

# Orient

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## bulletin

No. 2, August 2000

*History and Cultures in Asia, the Middle East and Africa*

The year 2000 marks a period of transition in the research programme of the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies. The research work on „Dissociation and Appropriation in Globalisation“ which began with the Centre's establishment in 1996 is approaching a successful conclusion. In the following pages, the three Group Projects working on this theme will be presented in greater detail (cf. Bulletin no. 1). On the other hand, since January of this year these projects have overlapped with and stimulated the initiation of five new projects (a figure that will increase in 2001). Backed by outstanding evaluations and a further generous grant from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), these projects form part of the Centre's new overall research theme, „History and Cultures of the Modern Orient since the 18th Century“. Contrary to the past, individual projects under this main heading are not grouped strictly under specific subject-headings but fall into broader categories outlined by three distinct „research lines“. Their common denominator is an interest in connections which cut across spatial, political, cultural and social boundaries within and among Middle Eastern, African and South Asian societies in a historical perspective.

The first of these three research lines is „translocality“ in a literal sense. The emphasis here is both on the mobility of people, goods and ideas that, through cognitive and material practice across spatial boundaries, generate non-territorial spaces „in-between“ conventional regional entities, as well as on „translocal“ communities of merchants, workers or religious scholars. Research priorities are spaces such as the Indian Ocean and the Sahara which also link the different areas studied at the Centre.

The second research line is concerned with the wide-ranging debate on the „public sphere“. Projects in this direction focus particularly on attempts to overcome (or alternatively, to cement) divisions between ethnic, social, cultural, religious, and regional group identities. The analysis concentrates on emerging arenas of public debate and contestation within nation states such as India, Lebanon or Morocco where general norms of welfare and legitimacy are invoked and partly shaped by transnational communication.



*Indian Ocean dhow („Batela“) off Bombay  
 (section of a photo by U. Havemann)*

The third research line, „cultures of history“ refers to the cognitive appropriation of historical experience by the historical subjects themselves. Here, the mobilisation of „cultural memory“ (Assmann) is studied as a specific medium of non-academic debate through which locality and group identity, as well as translocality and nationality (see above) are constructed.

Details on individual projects related to these research lines will be presented in the next issue of „Orient Bulletin“ (no. 3).

### Editorial

In this second issue of the Orient Bulletin we would like to thank our colleagues and friends for their encouraging response to our first newsletter. The Centre for Modern Oriental Studies entered the new millennium with a good many new projects and fellows, and with Professor Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf as its new Acting Director. You will find more detailed information on this in our PROFILE, ACTIVITIES, GUESTS, PUBLICATIONS and NEWS columns which we hope will serve to whet your appetite for more! We also have a Calendar of forthcoming events. For additional up-to-date information please visit us at [www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de).

### calendar

#### Public Seminars at the Centre

- 14th September 2000, 16.00:  
*Aijaz Ahmad* (New Delhi, Toronto)  
*Radhika Desai* (Victoria, B.C.)
- 5th October 2000, 17.00:  
*Nadje al-Ali* (Exeter)
- 26th October 2000, 17.00:  
*Gudrun Lachenmann* (Bielefeld)
- 30th November 2000, 17.00:  
*ierter Weiss* (Berlin)

For further details and events, see [www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de)

## A LETTER TO OUR READERS

The editors would first of all like to thank all our readers for the numerous and encouraging reactions to our first issue. To achieve a wider audience we hope that our recipients will circulate the bulletin within their respective institutions.

Due to high postage costs we have to cut back on the direct mailing of our newsletter as of the next issue (no. 3). Unfortunately, this applies in particular to our non-European partner and corresponding institutes. We can send the Orient Bulletin via e-mail where the address is available to us and would be very pleased if others could send us their current e-mail address. The advantage is that not only organisations but anyone interested can subscribe individually to our mailing list a subscription mask will soon be installed on our homepage ([www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de)). In addition, both new and past issues of the ORIENT BULLETIN can be looked at on our web site [www.zmo.de](http://www.zmo.de). Thank you in advance for your consideration!

## profiles

### Current research at the Centre, Part I: Group Projects on responses to globalisation

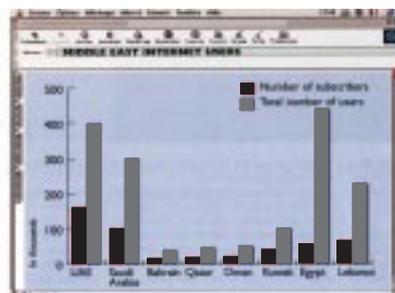
The research profile of the Centre as a whole was outlined in the previous issue of this newsletter. The various projects that make up the general research programme will be introduced in detail both here and in the subsequent issue. The presentation begins with a closer look at the three „Group Projects“, each consisting of several sub-projects and all working towards the general theme of **„Dissociation and Appropriation in Response to Globalisation. Asia, Africa and Europe since the 18th Century“**. Research on this theme, which has been the focus of the Centre's activities since 1996, will be completed by the end of 2000.

