail infrastructure development in Central Asia's commercial centre" IGC Cologne, 30 August 2012.

Alff, H.: "Contested spaces: Modernisation and trade in the borderlands of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang" Worldwide Asia Conference. University of Leiden, NL, 31 August 2012.

Benz, A.: "Rethinking the migration and development nexus from a translocal perspective. The case of the Wakhi of Gojal, Northern Pakistan", IGC Cologne, 29 August 2012.

Kreutzmann, H.: "From Himalayan dilemma to climate change dilemma? Challenges for high mountain development." IGC Cologne, 29 August 2012.

Nadjmabadi, S.: Paper "Resource management and development strategies in eastern provinces of Iran" to be presented and panel chair "Rural Iran and rural Turkey: Anthropological perspectives" at International Society for Iranian Studies: Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, August 1-5, 2012.

Schmidt, M.: Organisation of the panel "Old and new mobilities in Asia: challenges for geographical development research" by Matthias Schmidt and Basabi Khan Banerjee, IGC Cologne, 30 August 2012.

Past Workshops/Conferences/ Presentations

Benz, A.: "Reviving the old and spreading the new: knowledge for development in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan" at the "National Seminar" on "From survival to development - Understanding traditional knowledge-systems in socio-historical Perspective", School of Social Sciences, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani (India),21-23 March 2012. Kreutzmann, H.: Regional Workshop "Landless mobile pastoralists. Securing their role as custodians of Northern Pakistan's mountains." Islamabad, 24 April 2012.

Khaliyarov, A.: Lecture "Migration Flow in Central Asia after 1990: Mobility Networks of Uzbek Migrants", at Zentralasienseminar, HU Berlin, 27 June 2012; and at Center for Development Studies (ZELF), FU Berlin, 19 June 2012.

Kreutzmann, H.: Keynote lecture "Adaptation to changing environments in the Himalayas: Hindukush - Pamir - Karakoram", at International Symposium "Mountain environments and man: sustainability in changing environments', Tokyo, 23 June 2012.

Kreutzmann, H.: Presentation "Pastoral practices in Hindukush and Karakoram - structures and transitions", Nihon University Tokyo, 27 June 2012.

Kreutzmann, H.: "Water towers of humankind in High Asia." Nihon University, Tokyo, 28 June 2012.

Kreutzmann, H.: Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Vergleichende Hochgebirgsforschung e. V.: Tagung und Mitgliederversammlung 2012 veranstaltet in Kooperation mit der Europäischen Akademie Bozen (EURAC): Herausforderungen der Hochgebirgsforschung, 7-10 June 2012.

Mielke, K.: Presentation "Social mobilization and local politics in Lahore's katchi abadis" at Right Livelihood College International Workshop "Mobilization for change – social movements in a developing world", ZEF Bonn, 5 June 2012.

Nadjmabadi, S.: Persian translation of lecture by Roland Hardenberg: "Water as an economic and socio-religious resource in Kyrgyzstan", Amayesh Institut Mashhad, 19 April 2012.

Crossroads Asia internal workshop held on 26 July 2012

On July 26th an internal workshop was held at Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn to discuss the development concept paper, and for researchers within the network to present their research. Presenters included Lutz Rzehak, Shahnaz Nadjmabadi, Elena Smolarz, Alisher Khaliyarov, Kamal Siddiqui and Joe Hill. The day-long session ended with a public lecture by Hafeez Jamali. Read more.

Nadjmabadi, S.: Panel chair and participation "Iranian foreign policy in the Persian Gulf. The Third Biennal International Conference of the Persian Gulf (History, Civilisation and Culture)", Tehran University, 29 April - 1 May 2012.

Nadjmabadi, S.: Lecture "Das Wiederaufleben der Seidenstraße: Der Iran zwischen transkulturellen Dynamiken und regionalen Initiativen." at Studium Generale Tübingen "Facetten des Vorderen Orients. Eine sich wandelnde Region im Fokus", University of Tübingen, 10 May 2012.

Reetz, D.: Paper "Sectarian emotions vs. religious politics: Pakistan's islamic parties and the defence of Pakistan Council." presented at 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies, Lisbon, 25-28 July 2012, and at Workshop "Pakistan Today: Domestic Dynamics and International Pressures" at CNRS/CERI – Science Po Paris, 9 July 2012.

Rzehak, L.: Lecture "Historischer Nomadenalltag in der Murgab-Oase." at Länder-Symposium Turkmenistan, Österreichische Orient-Gesellschaft Hammer-Purgstall, 23 May 2012.

Schetter, C.: taught with Jana Jüssen and Nelli Nokkala in the "Raumwerkstatt Zentralasien. Die Konstruktion von Räumen und Grenzen"; a Summer School organized by ZEF at the Issyk Kul/Kirgisistan, 20-30 June 2012.

Schetter, C.: Key note lecture „Higher education in post-conflict societies" on the Global Media Forum, Bonn, 27 June 2012. Schmidt, M.: Presentation "Decollectivisation and privatisation in slow motion: challenges for land management and livelihoods in Kyrgyzstan's state forest farms (leskhozes)" at IAMO Forum 2012, Halle (Saale), 21 June 2012.

