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- Women's Careers and Cities: Comparison of Employment Patterns in South Korea and Japan
- Über die Herausforderung(en) des Dialogs mit Nordkorea
- India's Strategies on its Periphery: A Case Study in the India–Bhutan Relationship
- Islam and Nation-Building in Indonesia and Malaysia
- Taiwans UN-Kampagne 2017: Kleine Schritte statt großer Sprung
- An Interview with Hu Ching Fang

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REFERIERTE ARTIKEL

Mee-Kyung Jung: Women's Careers and Cities: Comparison of Employment Patterns in South Korea and Japan	5
Eric J. Ballbach: Über die Herausforderung(en) des Dialogs mit Nordkorea	31
Monja Sauvagerd: India's Strategies on its Periphery: A Case Study in the India–Bhutan Relationship	56
Patrick Ziegenhain: Islam and Nation-Building in Indonesia and Malaysia.....	78

RESEARCH NOTE

Tobias Adam: Taiwans UN-Kampagne 2017: Kleine Schritte statt großer Sprung	96
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

STIMMEN AUS ASIEN

Thilo Diefenbach: An Interview with Hu Ching Fang	110
------------------------------------------------------------	-----

KONFERENZBERICHTE	116
--------------------------------	-----

REZENSIONEN	127
--------------------------	-----

NEUERE LITERATUR	145
-------------------------------	-----

AUTORINNEN UND AUTOREN DIESER AUSGABE	152
----------------------------------------------------	-----

KONFERENZBERICHTE

Inhalt

Anil Paralkar, Nora Katharina Faltmann:

Sommerschule Asian Food: History, Anthropology, Sociology

International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, 25–29, September 2017

Christian Obermayr, Robert Hafner, Widiyanto Widiyanto and Martin Coy:

International Scientific Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

Surakarta, Indonesia, November 18–19, 2017

Juanita Elias (PI), Chusnul Mari'yah, Lena Rethel, Reni Suwarso and Lisa Tilley:

Getting published in the Social Sciences for Indonesian Early Career Researchers

University of Warwick, August 15, 2017

Thomas Engelbert:

The South China Sea Conflict after the Arbitration of July 12, 2016: Analyses and Perspectives

University Hamburg, November 24–25, 2017

Yan Zhe:

ASC conference 2017

Köln, December 1–2, 2017

Marie Weishaupt, Chaline Timmerarens:

Gender, Migration and Food: Women in Japanese Foodscapes in Berlin and Düsseldorf

Freie Universität Berlin, June 23, 2017

The workshop was part of the capacity building activities of the British Council Newton Institutional Links project: The Gendered Everyday Political Economy of Kampung Eviction & Resettlement in Jakarta (project ID 271195589). Building on the success of the workshop, the organisers are keen to expand it to other universities in Indonesia. Members of CEPP's network of 45 Indonesian universities have expressed great enthusiasm for capacity building activities around publication strategies and sharing knowledge.

Juanita Elias (PI), Chusnul Mari'yah, Lena Rethel, Reni Suwarso and Lisa Tilley

The South China Sea Conflict after the Arbitration of July 12, 2016: Analyses and Perspectives

University of Hamburg, November 24–25, 2017

The colloquium took place on Friday, November 24, 2017 from 10.00 until 19.00 in Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (Hauptgebäude, Senatssaal) and on Saturday, November 25, 2017 from 9.00 until 17.00 in Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (Ostflügel). There were 16 participants from five European countries: Germany, Norway, France, Great Britain and Russia. This colloquium united European experts on China and Southeast Asia, who are political scientists, historians and specialists of international law. This multi- and interdisciplinary approach to the conflict contributed to new perspectives in the discussion of this burning issue.

Most of the presentations were recorded and appeared on the university's website "Lecture to Go" (<https://lecture2go.uni-hamburg.de/l2go/-/get/v/22379>).

The aim of the broadcasting is to reach a broader public within Germany and abroad.

As important guests who were listening to individual presentations we could welcome members of the diplomatic corps in Hamburg and Germany (e.g. the consul of Japan in Hamburg, consular staff from ASEAN consulates and embassies in Hamburg, Berlin and The Hague) and the President of the International Court of the Law of the Sea who all came in their private capacities.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the sponsors for their generous support, in particular the Hamburger Wissenschaftliche Stiftung.

On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled on the case Philippines versus China concerning the South China Sea (SCS). The PCA ruled in favour of seven of the Philippine submissions, especially the invalidity of the so-called Nine Dash Line of China's maritime borders and the historical rights on which this line is based. China had refused to participate in the arbitration and declared the result as "null and void". In particular, China announced its policy of the Four No: "Not accept the jurisdiction of the PCA, not take part in the proceedings, not acknowledge the results and not implement them."

Even with this outright rejection of the verdict by one of the conflicting parties, the rule can be considered as a legal milestone in history of the SCS conflict. China's claims have been proven inconsistent with international law. This fact alone, however, does not yet lead to a conflict settlement.

The international community was following this event and its possible consequences with attention, anxiety and expectations. Like other centres of world power, e.g. the US, Japan, Russia or India, Europe and the European Union have to formulate a common policy as an international actor. Europe and the SCS are more than 9,000 kilometers apart. However,

there is a strong economic, political and security interdependence between these two regions. A widening conflict in the SCS will not only hurt European interests but also endanger international stability and prosperity by weakening an international order based on principles deeply rooted in European and Western history. A European response seems to be even more important now after the change of the US administration.