The first Group Project **„Islam and Globalisation; Perceptions and Reactions in the 19th and 20th Century“** analyses - in a comparative perspective - the cognitive assimilation of globalisation experiences in the Islamic world. It focuses on the perception of globalisation by Muslims and on Islamic reactions to nonhomogeneous periods of change in global history.

Contrary to mainstream approaches to globalisation which deal specifically with (macro)economic, technical and communicative aspects, the Group Project concentrates on the (a) cultural factors and (b) historical dimensions of this process.

(a) By using examples from the Islamic context, the project contributes to the ongoing debate on whether globalisation leads to „localisation“ of „small“ (microsocial) boundaries or consolidation of „large“ (civilisational) boundaries. Whereas the first approach urges the fractal and hybrid character of these boundaries, the second leads to the prediction of a „clash of civilisations“ (Huntington 1993).

(b) In spite of widespread opinion linking globalisation processes to the present era, i.e. especially to the period following the end of the East-West conflict, efforts have been made to provide them with a more long-term historical perspective (Litvinoff 1991, Strassoldo 1992, Robertson 1992). Most Muslim scholars support the first view, while others (Amal Pasha Samatar 1996, Laroui 1998) question the alleged Western origin of globalisation even in a historical context, and stress the idea of „other modernities“.



Since its introduction in 1996, the Group Project has included eight sub-projects covering different periods of the 19th and 20th centuries and has used different methods and case studies to answer the questions put on the common agenda. Muslim perceptions

of the „Other“ in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are analysed in one sub-project (Berte Sagaster, 1996-98), while a second asks whether Muslim migrants living in Europe in the first half of the 20th century changed or adapted their world views according to that „other“ life world (Gerhard Hopp).

Two sub-projects deal with the end of the East-West conflict as a turning point in global history. Many Muslims associate this event with a remarkable acceleration of the globalisation process. In search of specific experiences and concepts of organisations and institutions in the Islamic world, one project has concentrated on the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (Ellinor Schöne, completed 1997), another on Arab Centres for Strategic Studies (Henner Fritig, on-going).

Two further sub-projects ask how globalisation processes influenced positions and world views of both Islamic state leaderships (Henner Fritig, completed 1997) and exceptional Muslim personalities in the nineties (Ellinor Schöne, on-going).

The two remaining sub-projects cover the last two decades of the 20th century and deal with the intellectual reflection of global scientific-technological challenges in the Arab world (Sonja Hegasy), and Arab Muslim perceptions and expectations of cooperation with Europe (Steffen Wippel).

Research work on the Group Project was carried out in four phases.

During the first stage, the group worked on reaching a common understanding of basic catchwords such as „globalisation“, „civilisation“, „culture“, „otherness“,



„identity“, „diaspora“, „world view“, „clash“ etc. and later concentrated on Muslim perceptions of the „other“. The first stage came to a close in November 1996 with the group organising a panel entitled „Muslim perceptions of the West“ at the annual congress of the Deut-

sche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Vorderer Orient (DAVO).

During the second period, the group was engaged twofold. *Firstly*, it contributed to the common conference („Dissociation and Appropriation of Global Processes and Ideas: History, Religion and Local Culture in Asia and Africa“) of the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies held in October 1997. *Secondly*, it focussed its attention on turning points of global history in the 20th century, regarding these particularly productive starting points to analyse the relationship between Muslim perceptions of globalisation and reactions to processes of change in global history. With the positive experience of the previous year in mind, the group presented its results to the DAVO congress in November 1997 with the panel „Whose history Muslim experiences of historic turning points in the 20th century“.



During the third phase, the group posed the question of how the interim results of its research work contribute to the main objective i.e. the analysis of the relationship between Islam and globalisation, taking into consideration the changes in intercultural perception of the Orient and the Occident in the 19th and 20th centuries. Intercultural perception is closely tied to communicative expressions (texts). Consequently, texts became the centre of attention for the group and were analysed both as expressions of changed perceptions and as a means of changing these perceptions. As a matter of tradition, the group organised a panel (Transformation by words: The role of key texts for Muslim world views) and

introduced its research results to the annual DAVO congress held in December 1998.

The fourth and last phase of the Group Project began in 1999. The group organised its final conference in November and invited 15 colleagues from all over Germany and abroad. *Initially*, the conference dealt with the phenomenon that - within the Muslim reflection of globalisation - political positions are becoming obvious. They vary between demands to adapt to the globalisation process and rejectionist positions. *In a second state*, the conference discussed the topic „Muslims between cultures“, concentrating on the problem of so-called „diasporic existence“. *Thirdly*, the conference turned to economic matters. It stressed that the Muslim perception of global economy includes agreement with new possibilities for integration, cooperation and development, as well as criticism of new pressures, dependencies and suppressions. *In its fourth stage*, the conference dealt with the topic „technology“ from a social science perspective. The Muslim debate on the social consequences of technological transfers was reviewed in particular.

