

September folgte eine von Lothar Ledderose (Heidelberg) und Hans-Ulrich Vogel (Tübingen) geleitete und mit organisierte Tagung über "Chinese Ancient Science and High Technology: Roots, Fruits, and Lessons" mit ähnlicher internationaler Beteiligung.

Das SIAS plant weitere Symposien dieser Art, die chinesische und ausländische Wissenschaftler zusammenführen und auch chinesischen Studierenden Gelegenheit zu internationalen Wissenschaftskontakten geben. Zugleich möchte das SIAS in seinen Räumen Forschungsaufenthalte von einem Monat bis zu einem Jahr ermöglichen. Einen thematischen Schwerpunkt bilden dabei die Biowissenschaften mit ihren Grundlagenproblemen, ihren fachübergreifenden Dimensionen und ihren gesellschaftlichen Auswirkungen. Mit seiner viel versprechenden Konzeption kann das SIAS zu einer der wichtigsten internationalen Forschungseinrichtungen in der VR China werden. Uli Schwarz und den unterstützenden Organisationen gebührt Dank für eine hoffentlich zukunftssträchtige bedeutende Initiative auf dem Gebiet der wissenschaftlichen Kooperation mit Ostasien.

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Heiner Roetz

Research project on Intercultural Issues in Bioethics Announcement and invitation for advice and cooperation

An interdisciplinary group of researchers in the humanities and social sciences has launched a new research project in bioethics at German universities, entitled "Culture-transcending Bioethics. Conditions, Prospects, and Challenges" (Kulturübergreifende Bioethik. Voraussetzungen, Chancen, Probleme). The German Research Foundation (DFG) has granted funding for two years. The projects start around January 2003.

The research group will investigate cultural and intercultural issues in bioethics with a special focus on the discussions in several non-Western regions. While this will contribute to comparative bioethics, it also reaches out for systematic aspects, highlighting the foundations of international, intercultural and interdisciplinary understanding in bioethics, among other things concerning biomedical issues at the beginning of human life. The research group brings together the following individual projects:

1 Concepts of the Human Being in Current Bioethics in China

This project focuses on the ways the "human being" is addressed in contemporary China's bioethics, referring to the Mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. It assesses concepts with a claim to be fundamental or typical for China's culture, as expressed in certain practices, e.g. in reproductive medicine. (Contact: Prof. Dr. H. Roetz, Ruhr-University Bochum, Chinese History and Philosophy, heiner.roetz@rub.de; Dr. des. O. Doering, ole.doering@rub.de)

2 *Bioethical Conflicts and Concepts of the Human Being in Japan. An Investigation of the Intellectual Discourse, Institutional Regulation and Public Opinion Making, and their Combined Impact*

This project treats bioethical conflicts in Japan from three different thematic and methodological perspectives. It will explore (a) the philosophical dimension of the debate, (b) the dimension of bioethical policy making, and (c) the social dimension of bioethics in Japan, with a focus on this society's value orientations. (Contact: Prof. Dr. J. Kreiner, Bonn University, Japanese Studies, Japanologie@uni-bonn.de; Prof. Dr. W. Marx, Bonn University, Philosophy; Dr. Ch. Steineck, steineck@uni-bonn.de (a); Dr. R. Horres, horres@uni-bonn.de (b); Dr. D. Ölschleger, h.oelschleger@uni-bonn.de (c))

3 *The Discourse in Bioethics in South Korea*

This project will give an account of the current bioethical debate in South Korea. It will study recent trends in the development of the discourse, above all on issues of human genetics and abortion, identify patterns of argument, and register the relevant normative terminology by an analysis of debates in public, political and expert circles, with an additional focus on the Christian communities. (Contact: Prof. Dr. M. Eggert, Ruhr-University Bochum, Korean Studies, marion.eggert@rub.de; Prof. Dr. Ch. Frey, Ruhr-University Bochum, Ev. Theology, christofer.frey@rub.de; Dr. Ph. Joung, phillanjoung@compuserve.de)

4 *Buddhist Bioethics. Foundations and Current Positions*

This project focuses on the analysis of contemporary Buddhist discussions in bioethics, in particular in the Theravāda and Mahāyāna traditions. Special attention will be reserved for themes such as human cloning, where ethical problems are seen in ways that differ fundamentally from those of the "West". The guiding question will be how philosophical doctrines such as Karma, reincarnation, the concept of personhood and the maxim of "doing no harm" can be reconstructed to fit into the current bioethics debates. (Contact: Prof. Dr. K. Klaus, Bonn University, Indology, konrad.klaus@uni-bonn.de; Dr. J. Schlieter, schlieter@web.de)

5 *Bioethical Issues in the Context of Islamic Law and its Interpretation by Members of the Medical Professions*