The colloquium comprised two parts: the analysis of the current conflict constellation and possible future directions, which could lead to a settlement.

In the first part, the participants analysed the current conflict constellation and especially the drivers of the conflict. Undoubtedly the China conundrum and the question of China–ASEAN interaction will remain in the center of debate for years to come. However, are there parallels with similar conflicts in Europe? How far did ideas which originated in Europe, like nationalism, national sovereignty and territorial integrity or *mare clausum/mare liberum*, shape the perceptions of the claimants in the SCS? China and Vietnam, e.g., base their claims on history, thus directly or indirectly questioning the competence of international law. In recent years, however, Vietnam, Malaysia and several other Southeast Asian countries have found pragmatic bilateral solutions for their maritime border limitations based on the principles of international law.

Is the perspective of a “China peril” close to the multi-faceted realities or is it a misinterpretation of the PRC actions? As far as this point was concerned, there were interesting views exchanged. The first view asserted that “the Chinese tiger is ready to jump”, which was made extremely clear in the demonstration of the ongoing arms’ build-up. However, there was also the heatedly debated view that this big country was in reality a “colossus on clay feet”. This point of view was based on China’s many economic, political and social problems, which have remained unsolved.

In the second part of the colloquium, the participants discussed ways and experiences, which may offer avenues out of that conflict.

The questions were: What can we learn from historical border settlements, like the Tonkin Gulf Agreement of 2000 or the China-Vietnam land border treaty of 1999? How much is the long history of bi- and multilateral relations of the concerned countries useful for that purpose? Will a combination of bilateral and multilateral approaches lead to a peaceful settlement? Does international law provide solutions which will be acceptable to all parties involved? Are European ideas like the joint management of resources, the construction of a common security architecture or preventive diplomacy helpful? In which way European and Asian, especially ASEAN, experiences may contribute to the debate about a new international order and legal system?

The debate was vivid, based on carefully prepared presentations. All in all, there seems to be no clear picture at the moment, as diverging tendencies compete with each other. However, it is necessary to look closely into the external and internal perspectives of the individual countries like China, the Philippines and Vietnam. This includes, e.g., internal political struggles, economic constraints and the sober realities of asymmetric power relations.

This refers also to the importance of the July 12, 2016 PCA ruling. Some participants described it as a legal milestone and a basis for the next rulings of the International Court on the Law of the Sea regarding the legal claims concerning the continental shelf. However, other participants went even so far to declare the PCA ruling a dead letter.

We know that this colloquium was only one step of many activities which are currently undertaken to get a better understanding of the conflicts in and around the SCS. The debate

will go on, partially based on new developments within the region. After the colloquium, the presentations of the individual participants will be updated and enriched, so that they can appear in a conference-volume scheduled for mid-2018.

Thomas Engelbert

ASC conference 2017

Köln, December 1–2, 2017

The 2017 conference of the Association for Social Science Research on China (Arbeitskreises Sozialwissenschaftliche Chinaforschung, ASC) was held in Cologne on December 1st and 2nd, 2017. An international array of scholars gathered to share their current interests and present their most recent findings. The conference was opened with a keynote address from Vivienne Shue (Oxford University); presented by Anna Ahlers (University of Oslo). Shue situated nuanced detail of the Party's governance project within a macro-historical context of empire, and identified a number of implications that may impact social and economic developments initiated in the Xi era.

In response, the first panel discussed current and emerging dynamics of governance in China which characterize Xi's leadership. Chen Xuelian (China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics) addressed cadre evaluation and management, and its implications for institutional changes under Xi's innovative approaches to governance. Gunter Schubert and Sascha Zhivkov (University of Tübingen) explored the development of the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone within the context of China's traditional policy approach for experimentation. Their findings provide an understanding of how economic innovation and experimentation are being played out under a framework of top-level design. Shen Yongdong and Anna Ahlers (University of Oslo) focused on the policy development of campaign-style negotiations in international forums; centering on the dynamics surrounding discussions on air-pollution controls at the G20 Hangzhou Summit. They identified positive residual policy effects emanating from these campaign-style dynamics.

The following panel focused on population policy and the Chinese family. Björn Alpermann (University of Würzburg) provided a survey and interpretive analyses of Chinese policy documents for population governance. He argued that, despite the abolition of the one child policy, governmental policies directed to population control are still very much in evidence and are being purposefully pursued. Luo Baozhen (Western Washington University) presented a macro picture of China's care-economy from the perspective of feminist economics, and appealed for the construction of a social-investment state in terms of long term social care. Birgit Hermann (University of Würzburg) offered qualitative evidence on the phenomenon of voluntary childlessness in urban China; an unanticipated and sensitive outcome that emerged as a collateral result of China's modernization project.

The third panel treated aspects of Chinese politics. Christian Göbel (University of Vienna) and Chen Xuelian delved into e-governance in China; specifically, electronic petitioning. Their research addressed the question as to why petitions are put online, and documented how narratives regarding good and bad citizens are being constructed through this governance mode. The growing influence of advocacy groups as effective actors in policy making was observed by Emina Popovic (Free University of Berlin). She investigated the role that associations play in influencing environmental policy making and outcome, and identified the technical nature of their impact on policy outcomes. Christoph Steinhardt (Chinese