

## Climate Change and ZMO Research

Between 6 and 17 November, 2017, the city of Bonn received over 20,000 participants of the UN Climate Change Conference, hosted by the Republic of Fiji and organized by the Federal Republic of Germany. In the conference build-up, climate change once more became a prominent and fiercely contested theme of public debate, as the current US government threatened to reverse earlier steps towards a more climate-friendly policy amidst an increasing number of extreme, often catastrophic weather phenomena.

The geographical areas covered by researchers at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient are among the most severely impacted by the effects of global warming. A 2016 report published by the Max-Planck-Institute of Chemistry and the Cyprus Institute predicted that extreme heatwaves and rising temperatures could make large parts of the Middle East and North Africa virtually uninhabitable in the 21st century. South Asia, too, is threatened by extreme heat and humidity, which could affect up to 70% of the population by 2100. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are expected to see ever more catastrophic levels of flooding, while Africa already suffers from increasing floods, droughts, and disrupted rainfall patterns.

In Germany, media reports on the effects of climate change make general reference to these predictions – frequently with an undertone of alarm regarding an increase of migratory flows from the global South

likely to be induced by climate change. However, African, Middle Eastern and Asian experiences, perspectives and voices addressing the severe effects of global warming are largely under-represented in mainstream debates on today's environmental crisis.

»anthropoSCENE: Film and Climate Justice in Asia and Africa« created a public space to feature and discuss African, Middle Eastern and Asian cinematic perspectives on climate change. The title was derived from a cinematic pun on a contested term that has influenced academic research,

art, and philosophy since being popularized by the atmospheric chemist Paul Crutzen in the early 2000s: in this literature, as well as numerous conferences, exhibitions, and art projects, anthropocene refers to the most recent epoch in the history of the Earth, an era of dangerous ecological instability caused by human-induced climate change and pollution.

The festival programme of short and feature length films brought together the work of artists, filmmakers, activists, journalists and academics who tackle climate change in the global

South. Many screenings highlighted the agency of affected populations. A cluster of films directly addressed the consequences of changing weather as experienced by individuals and communities. Another explored the less obvious impacts of global warming by scrutinizing forms of energy considered antidotes to the problem of carbon emissions (water, wind and atomic power). A final strand drew attention to the modern history and contemporary reality of natural resource exploitation, framing the climate crisis as part of a broader struggle for environmental justice in the global South.

The final day of screenings coincided with Germany's parliamentary elections. As the last post-screening discussion brought the

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»Thank You For the Rain«  
(2017, dir. Julia Dahr/Kisilu Musya), courtesy Banyak films

At ZMO, historians, anthropologists and geographers in the research field *The Politics of Resources*

who are working on countries such as Pakistan, Egypt, Iraq, Turkey, the Bukharan Emirate and Tanzania have been exploring different facets of human engagement with the natural environment since 2014. Individual projects investigate local perspectives on changing agricultural practices, contested strategies and policies of energy generation, or on provisions of and responses to resource scarcity and natural disasters.

Within this field, ZMO research fellow Ali Nobil Ahmad has explored the use of visual media to communicate his research findings about the disastrous repercussions of the 2010 floods in Pakistan, for instance through his 2015 documentary film, »Waseb«. In September 2017, Ahmad curated a film festival to bridge academic research and public debate through visual and cinematic means. Co-sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung and ZMO, the festival titled

## A Global History of Political Thought at Kabul University, 1964 – 1992 // Kyara Klausmann

When talking with people who studied at Kabul University during the late 1960s and 1970s one of their first sentences usually is: ›It was a golden time – maybe even the best years of my life!‹ Back then, Kabul was not dominated by high concrete walls and barbed wire as it is now. Former students remember

ideas of democracy within an authoritarian regime and confronted increasingly nationalist rhetoric in a country dominated by foreign powers; they also faced an international environment with conflicting ideals of communism and capitalism, secularism and religion. The students from the provinces experienced

of ›Khadists‹ – people working for the secret service. Students had to organize their activities very carefully and sometimes ended up in prison. And yet, they continued to imagine a progressive future for Afghanistan.

By conducting interviews with former students of Kabul University – both political activists and observers – I try to reveal the individual stories behind the developments mentioned above. My interview partners remember how they copied political pamphlets by hand for distribution to peers, how they sneaked off to the cinema during a demonstration they were forced to attend, how they scribbled revolutionary slogans on the blackboards, how they continued to pass around banned books hidden in a false cover, and how they dreamed of becoming doctors, engineers, or judges. These experiences were part of daily life and yet reveal much about the students' political and social aspirations. The aim of my project is to collect and analyze these memories and show that the ideas behind these stories were an important element of the wars during these decades. Placing the stories into the global context, my research shows how transnational discourses affected political thought of students in Afghanistan, how these students dealt with the local implications of the Cold War and how they used external influences for their ambitions.

