Workshop - The Nexus of Conflict and Migration in Afghanistan

The Center for Development Research (ZEF) will hold a Crossroads Asia workshop on 24. May 2012 with contributions from network members. The program to the workshop can be downloaded here. For further information or registration please visit our crossroads-asia.de or contact crossroads@uni-bonn.de

Conference on „Figurations of Mobility“ - Call for Papers

This conference aims to provide a forum to discuss approaches of Figurational Sociology with the objective to re-conceptualize Areas Studies. Hereby theoretical advantages and shortcomings of Figurational Sociology will be related to concepts such as networks or translocality as well as to empirical case studies from across the world.

The conference under the lead of HU Berlin will take place in Berlin, November 22-24 2012. The entire CfP can be downloaded here. For further information please contact ingeborg.baldauf@huberlin.de

Crossroads Asia Welcomes New Network Member Elena Smolarz

We welcome Elena Smolarz to the competence network Crossroads Asia. From April 2012 onwards she complements work package M6 on „Mobility and Translocality in Crossroads Asia: Slave Trade in the 18th and 19th Centuries“ and gives attention to the Russian influence with special focus on Khiva and the Turkmen. The phenomenon will be analysed regarding social structures, their dynamics and textures of power.

New Publication: „Pastoral Practices in High Asia“ H. Kreutzmann (Ed.)

This volume, edited by Hermann Kreutzmann, member of Crossroads Asia adresses significant new aspects of pastoralism. In conventional views, pastoralism was classified as a stage of civilization that needed to be abolished and transcended in order to reach a higher level of development. In this context, global approaches to modernize a rural society have been ubiquitous phenomena independent of ideological contexts. (Continued on page 3)
### Upcoming Events

#### Crossroads Asia Lecture Series

**JUNE 20**

**ALESSANDRO MONSUTTI**, The Graduate Institute, Geneva: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, or the Politics of Reconstruction in Afghanistan.

**ZENTRALASIEN SEMINAR HU BERLIN, 6 PM**

**JUNE 27**

**MARTIN SOEKEFELD**, University of Munich: Figurations of Natural Disasters in Pakistan.

**ZEF, BONN, 5 PM**

**JULI 11**

**ANDREAS BENZ**, Freie Universität Berlin: Turning Translocal? Social Networks and Migration of the Wakhi of Gojal, Northern Pakistan.

**ZEF, BONN, 5 PM**

### Activities in the Network

**Related Projects by Network Institutes**

**Joint DAAD funded summer school by ZEF and Bosch-Lectures**

In the context of Crossroads Asia, the Center for Development (Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung, ZEF) is organizing a ten days seminar jointly with the Bosch-Lectures in Central Asia. The seminar, called "Workshop on Space" ("Raumwerkstatt") aims to discuss the role of space with 20 students from Central Asia and Germany. The intention is to investigate spatial-political constructions such as Central Asia or Silk Road in accordance with the theoretical approaches of the Competence Network Crossroads Asia. Hereby spatial figurations which are related to conflict or violence, such as territory or boundaries, stand in the center of the workshop. This event, which will take place at the Issyk Kul in Kyrgyzstan, 20-29 June 2012, is substantially founded by the DAAD. Further information: c.schetter@uni-bonn.de

**Joint DAAD funded spring school by ZEF and GC University Lahore, Pakistan**

"After the flood is before the flood: Vulnerabilities and coping capacities in flood affected communities of Punjab"

The first spring school at the Government College University in Lahore took place in early March 2012. Several members of the Crossroad Asia network taught field research methods to MS/MPhil students. Afterwards the students and members of the Crossroads Asia network jointly conducted field research on issues of vulnerability close to Lahore from March until May 2012.

The aim of the project is to develop a long-term academic cooperation, qualify young academics and build up a pool of interdisciplinarily-trained social scientists from Pakistan.
**Conferences & Presentations**

**Forthcoming**

**Alff, H.**: “Connecting small-scale trade & modernisation outcomes in the borderlands of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan & Xinjiang”, lecture series at the Mongolia & Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU) University of Cambridge, 29 May 2012


**Past**

**Alff, H.**: “Trading on Change: Modernisation and the dynamics of small-scale trade in the borderlands of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Xinjiang”, workshop “The Art of Neighbouring – Old Crossroads and New Connections along the PRC’s borders” at Asian Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, 1-2 March 2012


**Ismailbekova, A.**: “Beyond the ‘patriarchal family’: Forms of uxorilocal/ -matrilocality and matrifocality in Islamic Societies. Past and Present”, presentation, University of Bamberg, 9-10 December 2011

