



CROSSROADS ASIA

Conflict · Migration · Development



Source: A. Benz (2011)

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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 organizes 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

- » [Issue No. 22: Yasir Hussain \(2014\): Social Media as a Tool for Transparency and Good Governance in the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan.](#)
- » [Issue No. 23: Alessandro Rippa \(2014\): From Uyghurs to Kashgari \(and back?\): Migration and Cross-Border Interactions Between Xinjiang and Pakistan.](#)



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 Migration

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

Anastasia Christou (Middlesex University): Gendered Histories of Resilience and Resistance: Eastern European Women's Narratives of Mobility and Survival

16:15-18:00 **PANEL 3: RE-IMAGINING COMMUNITIES: BORDERLANDS, NATION STATES AND POWER OF EPISTEMOLOGICAL ORDERING**

Chair: **Hermann Kreutzmann** (Crossroads Asia/Centre for Development Studies Berlin)

Linh Nguyen (Syracuse University): Immigrants to the Land: On the Borders between the Water World and the Land World

Radikha Gupta (University of Göttingen): Acts of Imagination: Sustaining Kargil as a Crossroads on the India-Pakistan 'Border'

Jagannath Panda (Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses New Delhi): The Borderless BCIM: Between the Politics of Sub-Regional Cooperation and Coexistence

Emrah Yildiz (Harvard University): Golden Shoes and Tobacco Seats: Sanctions and Transactions across the Iran/Turkey Border

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

Anna-Katharina Hornidge (Crossroads Asia/Center for Development Research Bonn): Variants of Differentiation in Resources Governance Khorezm, Uzbekistan: What are 'Mid-Range Concepts'?

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 Dageyi (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 Transgress: Crossroads Studies and Adventures in [?]-Disciplinary

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:

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: "Invisible borders: coping strategies of inhabitants in the aftermath of the Osh conflict, Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia" at the Crossroads Asia Conference 'Spaces of conflict in everyday life: Figurations and Methodology', LMU Munich, 11 October 2014.

Mielke, K.: Presentation of paper "Not in the Master plan: Dimensions of exclusion in Kabul" at the Crossroads Asia Conference 'Spaces of conflict in everyday life: Figurations and Methodology', LMU Munich, 11 October 2014.

RZEHAKE, L.: "You, obviously, think I am crazy! – Arguing out conflicts in the literature of the early modern Persian enlightenment", paper presented at the Crossroads Asia Conference 'Spaces of conflict in everyday life: Figurations and Methodology', LMU Munich, 11 October 2014.

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](#).

NETWORK COORDINATOR HORNIDGE NOW DIRECTOR OF ZEFA

Anna-Katharina Hornidge, scientific coordinator of Crossroads Asia, is the new Director of the Department of Political and Cultural Change at Crossroads Asia's host institute, the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn. The position of coordinator of Crossroads Asia is in the process of being filled again.

In a recent video interview she expressed her visions for ZEF. Click [here](#) see the full interview.

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - UPCOMING

BUTZ, D.: "Road Construction, Mobility and Everyday Life in Shimshal, Pakistan: Lessons from Autophotography", ZELF Berlin, Geographical Colloquium, 4 November, 2014 at 12am.

KIRMANI, N.: "Narrating and Negotiating Urban Conflict. A Study of Lyari, Karachi", ZMO, Berlin, 4 November 2014 at 6 pm.

RENZI, B.: "Re-thinking secular-nationalism and untouchability in contemporary Central India", ZELF, FU Berlin, Geographical Colloquium, Campus Lankwitz, 9 December, 2014, 12am.

CROSSROADS ASIA LECTURES - PAST

HAYOZ, N. (UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG, SWITZERLAND): "Informality in Central Asia and the Caucasus", ZEF, Bonn, 9 October 2014.

MEDINA, C. (MASIPAG, PHILIPPINES): "Food Security: Can Transgenic Crops Feed the World?", ZEF Bonn, 8 October 2014.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

BENZ, A. (2014): *The challenges of education in Pakistan.* In: DAWN, 12 October 2014, Books & Authors Supplement, 7.

HILL, J. (2014): Farmer-managed irrigation systems in Baltistan and Kargil. In: Ladakh Studies, 31, 4-23.

HORNIDGE, A.-K. (2014): Wissensdiskurse: Normativ, Faktisch, Hegemonial. In: Soziale Welt, 65, 7-24.

ISMALBEKOVA, A. (2014): Migration and patrilineal descent: the role of women in Kyrgyzstan. In: Central Asian Survey 33:3, 375-389.

KREUTZMANN, H. (2014): Wakhi in transition - From Wakhan to multilocal distribution. In: Bülbül, N. A.: Biyoze Bülbül. Islamabad: Pamir Media Group, 5-10.

MIELKE, K. (2014): Protests in search of a movement. In: Tanqeed, Issue 7, 52-58. [Urdu version]

MIELKE, K. (2014): *Review on Wilson, M. B.: Impacts of Participatory Development in Afghanistan.* A Call to Reframe Expectations. In: Anthropos. International Review of Anthropology and Linguistics, 109, 751-52.

SCHETTER, C. & NOKKALA, N. (2014): Die Auswirkungen der militärischen Intervention auf Afghanistan und Pakistan. In: Hoppe, T. (ed.): Verantwortung zu schützen. Interventionspolitik seit 1990 - eine friedensethische Bilanz. Köster: Berlin, 203-227.