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*Graduates from Kabul University (Source: Yearbook of the Associated Students of Afghanistan in the United States, ed. by Mohammed Yassin Nassimi, 1964)*

a vibrant small city with a diverse population. In 1964 King Zaher Shah had signed a new constitution, creating a new parliament and indirectly stimulating the emergence of several political parties, most notably the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the Maoist Shola-ye Javid, and the Islamic Party. Looking back, many describe Zaher Shah as the king who did not care: He tolerated protests without addressing the country's economic and social problems. In 1973 he was overthrown by his former prime minister, Daoud Khan, who tightened control and tried to implement his own ideas of a modern Afghanistan. Taking advantage of the Cold War competition between East and West, the government of Afghanistan depended on financial aid from abroad, as did Kabul University: Each faculty was sponsored by a foreign country. With this support, the capacity of the university grew quickly and an increasing number of students came to Kabul from the provinces.

During this time, several social and political conflicts dominated daily life of students at Kabul University. They not only developed

profound differences between life in Kabul and their own villages. Due to the political and economic situation in Afghanistan, many students also faced limited career opportunities despite having diplomas from an internationally respected university. Some dealt with discrimination based on their family background and clashes between their own and their parents' conceptions of life and society. Challenged with such conflicts, many students joined political parties. Others refrained from labeling their political positions but still engaged in demonstrations and discussions, making Kabul University the centre of political protest in Afghanistan.

In 1978 this atmosphere changed abruptly: With the so-called ›Saur Revolution‹, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan took power. Students of the late 1970s told me that at first, they were hopeful this new government would bring about a positive change. But they were soon disillusioned: Party leaders not only began to purge each other, but students and professors disappeared as well. Soon, life at Kabul University was dominated by the fear

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festival to a close, the first election results were already coming in. At the time of writing this editorial, the next German government is yet

to be formed; the Bonn Climate Conference has ended, and the issue of climate change remains as pressing as ever. Encouraged by the

high attendance rates and positive resonance to the screenings, organisers are considering a second edition of the festival.

*Katharina Lange / Ali Nobil Ahmad*

## »Race« and Science between Germany and India: The Circulation and Transformation of Knowledge in the Work of Anthropologist Irawati Karvé // Thiago Pinto Barbosa

In the late 1920s, the Indian anthropologist Irawati Karvé (1905-1970) started her scientific career as a »race« researcher at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics in Berlin. My PhD project centres on her life and work and explores how knowledge in physical anthropology has been scientifically produced and transformed through circulations in time and space – namely from the 1920s onwards in and between Germany and India. Linked to the context of modern colonialism, anthropology as a scientific field emerged in the 19th century and, after the turn of the 20th century, became an established academic discipline for studying the Other and the Human. The German *Anthropologie*, especially, established a strong focus in research on »race« as a way to study and classify human differences, and was often linked to research in the field of eugenics, coming to play a decisive role in National Socialist population policy. In this sense, an emblematic place for scientific research and political consultancy in this field of knowledge was the well-known Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Heredity and Eugenics (KWI-A). Located in Berlin-Dahlem, the KWI-A (1927-1944) concentrated large numbers of German and international researchers as well as of international human remains for research.

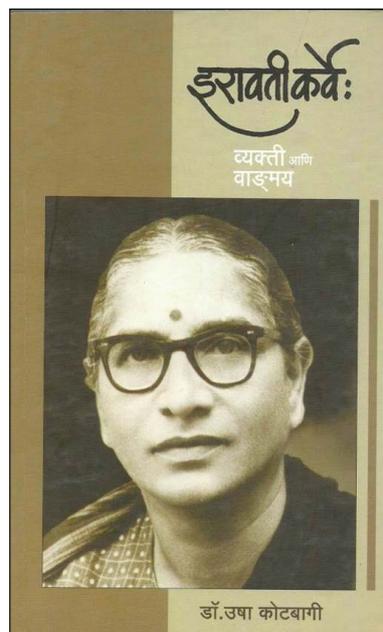
Ever since the emergence of anthropology, knowledge about »race« has been further transformed and circulated in and between various sites of scientific praxis through an increasingly global network. Although the period after the Second World War and during the ensuing anti-colonial struggles seemingly marked a general rejection of the biological idea of »human races«, »race« itself has persisted, not only as a social category, but also as scientific object in different fields of research, for example in population genetics. Moreover, methodologies (such as anthropometry) and research technologies (for example the anthropometer), once developed to study »racial attributes«, have persisted in the study of the human and the other humans.