This project is dedicated to the current inner-Islamic ethical discussion, which devotes much attention to bioethical issues. It focuses on the relationship between the paradigmatic concepts and legal reasoning in Islamic jurisprudence and medicine among contemporary Muslim physicians. It attempts to elaborate statements relevant to bioethics together with their fundamental principles in the context of Islam. (Contact: Prof. Dr. G. Endress, Ruhr-University Bochum, Oriental Studies, gerhard.endress@rub.de)

6 *Utilitarian Culture versus Normative Culture. Intra-cultural Differences in "Western" Bioethics*

This project explores a fundamental structural conflict in European bioethics and philosophy of law. Here, a rigoristic type of ethics which maintains the absolute protection of human dignity and human life is confronted with a utilitarian type of

ethics tending to buy the benefit of an enhanced quality of life for a majority of people for the price of accepting a reduced status of the rights of other human beings. (Contact: Prof. Dr. W. Schweidler, Ruhr-University Bochum, Philosophy, walter.schweidler@rub.de)

7 *The Concept of Informed Consent and its Concrete Application in International Bioethics*

Informed consent is a key concept of bioethical practice, formulating a condition for medical intervention, for purposes of therapy and research. The project will study the real understanding of *informed consent* in several societies in Asia (China, Korea, Taiwan) and the "West" and its meaning in normative documents of international organisations such as WHO and UNESCO. (Contact: Prof. Dr. C. Wiesemann and Dr. Dr. N. Biller, Göttingen University, Ethics and History of Medicine, cwiesem@gwdg.de, billerandornon@who.int)

8 *Cross-cultural Health Literacy. Historical Roots and Current Challenges*

This project introduces the concept of *health literacy* ("Gesundheitsmündigkeit"), as it can be found in regulations and recommendations for health care, healthy nutrition, a good life and preventing disease, according to relevant historical and contemporary documents of medical literature in China, the Near East, and Europe. (Contact: Prof. Dr. H.M. Sass, Ruhr-University Bochum, Philosophy, SassHM@aol.com; Dr. Dr. I. Ilkilic, ilhan.ilkilic@uni-tuebingen.de)

Associated project:

AIDS Policy in USA/Germany and China

In this project, the policies of two cultural spheres, USA/Germany and P.R. China, are compared in order to examine how different political systems and cultural backgrounds shape the respective reactions to a common threat, in this case: the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and to what degree these differences are responsible for parallels and differences in the ethical decisions taken in this situation. (Contact: Prof. Dr. P.U. Unschuld, Munich University, History of Medicine, unschuld@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

The organizers invite bioethicists with an interest in cultural issues as partners to cooperate and welcome critical comments and suggestions in line with the major purposes of this project. We thank all who have supported us up to now with their advice and their readiness to co-operate.

For all enquiries, please contact Prof. Dr. Heiner Roetz (speaker, heiner.roetz@rub.de), Dr. des. Ole Doering (ole.doering@rub.de), or Dr. Hu Shiangling (slhu@uni-bielefeld.de). A website (www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/kbe) is under construction. Prof. Dr. Heiner Roetz, Fakultät für Ostasienwissenschaften, Ruhr-Universität, D-44780 Bochum, Tel 0049-234-3226254, Fax 3214440

Eröffnung der Forschungsstelle für Taiwanische Kultur und Literatur

Am 13. November 2002 wurde die Forschungsstelle für Taiwanische Kultur und Literatur an der Fakultät für Ostasienwissenschaften (Uni Bochum) feierlich eröffnet.

Über das Projekt: Seit den frühen 80er-Jahren hat sich die Sektion Sprache und Literatur Chinas unter der Leitung des verstorbenen Prof. Dr. Helmut Martin zunehmend der Taiwan-Forschung gewidmet, vor allem hinsichtlich der kulturellen, gesellschaftlichen, politischen und historischen Entwicklung. Insbesondere dem Engagement H. Martins ist es zu verdanken, dass die Sektion u.a. über die größte Forschungsbibliothek zum Thema taiwanische Kultur und Literatur in Europa verfügt.

Auf der Grundlage dieser Vorarbeiten will das dreijährige Projekt (Beginn September 1999) an der Ruhr-Universität Bochum eine Forschungsstelle unter dem Namen "Research Unit on Taiwanese Culture and Literature" etablieren, um langfristig einer Marginalisierung der Taiwan-Forschung entgegenzuwirken. Weitere Infos unter <http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/slc/taiwan.html>

Daxiyangguo

The Institute of Oriental Studies (Instituto do Oriente) was created in April 1989 as a research uni within the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisbon. In 2001 the Institute started a Post Graduation course on Modern China. Finally, in June 2002, the Instituto do Oriente issued the first number of its half-yearly bilingual (English/Portuguese) journal *Daxiyangguo: Portuguese Journal of Asian Studies*, directed by Prof. Antonio Vasconcelos de Saldanha, which includes articles covering a wide angle of subjects and countries of the region. ISSN 16454677, e-Mail: ioriente@iscsp.utl.pt