

Gesellschaft Indonesiens legitimiere. Auch heute noch wirke trotz zivilgesellschaftlicher Projekte zur Aufarbeitung und Versöhnung eine Stigmatisierung, und die staatliche Historiographie existiere weitgehend unverändert fort.

Insgesamt boten die Weingartener Asiengespräche eine facettenreiche Annäherung an das weite Thema „Menschenrechte“ und deren Rezeption in Asien. Wesentlich zur Veranschaulichung trug dabei auch die gemeinsame Betrachtung des Films von Joshua Oppenheimers *The Look of Silence* bei. Verabschiedet wurde bei der Tagung der langjährige Leiter des Tagungshauses Weingarten, Rainer Öhlschläger, die etablierte Tagungsreihe soll aber auch über seinen Ruhestand hinaus im kommenden Jahr fortgesetzt werden.

Simon Züfle

6th Annual Conference of the Study Group South Asia of the German Geographical Society (DGfG)

Osnabrück, 22–23 January 2016

From 22 to 23 January 2016, the sixth annual conference of the South Asia study group within the DGfG took place in Osnabrück. Martin Franz and Nicolas Schlitz from the study group “Human Geography with a Focus on Economic Geography” hosted the conference. Current research projects were presented in 15 conference presentations and one documentary film.

After the welcoming address, the conference began with a session on agri-food networks and development in India. Martin Franz and Philip Müller (University of Osnabrück) discussed the influence of foreign direct investment on the agrarian sector in India. Despite their comparatively small share, these investments have sweeping consequences for the development of agri-food networks. Karan Raut (Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai) presented his analysis of the changing demand for agricultural labour in the village Maskawad in Northern Maharashtra. In a comparison with historical census data, he was able to show that the demand for female employees in certain sectors has risen significantly and that the overall mechanisation in the sector has increased.

The second session dealt with various environmental problems and the conflicts they have engendered, as examined from an interdisciplinary perspective. Korinna Klasing presented the different perceptions of ongoing environmental changes on Munroe Island in Kerala, India, which is increas-

ingly threatened by floods. She outlined the societal framework and the different coping strategies of the population. In a second presentation, Helmut Meuser (University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück) described the environmental problems and health risks that result from the landfills in Haryana. Using the results of a physical-chemical analysis, he analysed the extent to which garbage collectors suffer from exposure to different toxic substances. Nicolas Schlitz (University of Osnabrück) addressed the topic of waste management in Bangalore. He analysed the complex political and economic interactions and the spatial dimensions of the conflict over waste and waste disposal.

The third session took place in English and was dedicated to political and economic challenges in regional development, taking up a planning and political perspective. Manisha Jain (Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden) discussed the challenges for sustainable city growth in the metropolitan region Delhi in the context of the general growth of urban regions in India. Miriam Wenner (University of Zürich) sketched the strategies of the Indian federal government and the government of West Bengal regarding demands for a sovereign Gorkhaland.

The highlight of the conference was the award of the research prize “Geography of South Asia” for the best geographic dissertation on South Asia. The award took place for the second time. A committee, composed of Christoph Dittrich, Gregor Falk, Martin Frank and Frauke Krass, was responsible for the selection of the winner. Sarah Hartmann (Zürich) won the prize for her master thesis “The Work of Medical Travel Facilitators: Caring for and Caring about International Patients in Delhi”. In presenting the award, Markus Keck praised the thesis for its analytical depth and theoretical foundation and its contribution to the intersecting fields of geography of migration and geography of healthcare. In her speech, Sarah Hartmann explained how health care providers in Delhi recruit patients, shedding light on the role of “advisors” (agents) and their networks. She vividly depicted the different aspects of the work of these agents, which range from organizational matters to emotional support. For her non-cash prize, Sarah Hartmann received a one-year subscription to the magazine *Geographische Rundschau* and a voucher from the publisher Franz Steiner Verlag. Following the award ceremony, Daphne Gondhalekar (TU Munich) presented her film “If not Now, When? Planning for the Urban Water-Energy-Food Nexus”, in which she delineated the conflict over the water supply in Leh (Ladakh).