Schmidt, M.: Workshop "Micro-level analysis of well-being in Central Asia", Berlin; organized by Matthias Schmidt in collaboration with colleagues of the Deutsche Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW) and the Humboldt Universität Berlin, 10-11 May 2012.

Schmidt, M. & Benz, A.: Geographischer Arbeitskreis Entwicklungstheorien (GAE)-Tagung 2012: Ländliche Entwicklung im Fokus - Neue Herausforderungen und Dynamiken im globalen Kontext GeoCampus der FU Berlin, Lankwitz, 29 June - 1 July 2012.

Siddiqui, K.: Lecture "Current governance challenges in Dhaka mega city." at the colloquium "Informal dynamics of global change" of the Priority programme of the German Research Foundation, Cologne University, 21-22 May, 2012.

Sökefeld, M.: Presentation "Disaster and conflicts: The Attabad landslide continued" at Pakistan Workshop, Rook How, UK, 11-13 May 2012.

Sökefeld, M.: Presentation "Land unter im Hochgebirge: Der Attabad-Bergsturz in Nordpakistan." at Museum für Völkerkunde München, 3 May 2012.

Sökefeld, M.: Workshop „Politics of disasters", organized together with Edward Simpson (SOAS) at the Conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Paris, 10-13 July 2012.

Wilde, A.: Lecture "Der afghanische Bürgerkrieg und die Herrschaft der Taliban" within programme "Krisenherd am Hindukusch. Afghanistan als Spielball der Großmächte" organised by Fridtjof-Nansen-Akademie Ingelheim in cooperation with Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Rheinland-Pfalz, 19 June 2012.

Wilde, A.: International Research Colloquium at the Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies (IOA) "What is beyond the river? Reconstruction Transoxania's social order on the basis of 18th-Century Bukharan chronicles", University of Bonn, 25 May 2012.

Workshop „The Nexus of Conflict and Migration in Afghanistan“ held in May 2012

An international workshop Crossroads Asia: The Nexus of Conflict and Migration in Afghanistan took place at the Center for Development Research (ZEF) of the University of Bonn on 24th May 2012. Read more.

Media Coverage of the workshop

» Waslat, H.-N.: Afghans use social migration as survival strategy (German translation: Afghanistan. Nutzen aus der Migration ziehen.) Deutsche Welle. 19 June 2012.

Interviews

Hill, J.: Interview on “A vision from outside: how we look in the eyes of foreigners”, Yuzhnyy Vestnik (Russian language newspaper), Osh Kyrygzstan, 24 May 2012.

Schetter, C.: Interview on “The NATO summit in Chicago and the military withdrawn from Afghanistan”. WDR 5, 21 May 2012.

News from the Field

Joe Hill in Tajikistan

Following his field research trip to the Kyrgyz Alai mountains, Joe Hill continued his journey overland from Osh via Murghab to the western section of the Tajik Pamir mountains. He stayed in villages located along the Gund, Shokhdara and Pyandsh river valleys, at varying distances from the provincial capital Khorog. Each of the villages visited are served by between two and ten wedhs (aryks/small canals), each of which vary in length (one km to 28km), in their water adequacy/scarcity, and in the area of land they serve. The materiality of villages and their farmland, positioned on mountainsides high up from the river, regulates and mediates social relations in different ways. Different types of organisational forms of water management were observed.

Similar to the Kyrgyz Alai, migration levels are very high, with most households having at least one member working in Russia and remitting a minimum of 80 to 120 Euro per month. The emergence of socio-economic differentiation relates to the livelihood strategies of households. For example, the few households that do not have people of age to migrate are the poorest. Before returning to Germany a short trip was made to a village in upper Zerafshan valley, located north of Dushanbe, to gauge the similarities and differences in the contexts of hill irrigation systems and farming practices. Upper Zerafshan evidently has a more diverse and healthy economy than the valleys of Gorno-Badakhshan. Whereas upper Zerafshan is only around five hours from Khujand, and about eight hours from Dushanbe, travelling from Khorog to Dushanbe takes 16 hours in a shared taxi!

Shahnaz Nadjmabadi in Iran

The second field research period between April and May 2012 was mainly spent in Mashhad, the capital of Iran’s eastern province, Khorassan. The purpose was to continue research related to questions of mobility and development along the Iran-Afghanistan and Iran-Pakistan borders.

In spite of the time limit, she succeeded in acquiring a remote insight into the functioning of some entrepreneurial networks and interacting groups engaged in retail and petty trade activities in Mashhad. She also established contacts with some small-scale entrepreneurs and merchants who used to have strong trans local and transnational trade relations with eastern and western countries (particularly with Germany) since the 1950s. However, they either had to shift the enterprise in a new geographical direction or to abandon their commercial activities due to political and economic transformations in the province of Khorassan. The collection of these data and their integration into the overall project will particularly give insight into the topics of „mobility“ and „changing figurations“.

Alff, H.: Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), 17 March - 5 May 2012.

Benz, A.: India (Kumaon Region in Uttarakhand), 5 March - 16 May 2012.

Grieser, A.: Pakistan, February 2012 - May 2012, Pakistan (Gilgit), from April 2012 - now.

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 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.

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