

KONFERENZBERICHTE

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Asien: Machtverschiebungen und soziale Strukturen – 9. Tagung der DGA-Nachwuchsgruppe

Jena, 25. bis 27. Januar 2019

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Universität Heidelberg, Frankfurt, 25.–26. 2019

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DGA-Tagung 2019: „Asia: Global Challenges, Regional Conflicts, and National Logics“

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**International Postgraduate and Academic Conference & International Symposium
“East Asia and the World after Globalization”**

Chung-Ang-Universität, Seoul, 23.–24. Februar 2018

**Doktorandenkonferenz im Rahmen der Ostasiatischen Zentrenkonferenz
„Herausforderungen der neuen Welt. Imaginationen der neuen Generation:
1968–2018“**

Chung-Ang-Universität, Seoul, 4.–7. Oktober 2018

Judith Hollnagel und Anja Ketels:

International Conference: Good Life, State and Society

Freie Universität Berlin, December 7–8, 2018

Die abschließende Podiumsdiskussion wurde von mir moderiert und endete mit einem Ausblick auf weitere diesbezügliche Forschungsdesiderata sowie der Planung der nächsten nord-ostasiatischen DAAD-Zentren-Konferenz im Oktober 2019 in Peking.

Den Abschluss der Konferenz bildete ein ganztägiges Kulturprogramm in zwei separaten Gruppen, das wiederum die Gelegenheit zu vertieftem, informellen Austausch bot. Das Konferenzprogramm ist unter diesem Link herunterzuladen:

https://www.daad.de/medien/der-daad/unsere-aufgaben/deutsche-sprache/pdfs/zedes_doktorandenkonferenz_2018_ausschreibung.pdf.

Interessant – und göltig für beide Konferenzen – ist, dass trotz der gegenwärtigen politischen Spannungen in der Region die wissenschaftliche Zusammenarbeit offensichtlich reibungslos funktioniert und damit Hoffnung für weitere fruchtbringende Perspektiven bietet. Neben den ReferentInnen beteiligten sich zudem zahlreiche Studierende, aber auch WissenschaftlerInnen von anderen Hochschulen an den beiden Ereignissen. Beide Konferenzen waren im Übrigen hervorragend organisiert und offerierten viele Möglichkeiten des interkulturellen Austauschs. Veröffentlichungen sind über die Tagungsunterlagen hinaus leider nicht vorgesehen.

György Széll

International Conference: Good Life, State and Society

Freie Universität Berlin, December 7–8, 2018

The conference was hosted by the Institute of Chinese Studies and the Institute of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin as part of the “German–Chinese Alumni Network – The Good Life” which is funded by the German Ministry of Education and Science. 20 Chinese and international scholars from the social sciences, philosophy and area studies addressed different topics on state-society relations against the backdrop of current developments in China. In his opening speech, Stefan Gosepath (Berlin), head of the “Good Life” network, emphasized the importance of developing intellectual globalization and networks in the humanities to understand the ideas behind China’s politics.

The first panel “Good Life, Third Sector Rules and Regulations” dealt with legal aspects of Chinese non-profit organizations. It focused on the “Charity Law” (in force since September 2016) and discussed the regulatory development of the Chinese non-profit sector. A sociological (Anthony Spires, Melbourne), a legal (Knut Benjamin Pißler, Hamburg) and an anthropological (Han Junkui, Beijing) perspective on the law clarified the new legal situation and, at the same time, laid open differing views about the implementation and implications of the law. It became apparent that different perspectives can help furthering the understanding of the Charity Law.

The second panel, “Good Life, Social Governance and State–Society Cooperation”, focused on the role of non-profit organizations in social governance. The presentations showed the variety of different forms of third sector engagement. All presentations underscored the need for non-profit organizations as experts. Deng Guosheng and Guan Shanshan (Beijing) indicated the importance of coproduction between NGOs and the state in public service provision. Katja Levy (Berlin) argued that foundations as social innovators could fulfill the important function of promoting China’s third sector. Chu Songyan (Beijing) described how the Chinese government transfers some of its functions to Scientific and Technological Associations. Hu Yinglian (Beijing) discussed the need of an autonomous third sector as partner of the government in the regulation of food and drug safety.

The third panel “Good Life, State and Society: Comparison and Cooperation” was on state-society relations in theoretical and comparative perspective. The analysis of civil society models of de Tocqueville and Hegel by Annette Zimmer and Roman Paul Turczynski (Münster) showed the difficulty of applying Western assumptions to the Chinese context. A comparison between Germany and China worked out the different characteristics of NGOs and the modes of their relationship with the respective government (Ma Qingyu, Beijing). Nora Sausmikát (Köln) questioned the applicability of the term civil society for China against the background of a dying advocacy movement in her talk about differences of civil society in East Asia. These presentations opened discussions on the adoption of the civil society concept to China and forms of action outside of the state-society paradigm.

The fourth panel “Good Life, State, Society and Foreign Actors” analyzed the changing roles of overseas NGOs in China, particularly after the adoption of China’s Overseas NGO Law (in force since January 2017). Technically, this law has clarified the legal framework. However, overseas NGOs in China are now dealing with new difficulties, restrictions and insecurities regarding the implementation of the law. Mark Sidel (Wisconsin) expressed his concern about the inconveniences caused by a new level of isolation and restriction for overseas NGOs. The research of Andreas Fulda (Nottingham) and Horst Fabian (Frankfurt) revealed that for European NGOs the law resulted in a feeling of losing trust and friendship with China. Heike Holbig and Bertram Lang (Frankfurt) concluded this panels session with an analysis on how the new regulatory environment influences the work of overseas NGOs in China by restraining, replacing and reorienting their work. The panel raised a discussion on a reconception of the roles of overseas NGOs in China.

The fifth panel “Good Life, Advocacy and Spaces of Action” highlighted some examples of third sector groups’ actions and their spaces and opportunities. Bettina Gransow (Berlin) suggested applying the concept of *jianghu*, originally a term describing certain wild or unregulated regions in *Wuxia* Movies, as an analytical tool for analyzing migrant spaces and processes of migrants’ self-organization in Chinese cities (Bettina Gransow, Berlin). Further presentations included insights into the work of industry associations and their social and political functions (Mao Peijin, Beijing) and of religious associations and their struggle for autonomy (Lu Chen, Berlin).

In his conference synopsis, Stefan Toepler (Virginia) identified three core issues: firstly, different perspectives on the meaning and implications of the new third sector laws and on the status of third sector organizations in China appeared to be central issues of concern. Secondly, the adaption and implementation of co-operation models between third sector groups and the government must be developed further. Thirdly, the marginalization of advocacy was an issue of concern. He said that these two days full of inspiring inputs and lively discussions provided the participants and organizers of the conference with manifold insights. Overall, the conference received great response and showed the timeliness and relevance of issues concerned with state-society relationship in China which definitely require further cooperation across disciplines and borders including perspectives from academics and practitioners.

Judith Hollnagel and Anja Ketels