

gegenwärtigen Südasiens befördern. Die Mitgliedschaft steht allen DGA-Mitgliedern offen, ein zusätzlicher Beitrag wird nicht erhoben. Nach der Gründung des Arbeitskreises mit einer kleinen Feier inklusive Sekt wurden Mirjam Lücking (Universität Freiburg), Jann Christoph von der Pütten (ZOpKomBw) und Patrick Ziegenhain zum ersten Sprecherteam gewählt. Die erste Veranstaltung des neuen Arbeitskreises ist die Konferenz „Die Schattenseiten des Wirtschaftswachstums in Südostasien“, die vom 19.–20. Juni 2015 an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt a.M. ausgerichtet wird. Als zweite Veranstaltung des Arbeitskreises stehen die Weingartener Asiengespräche an, die dieses Jahr vom 13.–15. November 2015 stattfinden und sich mit dem Thema Menschen- und Bürgerrechte in Asien befassen.

Anschließend stellte Anett Keller als Vertreterin des Asienhauses Köln die Arbeit der Südostasien Informationsstelle vor und hob besonders drei Projekte hervor: Die Wanderausstellung „Den Mutigen eine Stimme geben“ beschäftigt sich mit der Medien- und Meinungsfreiheit in Südostasien. Der Sammelband „Gewalt gegen Frauen“ gibt einen Einblick in die alltägliche politische und rechtliche Situation von Frauen in Südostasien, während die Publikation „Indonesien 1965ff.“ ausschließlich Beiträge indonesischer Autoren versammelt und so Einblicke in die antikommunistischen Massenmorde Mitte der 1960er Jahre in Indonesien vermittelt.

Schließlich stellte Mirjam Lücking ein Lehrforschungsprojekt der Freiburger Ethnologie vor. Deutsche und indonesische Studierende forschen seit 2004 gemeinsam zu alltagsnahen Themen wie Gartenkooperationen, Punk oder Veganismus. Das Projekt, über das Anett Keller bereits im Spiegel berichtete, will die Perspektivenvielfalt und unterschiedlichen Zugänge zu ethnologischer Forschung aufzeigen und so die „Einseitigkeit ethnologischen Verstehens“ überwinden.

Nach den beiden Workshops dankte Peter Christian Hauswedell im Schlusswort der Jahrestagung noch einmal allen Teilnehmern und Referenten für ihr Engagement und fasste die wichtigsten Entscheidungen der Mitgliederversammlung zusammen: Wolfgang Brenn und Claudia Derichs haben den Vorstand der DGA verlassen, Deike Zimmann wird nach dem Ausscheiden von Benedikt Skowasch ab dem 1. Juni 2015 die Geschäftsführung der DGA übernehmen. Zudem begrüßte Peter Christian Hauswedell offiziell den neu gegründeten Arbeitskreis Südostasien (AK SOA) in der DGA. Schließlich wies er auf die Besonderheit der nächsten Jahrestagung 2017 hin, die mit dem 50jährigen Bestehen der DGA zusammenfallen wird. Anlässlich dieses Jubiläums sind alle Interessierten eingeladen, sich mit Überlegungen zur künftigen Rolle der DGA für die Entwicklung der Asienforschung in Deutschland in die Vorbereitung der Tagung einzubringen.

Carmen Brandt, Kai Enzweiler, Christina Maags

Cultural Mediation: Creativity, Performance, Display

6th Annual Conference of the Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context“, October 8–10, 2014, Karl Jaspers Centre

The Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context” held its 6th Annual Conference at Heidelberg University. The contributors explored the various ways in which cultural practice is communicated. While established concepts such as ‘contact’, ‘relation’, and ‘influence’ risk a depersonalized approach to cultural communication, a frame of reference was discussed that would do justice to the position of individual ‘cultural mediators’

or 'brokers' and the material and political conditions from which they operate. Case-studies from a variety of disciplines drew attention to the morphology of 'cultural mediation' in different times and places.

The opening keynote lecture by Erika Fischer-Lichte aimed at a better understanding of cultural dynamics in the field of theatre studies. Distancing herself from 'intercultural theatre', she criticized the rigidity of thinking in binaries such as West and Non-West, self and other, performer and audience, tradition and modernity. The panels that followed brought unexpected and often neglected mediators and processes of mediation to the fore. In the panel "Detecting Performance Brokers: Theatrical Agents, Managers, and Impresarios in Global Theatre Histories (1850-1920)", the speakers emphasized that theater cannot function as an art form nor as a business without the patronage of professional cultural mediators. The panel "Translating Concepts in a Religious Context" focused on the different aspects of translation as a process of cultural mediation. "Mediating Asian Christianities: Agents, Practices, Concepts" challenged uni-directional approaches towards mediation; the spread of Evangelical and Charismatic forms of Christianity throughout Asia has not only been underrepresented in the study of global Christianities, but was mainly approached as only a Western phenomenon migrating to the East. The panel "Transcultural Sartorial Mediations: Performing Identity, Nation, and Modernity through Fashion" explored the dynamics of fashion in 21st-century China and India and revealed how fashion editors, designers, and photographers are not just mediators in their own right, but also provide the opportunities and parameters for others to mediate status or national identity.