The Indian case is especially significant: racialized understandings of human difference, intertwined with the socially and scientifically constructed notions »caste« and »tribe«, played a key role in debates in the subcontinent. Historically, »race« became an important topic of research by scientists working in colonial India, among British scholars and national scientists. In

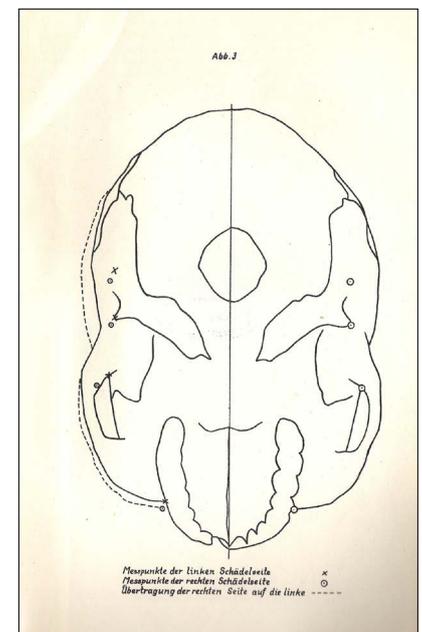
this scenario, Indian anthropologist Irawati Karvé is emblematic. Karvé came to Berlin in the late 1920s to undertake her PhD studies and developed research on the topic of racial differences in human skulls under the supervision of leading German anthropologist and »race« expert Eugen Fischer, who was the director of the KWI-A. Her

in physical (but also social and cultural) anthropology in India that is not to be dismissed, even today.

Thus, based on multi-archival and multi-sited ethnographic research, I am trying to understand this key connection in the global network of physical anthropology and racialized knowledge, namely the one



Irawati Karvé (1905-1970)



Measurement points in »The Normal Asymmetry of the Human Skull« (Source: Karvé, 1931)

findings went in a direction different from that expected by her supervisor and KWI-A colleagues: she concluded that there is no correlation between »race« and skull shape. Yet, the knowledge and the methodologies that she became familiar with during this research stay continued to accompany Karvé after her return to India.

Back in Maharashtra in 1930, Karvé made a major contribution to the establishment of anthropology and human genetics in her home country. As the lead of the Decan College's department of anthropology and sociology in Pune, Karvé used different anthropometric methods to identify »the racial« in several (sub)castes and tribes, and laid the foundation for linking up anthropology and genetics. One of Karvé's most important legacies was the conceptualization of the idea of endogamous groups, on which one should rely on in order to select a population for any genetic and biological anthropological research. That is, Karvé formulated a framework for the selection and categorization of groups in Indian society for genetic studies. Having written over 100 publications and commented on different political debates, Karvé left a legacy

between the KWI-A in Berlin and research institutions in India. From a perspective of critical science, technology and society (STS), my gaze focuses on the circulation of the materials (human remains, tools and methodologies) used in Karvé's scientific practice, as well as her trajectory and legacy, allowing me to understand how this knowledge was produced, how it was transformed as it travelled and how it has influenced further developments in Indian physical anthropology. Thereby, my research aims to contribute to our understanding of the as yet under-researched themes of the international impact of the KWI-A as well as the transformation of knowledge in physical anthropology by scientists and their research technologies in India and beyond.

Thiago Pinto Barbosa is undertaking his PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin. He has a special interest on the intersection of science, discourses and society. He is also an initiator of the memorial project »Manufacturing Race«, which deals with the history of »race« research in Berlin (<http://manufacturingrace.org>).

## ■ Conferences & Workshops

### The Long End of the First World War: Ruptures, Continuities and Memories, Herrenhausen Symposium, 8-10 May 2017, Hannover

This international symposium, organized by VolkswagenStiftung, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient Berlin, German Historical Institute London and Leibniz Universität Hannover, questioned the idea of a static and clearly defined »end« of the First World War. It challenged the mainly Eurocentric periodisation of the war by stressing the need to globalize not only the war's beginning in June 1914 but also its end with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The symposium aimed to examine the conflict's end from the perspective of colonial actors, non-European areas and social groups who have been widely neglected in research. Themes as diverse as anti-imperialism, social movements and ecological developments structured the conference. In ten sessions, senior and junior researchers representing many universities and research institutes and diverse disciplinary backgrounds and scientific approaches, discussed a wide range of issues.

