

Livelihoods in times of system transition in Central Asia

Course

Claus Bech Hansen



Crossroads Studies

Competence Network Crossroads Asia

Editors: Ingeborg Baldauf, Stephan Conermann, Claus Erik Bech Hansen, Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Hermann Kreutzmann, Katja Mielke, Dietrich Reetz, Conrad Schetter and Martin Sökefeld.

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Competence Network Crossroads Asia

Project Office

Center for Development Research/ZEFA

Department of Political and Cultural Change

University of Bonn

Walter-Flex Str. 3

D-53113 Bonn

Tel: + 49-228-731722

Fax: + 49-228-731972

Email: crossroads.coordination@gmail.com

Homepage: www.crossroads-asia.de

Livelihoods in times of system transition in Central Asia

Lecturer: Dr. Claus Bech Hansen

Summer School Course

Duration: 15.-27.08.2016

Venue: German-Kazakh University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

1. Course Description:

The transition from a socialist, planned economy to one based on liberal market structures that is integrated into the world economy has had severe repercussions for the post-Soviet countries, which are still felt in all spheres of state matters and private lives in the region. This course examines how the momentous changes have affected livelihoods in Central Asia over the past 25 years, how people in the region find various ways to ensure their livelihood and what such coping mechanisms tell us about structures, space, power and knowledge in transition states.

2. Course requirements:

Apart from class room teaching, student presentations and group discussions, students will be asked to conduct field research, the results of which are to be presented at the end of the course.

The course will equip students with fundamental methodological and theoretical tools of social science research and teach them how to operationalise them for research purposes.

There are mandatory texts for each session. Please read these before the session as they will be the foundation for discussions we will have. The additional literature is for you to draw on when you develop your (small) field research projects and methods.

3. Course outline:

Monday, 15.08.2016

General introduction

Tuesday, 16.08.2016, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Course Introduction Goal, purpose and expected outcomes

Tuesday, 16.08.2016, 11:30 am – 13:30 am

Livelihoods

Obligatory Reading:

Frank Ellis (1998): Household strategies and rural livelihood diversification, The Journal of Development Studies, 35:1, 1-38

Wednesday, 17.08.2016, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

System transition

Obligatory Reading:

Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery (Eds., 1999): Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1-16

Katherine Verdery (1996): A Transition from Socialism to Feudalism? Thoughts on the Postsocialist State, in What was Socialism, and what comes next?, Princeton University Press, 204-229

Wednesday, 17.08.2016, 11:30 am – 13:30 am

Livelihoods and system transition

Obligatory Reading:

Eckhard Dittrich and Heiko Schrader (2015): Sustainable Livelihoods in Central Asia: A Comparison from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, in "When Salary is not enough...", 1-16

Thursday, 18.08.2016, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Livelihoods and system transition: Sustainable livelihood Strategies

Obligatory Reading:

Eckhard Dittrich, Denis Gruber and Heiko Schrader (2015): Vulnerabilities and Livelihood Strategies, in “When Salary is not enough...”, 369-429

Eckhard Dittrich and Heiko Schrader (2015): Summary and Conclusions: A new Variant of Capitalism?, in “When Salary is not enough...”, 431-484

Thursday, 18.08.2016, 11:30 am – 13:30 am

Livelihoods and system transition: Space/power/knowledge

Obligatory Reading:

Henryk Alff (2015): Profiteers or moral entrepreneurs? Bazaars, traders and development discourses in Almaty, Kazakhstan, International Development Planning Review, 37:3, 249-267

Victor Agadjanian, Lesia Nedoluzhko and Gennady Kumskov (2008): Eager to Leave? Intentions to Migrate Abroad among Young People in Kyrgyzstan, International Migration Review, 42:3, 620-651

Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Anastasiya Shaltovna and Conrad Schetter (2016): Introduction: Independence, Transformation and the Search for a Future in Agriculture, in Agricultural Knowledge and Knowledge Systems in Post-Soviet Societies, Interdisciplinary Studies on Central and Eastern Europe, 15, 11-29

Kristof van Assche, Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Anastasiya Shaltovna and Hafiz Boboyorov (2016): Epistemic Cultures in Transition: Agricultural Expertise Development in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Georgia, in Agricultural Knowledge and Knowledge Systems in Post-Soviet Societies, Interdisciplinary Studies on Central and Eastern Europe, 15, 29-73

Friday, 19.08.2016, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Social science research methods

Obligatory Reading:

Raymond Madden (2010): Talking to People: Negotiations, Conversations and Interviews, in Being Ethnographic, SAGE Publications Ltd., 59-76

Russell Bernard (2011): Interviewing: Unstructured and Semistructured, in Research Methods in Anthropology, Altamira Press, 210-251

Russell Bernard (2011): Structured Interviewing I: Questionnaires, in Research Methods in Anthropology, Altamira Press, 251-299

Friday, 19.08.2016, 11:30 am – 13:30 am

Group work – preparation for field work

Monday & Tuesday, 22.-23.08.2016

Field work

Wednesday, 24.08.2016

Processing results

Thursday, 25.08.2016

Preparing presentations

Friday, 25.08.2016

Presentations

NB: Depending on the level of knowledge of participants, minor changes to the course program may apply to the program.

4. Additional Literature:

Robin Attfield, Johan Hattingh and Manamela Matshabaphala (2004): Sustainable development, sustainable livelihoods and land reform in South Africa: a conceptual and ethical inquiry, Third World Quarterly, 25:2, 405–421

Jessica Barnes et al. (2013): Contribution of anthropology to the study of climate change, Nature Climate Change, 3, 542-544

Graham Bird (2007): The IMF: A Bird's Eye View of its Role and Operations, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 21:4, 683–745

Raymond L. Bryant (1998): Power, knowledge and political ecology in the third world: a review, *Progress in Physical Geography*, 22:1, 79-94

Frederick H. Buttel (2002): Environmental Sociology and the Sociology of Natural Resources: Institutional Histories and Intellectual Legacies, *Society and Natural Resources*, 15, 205-211

John Drexhage and Deborah Murphy (2010): Sustainable Development: From Brundtland to Rio 2012, Background Paper for the High Level Panel on Global Sustainability, 1-26

Riley E. Dunlap and Brent K. Marshall (2007): Environmental Sociology, in *21st Century Sociology*, 329-340

Greta Gaard (2011): Ecofeminism Revisited: Rejecting Essentialism and Re-Placing Species in a Material Feminist Environmentalism, *Feminist Formations*, 23:2, 26–53

Christian Giordano and Nicolas Hayoz (Eds. 2013): Visible and Invisible Informalities and Institutional Transformation in the Transition Countries of Georgia, Romania and Uzbekistan, in *Informality in Eastern Europe*, 89-119

Anna-Katharina Hornidge , Mehmood Ul Hassan and Peter P. Mollinga (2011): Transdisciplinary innovation research in Uzbekistan – one year of 'Follow-the-Innovation', *Development in Practice*, 21:6, 834-847

Raymond Madden (2010): *Being Ethnographic*, SAGE Publications Ltd.

Paul McLaughlin and Thomas Dietz (2008): Structure, agency and environment: Toward an integrated perspective on vulnerability, *Global Environmental Change*, 18, 99–111

Christian Pohl and Gertrude Hirsch Hadorn (2008): Core Terms in Transdisciplinary Research, *td-net for transdisciplinary research*, 3-10

John Rapley (2002): Development Theory in the Wake of Structural Adjustment, in *Understanding Development*, 113-130