**Ismailbekova, A.**: “Introduction to Anthropology of Kinship and Religious Networks”, lecture at Martin-Luther-University, summer semester 2011

**Kreutzmann, H.**: „Pastoral practices in Hindukush and Karakoram - structures and transitions”, conference “Landless Mobile Pastoralists: Securing their Role as Custodians of Northern Pakistan’s Mountains”, Islamabad, 24 February 2012

**Kreutzmann, H.**: „Wasser als Ressource in Südasien“, lecture „Südasien: Klima-Umwelt-Zukunft“ at HU Berlin, 10 February 2012


**Reetz, D.**: “Challenging the Secular State in Pakistan: The new Mobility of Radical Networks and the Transformation of the Terrorist Threat”, Crossroads lecture with Moonis Ahmar at ZMO Berlin, 30 June 2011

**Reetz, D., Ismailbekova, A., Boedeker, J.**: “Introducing Crossroads Asia” at ZMO Berlin, 26 May 2011

**Reetz, D.:** Panel discussion with Dr. Henryk Hallgren, Chairman of Eurasia Forum, Stockholm, at ZMO Berlin, 30 November 2011


**Reetz, D.:** Meeting with members of the „secular religious working group“ from Tajikistan in connection with a EU-supported project on the promotion of a state-religion dialogue process at ZMO Berlin, 22 November 2011

**Reetz, D.:** Expert at the Global Agenda Council Pakistan of the World Economic Forum (WEF), participating in the summit of the Global Agenda Councils of the WEF in Abu Dhabi, 10-11 October 2011, and in the WEF India Economic Summit in Mumbai, 13-14 November 2011

**Schetter, C.**: „Fragile Staatlichkeit und ihr Gefahrenpotenzial: Das Beispiel Pakistan“, presentation at “Kölner Bonn Gesprächskreis zur Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik” by Kölner Forum für Internationale Beziehungen und Sicherheitspolitik and Friederich Ebert Stiftung, Köln, 21 March 2012

**Related Events**

Call for Papers for the 19. International DAVO-Congress, 4 - 6 October 2012 in Erlangen
See davo-online for more information.

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient invites applications for the DAVO dissertation award 2012 until 15 June 2012 - Please Contact davo@geo.uni-mainz.de for further information

Mato Bouzas, A. “Extraordinary Doctoral Award” in the year 2010-2011, for the thesis defended at Instituto Universitario Gutiérrez Mellado-UNED, Madrid. The decision was published in the Boletín Interno de Coordinación Informativa of the UNED of March 28th, 2011
**Schetter, C.:** „Crossroads Asia – Towards an Alternative Understanding of Politics“, lecture, National Center for Pakistan Studies (NCPS), Qaid-i Azam University Islamabad, 8 March 2012

**Schetter, C.:** „Die gesellschaftspolitische Perspektive Afghanistan“, key note in „GIZ Landeskonferenz und Landesplanung Afghanistan 2012“ conference organized by GIZ, Eschborn, 13 February 2012

**Schetter, C.:** „Citizenship and Crossroads Asia. Some Reflections“, workshop „Forschung trifft EZ Ethnicity, Citizenship, Belonging als Instrumente für gesellschaftlichen Ein- und Ausschluss“ organized by the Kompetenznetz Lateinamerika Internationales Lateinamerika Zentrum, Bonn, 2 February 2012

**Schmidt, M.:** “Risks in Post-Socialist Environments of Central Asia”, Bonn, Geographisches Institut, 17 April 2012

**Schmidt, M.:** “Post-socialist Political Ecology in Central Asia - Challenges and Particularities”, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, New York, USA, 27 February 2012

**Schmidt, M.:** „Changing Natural Resource Management in Kyrgyzstan“, Central & Southwest Asian Studies Center, University of Montana, Missoula, USA, 22 February 2012

**Strohtmann, L.:** “The City Within: Using concepts of urbanity and city to understand Pakistan’s largest sufi shrine“, Institutskolloquium, Geo-Campus FU Berlin, 24 April 2012

**Tiller, P.:** “Governance and Agriculture” workshop, ZEF Tadjikistan-Georgia Working Group, Dushanbe, 17 - 18 April 2012

**Wilde A.:** Panel discussion in context of the movie “Generation Kunduz – Der Krieg der Anderen” in the Brotfabrik Bonn, 30 March 2012

**Wilde, A.:** “Every Good Day in Kunduz! Ten Years of German Engagement in Afghanistan” –’Treffpunkt Entwicklungspolitik. Ein Land auf der Suche nach Stabilität und Staatlichkeit’ organized by the Arbeitnehmerzentrum Königswinter in cooperation with Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 16 December 2011