The keynote by Elizabeth Thompson on »Arab Liberalism in the 1920s« and the sessions on »Post-war Political Frameworks, Networks and Movements« launched debates about the impact of the conflict's end on the imperial world order. Under the heading »New Fault Lines, New Wars«, researchers examined the effects of the war's conclusion on disarmament processes in local African communities, the rise of Asian history wars and the start of oil-driven wars. Further sessions focused on the long-lasting effects on international humanitarian initiatives after 1919 and on long-term ecological effects. Others discussed the shifting racial and gender interactions during and after the war. Arguments to include the



*The poster announcing the exhibition of the HERA-project »Cultural Exchange in a Time of Global Conflict«*

*Katrin Bromber in conversation with Min Yong-Eung, a film producer from South Korea (photo: Philip Bartz on behalf of VolkswagenStiftung)*



colonial experience in First World War historiography also marked the six PhD projects presented.

A fascinating aspect of the symposium was its effort to bring together research, historiography and commemoration of the war. The session on »New Historiographies« discussed the interaction between remembrance and research in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia during the war's centennial, and reflected on how local commemorations are taking shape in complicated political contexts. In contrast to sessions on the official commemorations, other sessions demonstrated the efforts of grassroots and museum remembrance initiatives to bring colonial and other marginalized experiences into the limelight. Furthermore, the conference included a poster exhibition »Lives from a Global Conflict: Cultural Entanglements during the First World War«, produced by the HERA-project »Cultural Exchange in a Time of Global Conflict«. Finally, a book launch of »World (Counter)Revolutions 1917-1920« presented the results of the 2016 Herrenhausen Symposium.

A final session, »Towards a New Chronology«, discussed primary conclusions. The speakers' efforts to give a global and long-term perspective to political, ecological, humanitarian or historiographic developments clearly demonstrated that in several domains, the war lasted far longer than the armistice suggested. From a global perspective the end of the war was experienced in many different ways. The panel argued to replace the idea of a clear-cut end to the war with the concept of »long endings«.

The symposium showed that these »long endings« are particularly true in the field of (anti-)imperialism. Research must reassess the meaning of the Treaty of

Versailles by taking its global effects into account. The variety of themes and perspectives discussed at the conference made it evident that the war marked the end of nineteenth century imperialism and led to the rise of »multiple empires« in which European powers used new instruments. The discussion showed that rethinking chronology can stimulate further research to determine the exact role of the war in accelerating, introducing or diminishing pre-war social movements, ecological processes and economic structures. Such rethinking of chronology could also benefit from the inclusion of experiences of ordinary people, civilians as well as combatants. Here the aspect of mobility becomes central in order to examine social-economic consequences of war: the conflict not only set soldiers into motion, but mobilized women and workers, too. The global approach requires new ways of conceiving space and temporality, as John Horne pointed out in the final discussion. He suggested that we speak of »multiple temporalities« and »non-simultaneous simultaneity« in order to meaningfully connect global and local events.

The theme of the symposium developed out of the 2013 Herrenhausen Symposium on »The World during the First World War« in October of that year (see Bulletin No. 26). For a detailed report on the 2017 symposium, see H-Soz-Kult, 14.7.2017.

*Tessa Lobbes*

## Advances of Capital, Strategies of Survival and Struggle: New Perspectives on Rural Turkey, 14-15 June 2017, University of Toronto

Once a favorite topic of especially Marxist-leaning economists and sociologists, »rural Turkey« has increasingly lost its appeal as an area of research in the past thirty years. This was no doubt a result of increasing urbanization accompanied by the proliferation of new social and political identities and patterns of consumption since the 1980s. At a time when urban centres were witnessing unprecedented demographic and economic growth, studies on land tenure systems or peasant economies seemed obsolete to many. However, a younger generation of researchers, including anthropologists, geographers and political scientists, is once again turning to rural areas to make sense of the current dynamics and contradictions of statehood and capitalism in Turkey. The workshop, sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation, was part of my Visiting Postdoctoral Fellowship and provided a good opportunity for discussing some of the new themes and questions coming out of this rejuvenated area of research.

One starting point was to rethink the dual processes that have drastically reshaped social and economic livelihoods in non-urban areas in the past two decades: IMF reforms led to the phasing-out of agricultural subsidies and the privatization of agricultural institutions, and the liberalization of energy markets paved the way for private capital's full-blown entrance into the resource extraction sectors. Sinan Erensü and Özlem Aslan commented on the local communities' predicament of facing commodification of land and water because of hydro-energy and mining projects at a time when agricultural production is reduced to a semi-subsistent economic activity. Murat Öztürk's presentation, based on a long-term study, argued that rural households became economically more heterogeneous