The final phase of the Group Project began this year. Its main results will be summarised and published in the forthcoming book „Islamic World and Globalisation: Appropriation, Dissociation, Counter-projects“.

The second Group Project „**Agents of Change: Conflict and Synthesis between Oriental and Occidental Cultures in Individual Biographies and Group Portraits**“ deals with the consequences of global processes on the actions and behaviour of individuals and groups in selected regions of Africa and Asia from the 18th century to the first half of the 20th century.

Putting the emphasis on in-between spaces that emerge as a result of cultural encounter, as well as on the self-understanding of these individuals and groups as agents of change and mediators between cultures, the project looks at social and cultural changes initiated or influenced by these actors, and at the changes they themselves have undergone in the process.

The project consists of nine sub-projects (case studies) covering different periods of time and a wide spectrum of individuals and groups of different regional, historical and social provenance.

Case studies dealing with colonial India focus on the strategies of Islamic movements to maintain their positions within western modernisation (Dietrich Reetz, 1996-2000), on the mentality of industrial workers in India (Annemarie Hafner, 1996-1997), on Indian filmmakers (Annemarie Hafner, 1998-2000), on attempts by an Indian educationalist to introduce new pedagogic ideas (Jochim Oesterheld, 1998-1999), and on the efforts of peasant leaders for national and social emancipation (Petra Heidrich, 1996-2000).



African soldier, World War II  
(Photo: Cissé, IFAN, Dakar)

The African colonial situation forms the historical background of two sub-projects, one of which concentrates on the role of bureaucratic African elites acting as cultural brokers in former British Tanganyika (Andreas Eckert, 1998-1999), and the other on the way in which West African War veterans interpreted and utilised their experiences in the French Army following their demobilisation (Brigitte Reinwald, 1998-1999).

Two projects relate to the missionary background as a unique cultural encounter. While one looks at the activities of indigenous Christian converts during European expansion in Asia in the 18th century (Heike Liebau, 1996-2000), the other is concerned with the territory of today's Sierra Leone (Katja F. Ilberg-Stolberg, 1996-2000) during a period of

United States influence in the 19th century.

The research process was divided into three phases. The great variety of individuals and groups selected for case studies required the study of a wide range of source material and the use of varying research methods. During the first stage, efforts were concentrated on a critical approach to different kinds of historical sources and the co-ordination of methods. In discussing the sources special attention was given to the character and peculiarities of authentic and autobiographical source material such as private correspondence, diaries and travel reports.



*The Indian country priest Aaron, 18th century (Franckesche Stiftungen, Halle)*

With regard to research methods, work on the topic „agents of change“ required combining classical disciplines with new research approaches, bordering social history, political sciences, ethnography and cultural history. This included approaches used in the context of mission history as well as methods adopted from the research of intercultural perception and mechanisms of communication.

The results of this research period were presented at a conference in October 1996 and have been published under the title „Globale Prozesse und Akteure des Wandels. Quellen und Methoden ihrer Untersuchung“ (Global Processes and Agents of Change. Sources and Methods of Research), ed. by Dietrich Reetz and Heike Liebau, Berlin 1997.

During the second stage, work on the Group Project was mainly concerned with analysing and interpreting the specific self-understanding of individuals and groups as mediators in the process of cultural encounter. Some agents of change acted with a specific purpose in mind. On occasion, they deliberately introduced social and cultural change, even structural change, into society. Force of circumstance required that some carry out their role as mediators while abstaining from active involvement in the process of change. Different overlapping and concurring identities connected with multiple or divided loyalties influenced the social position of the agents of change and became the main feature of their lives.

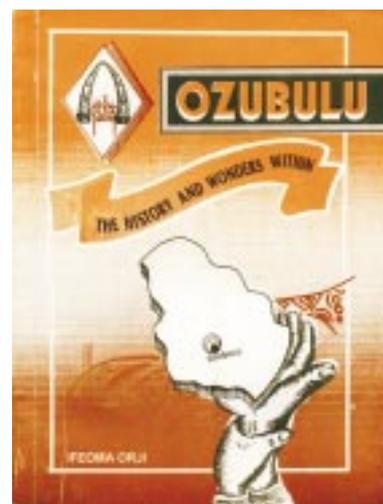
In a situation characterised by dialogue and conflict between the „global“ and the „local“, agents of change felt responsible for both adherence to local traditions as well as for initiation of change within society. Thus, the agents of change „indigenised“ global influences, looking for possibilities of appropriation, and developing forms of synthesis.