Several panels stressed the importance of distinguishing between particular forms and places of mediation. In the panel "Social Orders in Transit: Passenger Communities during Long-Distance Ship Passages, c. 1770–1945", ships were taken as exemplary historical in-between spaces, where passengers would find themselves in a liminal phase of partial social suspension, faced with unprecedented challenges, such as the mixing of classes and sexes, unthinkable on land. The panel "The Display of Words and Narratives in Museum Space: a Transcultural Reading" took author museums and contemporary art galleries as fields where the visual narratives and gallery texts function as underestimated yet crucial media. In the panel "Auditive Mediation of Cultures: Sermon, Prayers, and Recitation", attention turned towards the vocal recitations of poets and preachers, and the way they create emotional responses through the effect of speech. The Panel "Heidelberg Research Architecture (HRA): Digital Resources and Scientific Annotations" introduced the means, tools, and objectives of The Hachiman Digital Handscrolls Project (HDH), which serves as an example of the possibilities of new digital methods for both analyzing and presenting vulnerable, delicate objects.

The conference also addressed the political circumstances that limit the roles mediators or brokers want or are asked to play. In the second keynote lecture "Cultural Brokerage: A Medieval Mediterranean Perspective" Nikolas Jaspert argued that violence and friction are often neglected in processes of cultural brokerage. He therefore introduced a differentiation between intentional and latent forms of cultural brokerage. The panel "Mediating Art and Art Criticism in Times of Crises: Japan, China, and Europe in the Mid-Twentieth Century" elaborated on artists, curators and art critics as mediators in moments of political tension while the panel "Building the City Image: Culture, Creativity, and Contemporary Art" showed how artists and urban intellectuals from China, Japan, and South Africa are inextricably caught up in 'city image building processes' as part of urban development programs, and the related promotion of creative clusters and a creative class. Being aware of such inevitable political entanglements, the panel "Migrating Images as Transcultural

Mediators” called the role of the artist as the sole performer and the status of the researcher as an outside observer into question. One of the last panels, “Life-Action Roleplay; or the Performance of Realities”, guided the conference participants through a 90-minute collaborative performance, encouraging critical and creative reflections that resonated with general concerns about the position and responsibility of academics. By analyzing both emerging technologies of mediation that have so far been overlooked, by identifying a wide range of mediators including academics, and by looking at both the political and material conditions and obstructions of mediation, the conference served as a great vantage point for future explorations on cultural mediation.

Marlène Harles and Martijn de Rooij

Translocal Spatial Practices, Urban Transformations: Migration and Mobile Urbanism in South and South-East Asia

FRIAS Junior Researcher Conference, Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg, January 14–16, 2015.

Conveners of the conference were Tabea Bork-Hüffer (National University of Singapore), Kirsten Hackenbroch (University of Freiburg) and Stefan Rother (University of Freiburg/FRIAS). It was organized in cooperation with FREINEM (Freiburger Netzwerk für Migrationsforschung), and the Freiburg Center for Transcultural Asian Studies (CETRAS). The conference was aimed at exploring the nexus of international migration, spatial practices and urban transformation. Researchers were invited to explore the advantages of translocality as a research approach. Participants presented both conceptual considerations and empirical research and discussed the conceptual value of translocality in two working group sessions.

Two keynote lectures opened the conference. Elaine Lynne-Ee Ho (National University of Singapore) discussed Sino-Myanmar mobilities and the current urban transformation. In her case study on trans-border cultural exchanges she traced translocal connections, development corridors and their interrelations with wider global patterns. She highlighted the need to differentiate between the overlapping, though distinct, concepts of transnationalism and translocality.

In the second keynote lecture, Ayona Datta (University of Leeds) pointed towards the simultaneity of local, regional and global influences and transfers in the development of smart cities in India. With reference to the current state of Indian politics, smart cities are celebrated as the incarnation of connectivity between spaces, places and people and presented as the only way to bring order to the chaos of urbanization. At the same time, the local rural population has been systematically excluded from the decision-making process in these new projects.

Clemens Greiner (University of Cologne) introduced the notion of coupling between different spatial or hierarchical dimensions in an attempt to further differentiate between mobilities and transfers in a given spatial context. Julia Verne (University of Frankfurt/Main) added the idea of relationality to the conceptual debate on translocality, referring to entanglements of different connections which led to the emergence of points or nodes rather than lines connecting pre-existing points. Patrick Sakkapolrak (University of Bonn) emphasized the influence of social practices on the materiality of local fields, which in turn influence social practices.

In his presentation on the region of South China, North Laos and North Vietnam, Peter Kesselburg (University of Freiburg) argued that the existence of different shared languages