Participants in front of the university  
(photo: Ümit Aydoğmuş)

than ever as their survival in many places required combining wage labor, agricultural profits and pension payments. These two presentations opened up a debate on the class composition of anti-extraction struggles that we have been observing especially in the Black Sea region for the past decade. Extraction emerged as an important theme also in other papers, this time with a view on state violence, spatiality, politics of development and mobility. These case studies convincingly demonstrated in different ways how past and present trajectories of dispossession are closely interlinked. Helin Burkay's paper on İmroz/Gökçeada showed how the political authorities' efforts since the 1950s to oust the island's Greek majority population led to the establishment of a durable agricultural infrastructure which allowed the entrance of private capital into olive industries after the 2000s. Deniz Duruiz framed Kurdistan as a »labor colony« and reflected in detail on how Kurdish families temporarily re-locate to western Turkey to work as agricultural workers. Ozan Sezai Zeybek's paper insightfully formed a connection between the large-scale killing of animals in Kurdish cities and towns dur-

ing the Turkish army's military occupation in the 1990s and the neoliberalisation of animal husbandry in recent years.

Zeybek's STS-inspired methodology found an echo in two papers of the workshop. Duygu Kaşdoğan discussed the relations between renewable energy, agriculture and aquaculture based on her laboratory ethnography on algae research. Ekin Kurtiç explained how rural livelihoods are being transformed in the Artvin Province of the Black Sea region at the intersections of environmental destruction caused by megadam projects and reconstruction projects initiated by the state such as watershed rehabilitation.

Overall, the two days offered intensive exchange on the shifting configurations of the state and capital in Turkey and their impact on rural spaces over the long term. The intimate atmosphere of a roundtable format allowed fruitful discussions and strengthened the conviction that further attention to non-urban locations enables a better understanding of past and current political and economic developments in Turkey.

*Erdem Evren*

## ZMO Fellows at Deutscher Orientalistentag 2017, 18-22 September 2017, Jena

Several ZMO fellows participated in the 33rd Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT), held at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena and organized by the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft. The overarching theme, »Asia, Africa and Europe«, focusing on knowledge transfer and exchange between East and West and European scholarly interest in the »Orient«, was taken up in the panels ZMO fel-

lows contributed to. They worked together with scholars from the regions under research and developed shared theoretical concepts based on case studies of those regions.

Ahmed Sukker contributed to the panel »Violence, Forced Migration and Exile: Trauma in the Arab World«. The panel theme was drawn from a project at LMU Munich that actively supports the collabo-

ration between young scholars from Palestine, Lebanon and Germany. Sukker's paper focused on motivations and organizational structures of recent Palestinian youth protests in the Gaza Strip against the Hamas administration. Sukker's work is theoretically embedded in framing and resource mobilization theory, both sub-theories of the new social movement theory. The panel »Branding the Middle East«,

organized by former ZMO colleague Stefan Wippel (CNMS Marburg), explored the notion of »branding« from different disciplinary viewpoints and through case studies from the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Topics such as the branding of city and nation, individuals or terror groups were debated in the context of identity and economic politics. Drawing on visual representations in public space, Izabela Orłowska discussed the branding of Ethiopia's former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi after his death as a symbol of progress and equality of ethnicities. Annegret Roelcke examined the historical development of governmental branding activities for the quarter of

Eyüp in Istanbul, which constructed the quarter as a centrally symbolic place in the identity politics of the ruling AKP. The importance of political context for academic research was central to the panel discussion on the future of academic collaboration with Turkey, given current political circumstances. The discussion with representatives of several German institutions cooperating with Turkish academics both in Turkey and in Germany was moderated by ZMO director Ulrike Freitag. All discussants agreed on the importance of continuing cooperation with academics in Turkey. However, such cooperation is currently under enormous pressure given the ex-

pulsions, harassment and threats towards research partners in Turkey as well as the problematic relationship with the Turkish government. The participants articulated a vital need for creating new institutional supporting frames.

On topics relevant to ZMO research such as trauma and protest, urban and identity politics and interregional connectedness, the DOT 2017 provided not merely a fruitful platform for academic exchange, but also an especially important setting for discussion of the significance of political context and institutional responsibility in academic research.