Before the day ended with a cozy dinner in the old town of Osnabrück, the study group held its general assembly. The speakers’ team could look back at a successful year: the study group supervised two special issues, and in addition to the conference volume, a further volume of the publication

series was published, the thesis that won last year's award, authored by Hannah Uprety. The study group has increased in number, with a current total of 89 members. As a result of the annual elections for the speakers' team, Carsten Butsch (Köln), Martin Franz (Osnabrück), Markus Keck (Göttingen) and Julia Poerting (Heidelberg) remained as speakers. After six years of membership, Mareike Kroll (Cologne) left the speakers' team and Alexander Follmann (Köln) replaced her. Matthias Schmidt from Augsburg will be a member of the speakers' team in his function as organizer of next year's annual conference.

On Saturday morning, two sessions further examined the high mountain regions of the Himalayas, the topic of the previous day's film. The first session dealt with various aspects of the (crisis-prone) availability of water in Ladakh. Juliane Dame and Judith Müller (University of Heidelberg) presented a case study on the current development of the water supply in Leh (Ladakh). They sketched the rapid social and ecological transformations caused by the increasing (political, economic and infrastructural) linkages of the region to the Indian lowlands and the growth of tourism. Benjamin Kraus (University of Heidelberg) showed the results of his master's thesis, in which he scrutinised the challenges of the seasonal availability of irrigation water and the local solution, which attempts to save water in artificial glaciers. In the second session, Stefanie Raschke (University of Heidelberg) described the return to traditional economic procedures that has accompanied the introduction of ecological agriculture. She examined how various market-based instruments can facilitate the livelihood of peasants. Then Ulrich Selgert (University of Heidelberg) presented the results of his master's thesis, in which he executed a remote sensing of the area- and height-changes of the Zemu glacier in the Sikkim Himalaya between 1931 and 2014. He used various sources (historical photographs and maps, satellite images) to reconstruct positions and changes of the glacier. Following the last presentation by Judith Müller and Julia Poerting (University of Heidelberg), a lively discussion arose, in which the participants discussed methods, research networks and practices of cooperation as well as research in the development context from a postcolonial perspective.

The final session was on various aspects of migration from South Asia to Europe. Carsten Butsch (University of Cologne) shared the first results of his study "Transnational actions of Indian migrants in Germany". He outlined how first- and second-generation migrants from India have established connections between Germany and India. Raphael Schwegmann (KU Eichstätt / University of Heidelberg / EHESS Paris) sketched his current research project on the production of (post)colonial politics using self-testimonies of South Asian migrants in the UK.

General information on the study group South Asia can be found at www.geographie-suedasiens.de. The publication series of the study group is accessible online in the CrossAsia-Repository (University of Heidelberg). Scholars interested in membership can contact Carsten Butsch (butschc@uni-koeln.de). The next annual conference takes place in Augsburg on 27 and 28 January 2017.

Carsten Butsch / Julia Poerting

Recent Spatial Dynamics in Southeast Asia
Annual Conference of the Study Group Southeast Asia
of the German Geographical Society (DGfG)

Cologne, 2–3 July 2016

The scientific research group on Southeast Asia, set up in 1996, celebrated its 20th anniversary in early July 2016 at its annual conference held this time in the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne. Among the 48 participants from Germany and Austria there were numerous colleagues, PhD and masters' students from various academic fields. In all, they presented 15 contributions from their current research on Southeast Asia. It was very pleasing once again to see the high proportion of participants from Southeast Asia at the conference.

With regard to Thailand, Patrick Sakdapolrak presented his research group's project on "Translocal Resilience", and Benjamin Casper put forward his doctoral project on "The Transformation to amphibian Urban Spaces in Bangkok". Contributions on Indonesia examined the consequences of natural hazards and climate change in Semarang (Fabio Pruß); the role played by companies in regional adaptation to flooding, both in Semarang and Jakarta (Thomas Neise); sociocultural and institutional transformational processes in Jambi (Heiko Faust); and the martial art Pencak Silat (Patrick Keilbart). There were five papers on Vietnam: Javier Revilla Diez took stock of 30 years of the Doi Moi Policy; Franziska Sohns presented her doctoral project on survival strategies in household businesses; Sandra Kurfürst gave a report on a project dealing with food security in Hanoi; Eva Fuhrmann spoke on the perception of urban and rural spaces within Vietnam; Kerstin Schiele dealt with how the country is perceived by overseas Vietnamese. Findings of studies on the socio-economic potential of