SHTALTOVNA, A. & HORNIDGE, A.-K. (2014): A comparative Study on Cotton Agriculture in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Bonn: Center for Development Research, in Collaboration with Open Society Foundation.

SÖKEFELD, M. (2014): Diaspora und soziale Mobilisierung: Kaschmiris in England und Aleviten in Deutschland im Vergleich. In: Nieswand, B. & H. Drotbohm (eds.): Kultur, Gesellschaft, Migration. Die reflexive Wende in der Migrationsforschung. Wiesbaden: Springer, 225-253.

VAN ASSCHE, K., DJANIBEKOV, N., HORNIDGE, A.-K., SHTALTOVNA, A. AND G. VERSCHRAEGEN (2014): Rural development and the entwining of dependencies: Transition as evolving governance in Khorezm, Uzbekistan. In: Futures, 10.1016/j.futures.2014.08.006

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS - UPCOMING

ALFF, H.: Panel convenor and discussant “Connectivities, Disruptions and Emerging Spatialities in Border Dynamics at Asian Crossroads”, Asian Borderlands Research Network conference “Activated Borders: Re-openings, ruptures and relationships”, Hong Kong, 8 December, 2014.

ALFF, H. & MATO BOUZAS, A.: Panel on “Connectivities, Disruptions and Emerging Spatialities in Border Dynamics at Asian Crossroads”, 4th Asian Borderlands Conference of the Asian Borderlands Research Network, Hong Kong, China, 8-10 December 2014.

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](#).

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.

KREUTZMANN, H.: “Das Ferganatal in Zentralasien – Konflikte um die Georessource Wasser”, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 11 December 2014.

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](#).

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

MIELKE, K.: “Local Governance, Politics, and the State – a Theoretical View” at the Conference “Local Representation of Power in South Asia”, Government College University, Lahore, 12-14 November 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”

RIPPA, A.: "The Rhizomatic State: An Ethnographical Approach to the China-Pakistan Border"

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)

MIELKE, K.: "Crossroads Studies: Towards a Research Programme Crossing Conventional Area Studies' Boundaries"

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"

JACKSON, P.: "Gay and Lesbian Asia Across Borders: Emerging Regional Sexual Identities and Challenges to Euro-American Queer Theory"

ANTWEILER, C.: "Southeast Asian Area Studies. Concepts and Directions for an Emerging Academic Field"

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: "Multiple Ontologies: Area Studies, 'Systematic Disciplines' and the Rediscovery of 'Space'"

SCHETTER, C.: Participation in panel discussion "Democracy Promotion & Democratisation", 2nd annual Willy Brandt Summer School "Afghanistan after 2014: From Resolute Support to Sustainable Development", Erfurt, 10 September 2014.

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

SCHETTER, C.: Participation in panel discussion "The changing face of war and peace: 1914 to 2014" organized by BICC and the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb) in co-operation with the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Representation House of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia Belin, 29 September 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: Introduction and moderation of panel "The future of Conversion Studies: Reflections on current challenges of peace and conflict" at conference "Facing Organised Violence: Research Agendas and Conversion Potentials", BICC, Bonn, 28 October 2014

SMOLARZ, E.: "On the move against their will: mobility of Russian slaves in 19th century-Khorezm" at International Workshop "On Khorezmian Connectivity: Space, Mobility, Imagination", Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 9-10 October 2014.

WILDE, A.: "Iranian-Uzbek Encounters in the Nadirid Age (1737-1747)" at the Tenth Biennial Iranian Studies (ISIS) Conference, Montrea, 8 August 2014.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS - PAST

AMOO-ADARE, E.: "Renegade Architecture: The Practice of Freedom", paper presented on negotiating the politics of urban space at the XXV International Union of Architects World Congress in Durban, South Africa, 3-7 August 2014.

HORNIDGE, A.-K.: "Knowledge & Innovations for Development? Opportunities and Challenges of Transdisciplinary Approaches", Presentation as part of the series 'Transformative Science', University of Bozen, Bozen, Italy, 13 October, 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: "Ungoverned spaces: The case of AFPAK", lecture held during the "Fourth Open Section Meeting" of the German Political Science Association (DVPW), Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, 25-27 September 2014. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING CONFERENCE

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STATE AND SOCIETY IN CENTRAL ASIA: CONTINUITY AND TRANSFORMATION

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

WILDE, A.: "Der Persische Golf als transozeanisches Crossroads: Der Sklavenhandel zwischen Sansibar, der Piratenküste und Südiran in historischer Perspektive", Nachwuchstagung Iranistik an der Universität Bonn, 30 October 2014.

NEW PROJECTS

NADJMABADI, 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.

SÖKEFELD, M.: Welfare as "contact zone" of Christians and the State: Experiences and negotiations of state and citizenship in Pakistan in the context of Islamic State and global security policies. DFG, 2014 – 2017.

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.

ISMAILBEKOVA, A.: Ethnographic Research in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, July -September 2014.

NADJMABADI, S.: Fieldwork in Khorassan & Sistan and Baluchestan/Iran, June-August 2014.

"CROSS"-BLOGGING

NADJMABADI, 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.

SCHETTER, C.: „Lässt sich Frieden lernen?“, WDR-5 "Tagesgespräch", 1 September 2014.

SCHETTER, C.: „Afghanistan: Regierung mit Verfallsdatum“, Deutsche Welle, 21 September 2014.



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.

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