*Annegret Roelcke*

Conferences: »New Man« in Africa, Asia and the Middle East: Practices, Networks and Mobilization, c. 1910-1960, 27-29 September 2017 // Production of Possibilities: Living and Governing Potential Futures in Africa, 9-10 November 2017, ZMO

In a programmatic text from 2015, the research field *Progress: Ideas, Agents, Symbols* defined progress »as a horizon of possibilities, a temporal blank screen upon which visions of reality can be projected by given actors«. The authors assume that »[p]rogress can, potentially, be brought about through a set of transformative actions, which might either serve to alter or maintain the status quo« and that actors, to become actors of progress, have to become subjects endowed with particular visions, dispositions and capacities. Following this definition, the research field organized two international conferences focused on two central aspects of our work: »actors of progress« and »the production of possibilities«. With an emphasis on *Wirkungsgeschichte* and social history, the contributions to »»New Man« in Africa, Asia and the Middle East: Practices, Networks and Mobilization, c. 1910-1960« (27-29 September 2017) looked at concrete attempts to shape »new« men, women, and children to become actors of progress. We asked how historical contexts such as colonialism, the welfare-state, the Cold War and post-colonialism produced practices that created new kinds of being fit for the future. These practices brought about temporal-spatial regimes which produced a sense of »newness« in human bodies and minds through footprints in the natural surroundings. Training camps or claiming a territory through organized walking and hiking were cases in point. The presentations compared and problematized South-South networks as a lens

*The ZMO entrance hall - an open space for meeting and communication*



for studying the dissemination of practical knowledge, including symbolic representation and propaganda, through experts, cadres and entrepreneurs.

Modernist narratives of progress have been both enduring and seriously tested over the past three decades. Nowhere is this more visible than in Africa, a continent associated with images of both crisis and »progress«. The second of the two conferences, »Production of Possibilities: Living and Governing Potential Futures in Africa« (9-10 November 2017), thus explored how shifting horizons of possibility pervade Africa and African subjectivities. The workshop participants discussed, on the one hand, narratives of emergence and potentiality in Africa's future, and on the other, the variety of socio-cultural ways in which actors in Africa who inhabit contexts marked by insecurity nevertheless cultivate and keep possibilities open.

*Katrin Bromber / Paolo Gaibazzi*

## ■ Lecture Series

ZMO-Colloquium 2017/2018:  
The Idea of Youth: Concepts,  
Practices and Lifeworlds of a  
Global Category

Terms like »youth unemployment«, »youth bulge«, »youth crime«, or even »youth crisis« crop up in political discussions and the media on a semi-regular basis. Indeed, such debates have intermittently engaged public opinion in various countries for some 150 years. Concerns over social deviance, moral standards, radicalism, and a generational gap have shaped the very making of youth and adolescence as valid categories in the 19th Century. The idea of »youth« tends to defy clear-cut biological and legal definitions. Youth is a social construct that is understood and experienced differently in different regional and cultural contexts. It is shaped by factors such as ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic conditions and gender, and is subject to constant change.

In the colloquium, social anthropologists, historians, political scientists, geographers, and scholars of cultural studies, Islamic studies and media studies present empirical insights from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East in order to explore the benefits and limits of »youth« as a concept and as a point of entry for the analysis of ideas, practices and crises of the global.

The series is organized by ZMO researchers Anandita Bajpai, Stefan Kirmse, Kyara Klausmann, Nazan Maksudyan, Franziska Roy, Nitin Sinha, Abdoulaye Sounaye and Julian Tadesse, and runs from October 2017 to March 2018. See [http://www.zmo.de/veranstaltungen/2017/kolloquium/ZMO\\_Koll\\_2017\\_18\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.zmo.de/veranstaltungen/2017/kolloquium/ZMO_Koll_2017_18_Programme.pdf).

## ■ Other Activities

anthropoSCENE: Film and Climate Justice in Asia and Africa, Film Festival, 21-24 September 2017, Movimiento, Berlin



Floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and droughts: developing countries suffer the worst effects of global warming. Yet their voices are often underrepresented. The film festival »anthropoSCENE: Film and Climate Justice in Asia and Africa« provided a platform for voices from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The festival offered 14 documentary and art films as well as discussions which explored the relevance of climate change developments in the global South, where most of humanity resides and where the impact is felt most strongly. The four-day programme explored several distinct themes and consisted of an array of award-winning films, including docu-dramas, investigative journalism, activist filmmaking, art films and ethnographic and poetic meditations on apocalypse. Bringing together audience, films and filmmakers from Nepal, Niger, Kuwait, South Africa and beyond, the festival engaged some of the most pressing issues of our time from perspectives rarely highlighted in mainstream media (see also page 1).

Yasser Mehanna



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# publications

## CECG sourcebook

For a period of three years (2013-16), the collaborative research project »Cultural Exchange in a Time of Global Conflict: Colonial, Neutrals and Belligerents during the First World War«, funded by HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area), explored actors, practices and sites of encounters and exchange during the war. This sourcebook is one of the major outcomes of the project carried out by research teams in London, Poznan, Utrecht and Berlin in cooperation with a wide range of partners. It aims to introduce scholars and the interested public to rare or unknown sources and stimulate further research and thinking on the subject of cultural encounters. The sourcebook is hosted by the In Flanders Field Museum, which is one of the associated partners of this research project and contributed significantly to the sourcebook.