**Wilde A.:** “Playing the Afghanistan Card. Iran’s Current Strategy of Economic Cooperation versus Aggressive Interference Beyond its Eastern Border”, workshop “The other sides of Afghanistan: A regional perspective on security issues in Afghanistan” by Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich, 4 - 5 November 2011

**News from the Field**

**Alff, H.:** 18 March - 5 May 2012, Field Research in Kyrgyzstan

**Benz, A.:** 5 March - 17 May 2012: Field Research in Northern India

**Boedeker, J.:** 3 April - 31 May 2012, Field Research in Balochistan, Pakistan

**Hill, J.:** Feburary - June 2012, Field Research in Pakistan, Kirgistan

**Mielke, K.:** March - May 2012, Field Research in Pakistan on Katchi Abadis, Fokus Lahore (March-May)

**Tiller, P.:** 15 April - 15 August 2012: Field Research in Tadjikistan

**Wilde, A.:** 27 Januar - 11 March 2012 Archival Research at the National Archives of India, New Delhi

**Petra Tiller: Tajikistan**

Petra Tiller is conducting field work in Tajikistan from mid April until mid August in order to investigate “Re-Islamisation between State Influences and Global Muslim Networks”.

The aim of the research is to find deeper insight into everyday theories of the rural and urban population about Islam and re-Islamation. These subjective theories are seen as part of the figuration of re-Islamation.

The main research question is to what extend people as well as additional actors such as the state, missionaries from other Islamic countries, returning migrant workers, and students affect the balance of figurations of re-Islamation with their subjective theories; resulting from their experiences and information on the phenomenon.
Joe Hill is currently undertaking field research in the Kyrgyz Alai mountains. Contrary to popular belief, there is irrigation in the mountain valleys there. Since Kyrgyz independence most of the lands have ceased to be irrigated, due to lack of government subsidies to the local level. Tail enders of the larger aryks seem to be facing problems in receiving water due to a lack of water management, which many attribute to changing values, including the declining role of aksakals (village elders), and population growth which makes water distribution more problematic.

Migration for work and education is at very high levels, such that it has entirely changed local level figurations of actors involved in water management. At the meso level, there have been multiple changes in figurations, with villages organised on multiple occasions into sovkhozes and kolkhozes of varying sizes, and since Kyrgyz independence aiyl okmotu. There appears to be little inequality in general and in water access, apart from common upstream downstream issues.

Further Publications


**BOUZAS, A. 2011**: India y Pakistán: Conflict y Negociación en el Sur de Asia. Biblioteca Nueva: Madrid


Publications

**KREUTZMANN, H. 2012 (ED.): Pastoral practices in High Asia. Agency of ‘development’ effected by modernisation, resettlement and transformation.** Dordrecht: Springer

(Continued from page 1) Permanent settlements are the vivid expression of an ideology-driven approach. Modernization theory captured all walks of life and tried to optimize breeding techniques, pasture utilization, transport and processing concepts.

New insights into other aspects of pastoralism such as its role as an adaptive strategy to use marginal resources in remote locations with difficult access could only be understood as a critique of capitalist and communist concepts of modernization. In recent years a renaissance of modernization theory-led development activities can be observed. Higher inputs from external funding, fencing of pastures and settlement of pastoralists in new towns are the vivid expression of ‘modern’ pastoralism in urban contexts. The new modernization programme incorporates resettlement and transformation of lifestyles as to be justified by environmental pressure in order to reduce degradation in the age of climate change.

**Crossroads Asia Concept Paper**

**WORKING GROUP CONFLICT 2012**: Conflict Research on Crossroads Asia - A Conceptual Approach. Crossroads Asia Concept Papers No. 1

The competence network Crossroads Asia aims at contributing to the re-conceptualization of Area Studies. The Crossroads Asia Concept Paper on Conflict documents the first rapprochements and aims to design a conceptual framework of ongoing research and to show how the sub-projects contribute to a better understanding of our idea of the region designated as Crossroads Asia as a highly dynamic space of social interactions.
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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INTERVIEWS


Bouzas, A.: Interview on the political situation in Pakistan on radio program “Cinco continentes”, Radio Nacional de Espana (Radio5), 18 February 2012

Mielke, K.: Interview on Channel City42-TV Lahore by M. Akmal Soomro, 5 April 2012

Schetter, C.: Interview on “Islamists are Mobilizing Masses”, Focus Online, 24 February 2012.