<http://sourcebook.cecgproject.eu/>

## »India, Raj & Empire«

As a host institution for the ERC project »Domestic Servants in Colonial South Asia«, ZMO subscribed to a new and interesting online resource, which can now be accessed via the ZMO library computers: The database »India, Raj & Empire« hosts a variety of materials related to the history of the British Raj. Drawing upon the manuscript collections of the National Library of Scotland, this resource concerns the history of South Asia between the foundation of the East India Company in 1615 and the granting of independence to India and Pakistan in 1947. The material comprises diaries and journals, official and private papers, letters, sketches, paintings and original Indian documents containing histories and literary works.

[www.indiaraj.amdigital.co.uk](http://www.indiaraj.amdigital.co.uk)

## ■ ZMO Publication Series



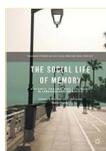
Barbara Christophe, Christoph Kohl, Heike Liebau: **Geschichte als Ressource. Politische Dimensionen historischer Authentizität**, ZMO-Studien 36, Klaus Schwarz Verlag Berlin, 2017, 320p, 32 Euro, ISBN 978-3-87997-726-0

When and how does history turn into a political resource and who are the actors behind this change? What roles do the processes and practices of authorising historical events, developments and personalities play and what goals do the persons involved have? Control over the meaning of the past has become a place of struggle for political power and economic resources. Claims of authenticity are used to assert »truths« or »correct« memories especially in moments of crisis. This is also true with respect to existing competing media sources. The authors have looked at transformation processes and crisis situations in post-colonial, post-socialist and post-imperial societies in Europe, Asia and Africa. They analyzed the processes of authentication as well as competing demands put on authenticity.

## ■ Publications (selection)



■ André Chappatte, Ulrike Freitag, Nora Lafi (Eds.): *Understanding the City through its Margins. Pluridisciplinary Perspectives from Case Studies in Africa, Asia and the Middle East*, Routledge 2018, 190p.



■ Norman Saadi Nikro, Sonja Hegasy (Eds.): *The Social Life of Memory. Violence, Trauma and Testimony in Lebanon and Morocco*, Palgrave Macmillan 2017, 246p.

For more see <https://www.zmo.de/publikationen/index.html>

## ■ ZMO Working Papers

- Nils Riecken: How to read German state archives differently: the case of the »Iraqi traveller« Yünis Bahri (ca. 1901-1979) in a global frame, *ZMO Working Papers* 18, 2017, 14p.
- Abdoulaye Sounaye: Salafi revolution in West Africa, *ZMO Working Papers* 19, 2017, 15p.

## ■ Internet publication

Abdallah Hanna: المرويات التي جمعها الدارسون السوريون في معهد 16 تشرين الثاني للثقافة العمالية والإعداد النقابي من شرائح متنوعة من المجتمع السوري في أعوام 1986 - 1987 - 1988 (*Oral Histories from Different Segments of Syrian Society Collected by Students at the November 16 Institute for Workers' Culture and Trade Union Development between 1986 and 1988*), ZMO 2017

# news

## People

ZMO welcomed new colleagues in the second half of the year. VW Freigeist Fellow Dr. Sophia Hoffmann started a 5-year research project as of July 2017. She is an international relations scholar with a focus on contemporary international relations of the Middle East. Her project at ZMO concentrates on the role that secret services play in the functioning of modern statehood. At the same time Dr. Judith Scheele started as Alexander von Humboldt fellow. She is a social anthropologist interested in questions of region-formation, decentralized polities, mobility, and trade, primarily in the Sahara. She has carried out ethnographic fieldwork and local archival research in Algeria, northern Mali and Chad. At ZMO she is working on the project »Circulation and Containment: Region Formation in the Sahara«.

An additional Alexander von Humboldt fellow, Dr. Daniel Mains from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, USA, started a 10-month fellowship in September. He works on a project on »Technologies of Development: Infrastructure and Governance in Urban Ethiopia«.

Dr. Ergün Özgür was granted a 2-year ZMO scholarship in August 2017. In a research on »The Impact of Multicultural Policy Implementations and Acculturation Strategies on the Adaptation of Muslim and non-Muslim Immigrants from Turkey« she analyzes cases from several European countries. Florian Coppenrath, with a stipend from the Robert Bosch Foundation, researches networks in Central Asia during a 6-month stay at ZMO, from September 2017 until February 2018.

For the academic year 2017-18, Dr. Fatima Tofighi is a EUME fellow at ZMO. She is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Religions in Qom, Iran, and holds a PhD in Literature and Theology from the University of Glasgow (UK). At the moment, she is focusing her research on philosophical explorations of the body, especially in modernity. Her research project at ZMO is »A Cultural History of the Body in the Work of Modern Iranian Intellectuals 1960-1980«.

Since mid-September Jan Brauburger is coordinating the VW funded project »Spaces of Participation: Topographies of Political and Social Change in Morocco, Egypt and Palestine« as a stand-in for Dr. Sarah

Jurkiewicz during her maternal leave. He studied Modern History and Islamic Studies and finished a Master's Degree in 2017. His research interests include social and political histories of the MENA region as well as German propaganda towards Muslim prisoners of war during World War I. Stefan Tetzlaff, postdoctoral fellow for the DFG-funded research project »Modern India in German Archives«, started at ZMO in November 2017. He studied South Asian History, Political Science and Literature in Berlin and New Delhi and completed a PhD in Medieval and Modern History at Göttingen in 2015. His current research »To Help is to Benefit?« European Technical Aid and »Modernizing« Approaches to India's Industrial Sector, c. 1945-1973« looks at Indo-German economic relations during the Cold War era.

We also bid farewell to some colleagues and fellows. With the return of Nushin Atmaca after maternal leave, Benjamin Heidrich left his stand-in position as assistant to the director to follow other academic trails. Larissa Schmid, longtime colleague, started a traineeship at Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin as of October 2017. Gerda Henkel fellows Dr. Steven Serels and Prof. Simeon Evstatiev returned to their home universities at the end of June and end of September.

Former colleague Dr. Florian Riedler started in September as a research coordinator of the DFG priority programme »Transottomanica« at Justus Liebig University Gießen.

We also congratulate our colleagues Dr. Paolo Gaibazzi and Dr. Samuli Schielke on academic distinction: In July Paolo Gaibazzi was granted an »Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale in Scienze Demotnoantropologiche« by the Italian Ministry of Education; Samuli Schielke received the title of docent, an equivalent to the German habilitation, from Tampere University, Finland, in September 2017. Murtala Ibrahim, who had a stipend at ZMO between October 2012 and December 2016, successfully defended his PhD in October at Utrecht University.

Finally, ZMO director Prof. Ulrike Freitag was granted a fellowship at re:work: International Research Center Work and Human Lifecycle in Global History for the academic year 2017-18.

## Projects

»Spaces of Participation«: The follow-up application, »Liminal Spaces as Sites of Socio-cultural Transformation and Knowledge Production in the Arab World«, was successful and granted funding for three years.

## Awards

On 22 June 2017, Dr. Hilal Alkan Zeybek, EUME fellow at ZMO until July 2017, was awarded the inaugural »Voltaire Prize for Tolerance, International Understanding and Respect for Differences« by the University of Potsdam. The prize will be granted annually to a young scholar who has made an important contribution to social dialogue on peace, international understanding and tolerance, or has campaigned for freedom in research, teaching or right of free expression. Alkan lost her employment at a private university in Istanbul after signing a petition against the war in Kurdistan and violence against the civil population. (See also »Turkey's War and the Struggle of its Academics« in ZMO Bulletin No. 30).

## Fritz Steppat Prize 2018

In 2018 the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V. (Association for the Advancement of ZMO) will for the third time award the Fritz Steppat Prize for an outstanding scientific text by a young researcher. Considered for the prize are final theses and other scientific texts by students, graduates and doctoral candidates in the fields represented at the ZMO who have been supervised by members of the ZMO. The prize is awarded every second year and carries a purse of 500 Euro.

# calendar

## LECTURE SERIES

### ZMO-COLLOQUIUM WINTER TERM

2017/2018: THE IDEA OF YOUTH: CONCEPTS, PRACTICES AND LIFEWORLDS OF A GLOBAL CATEGORY, ZMO

- Jörg Gertel, Sonja Hegasy: Interviewing Youth - Constructing Knowledge: Insights from the FES Youth Study 2016/2017, 25 January 2018, 6 pm
- Nicola Ansell: What Do Pensions Have To Do with Youth? A Relational Approach to Youth in International Development, 22 February 2018, 5 pm

### URBAN STUDIES SEMINAR

ANNUAL THEME: URBAN SPACES OF LEISURE, ART AND SPORTS, ZMO

- Rehab Ibrahim elSiedy: Puppet Shows as Form of Entertainment in Qajar Iran, 22 January 2018, 5 pm
- Dorota Woroniecka: Sport and Youth Centres as Sites of Self-Governance and Local Participation in the West Bank, 5 February 2018, 5 pm

For more see [www.zmo.de/veranstaltungen/](http://www.zmo.de/veranstaltungen/)