The analysis of the research papers presented at the second conference „Agents of Change. Self Perception and Mediating Position“ held in October 1998, as well as the discussion of works from literature sciences and social anthropology stimulated further research work. The Project Group is now in its third and last phase, working on the framework for the final group publication containing the results of five years of research and discussion to appear at the end of this year.

The third Group Project, „**Locality and the State**“, explores the spatial and cultural construction and the socio-political negotiation of small-scale (sub-national, especially rural) identities and boundaries in modern Africa and Asia. Its emphasis is on localizing processes which can be seen as responses to the global emergence and recent transformation of the territorial state. Like its counterparts, this Group Project has compiled selected case studies on different areas and periods during its five years of existence, using a variety of disciplinary approaches, with focus on anthropological and historical

fieldwork. A total of seven sub-projects have examined different scales and types of locality, mostly adopting a long-term historical perspective.

In the cases examined, different modes of „production of locality“ (Appadurai) vis-a-vis the nation state and globalisation have been identified. Firstly, historical narratives and the construction of „traditional“ institutions were the focus of studies on localized Ibo communities of SE Nigeria (Axel Harneit-Sievers, 1996-2000) and on the Yao of Malawi (Brigitte Böhler, 1998-2000). Secondly, the interaction between the creation of communal, notably ethnic, and spatial boundaries was addressed for sedentary and mobile groups within the shattered Afghan nation state (Bernt Glatzer, 1996-1997), for village and other local communities in NW Zambia and NE Tanzania (Achim v. Oppen, 1996-2000), and for a regionalist movement in Northern India (Antje Linkenbach-Fuchs, 1998-2000). Thirdly, the effects of religious identity, both localizing and translocally connecting, were studied under the aspect of conflict and coexistence in multi-denominational villages of post-war Lebanon (Anja Peleikis, 1998-99), and of the rise of Taliban identity (Bernt Glatzer, 1998-2000). Jan-Georg Deutsch (1996-97) was also an active group member who did research on slavery in East Africa (outside the Group Project).



*A new town history from SW-Nigeria*

During the entire project period, individual case studies took up the major part of the group members' time, partly in collaboration with researchers from the areas under study and supported by local assis-

tants. In order to combine individual results, additional joint activities were undertaken by the Group Project as a whole. Their changing emphases during the three periods of the grant from the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG) were marked, in particular, by a series of workshops and conferences which also served as a focus of debate with visiting scholars. The main group event during the first phase (1996-97) was the conference on „New Local Historiographies“, held at the Centre in October 1997 which convened a substantial number of outstanding historians from Europe, North America and Africa. It was devoted to the striking phenomenon of increasing popular interest in non-academic presentations of „local history“ observed in several case studies.



*Border survey in colonial Africa*

On other occasions, concepts of key importance for the group theme were discussed. They included a panel on „landscape“ convened at the German African Studies Conference (VAD) in Berlin in autumn 1996 a conference on „The Meanings of the Local“ co-convened with the Standing Committee on University Studies on Africa in June, May 1997 „Local Cultures“, the third panel convened during the Centre's international symposium on „Dissociation and Appropriation in Globalisation“ in autumn 1997 and a seminar series on non-western, especially African „modernities“, organized jointly with institutes of the Humboldt University and Free University of Berlin in 1997-98.

In the next phase (1998-99), several important adjustments took effect. This led to the inclusion of four new col-

leagues in the Group Project, which helped to balance the regional mix of case studies and introduce new themes and approaches, a fact that became evident in a number of subsequent group activities. Firstly, new media and instruments of locality construction were included in the studies, notably particular forms of text (songs, poems, oral traditions), performance (initiation rituals, boundary demarcations) and symbolic practice (village and house forms, power symbols, religious belief, and landscape). They were reflected on at a group workshop on „Historical and Symbolic Appropriations of Local Spaces“ convened in October 1998 with related project groups from Special Research Programmes in Frankfurt Main and Cologne. The focus was on land settlement efforts by villagers, local elites and the state in a context of flux and mobility of people and institutions. A second area of adaptation during this phase was the inclusion in the analysis of new social fields and actors of localization, such as gender and religious denominations.

The role of Islamic movements, in particular, was addressed in a workshop co-convened with members of the other Group Projects. Thirdly, increased attention was paid to the interaction or intersection between local and supra-local (national, global) ties which contribute significantly to the formation of locality and its wider context. This latter aspect was the focus of another international workshop organized in autumn 1999 on „Making or Shaking the State The Transformative Capacities of Locality in South Asia, Africa and the Middle East“. The remaining period (in the year 2000) is devoted to writing up individual sub-projects and concluding joint debates, notably through a series of group workshops. One particular theme which summarizes important results and, at the same time, leads to one of the new thematic lines of research (see introductory section), is „translocality“ - a multifaceted concept underlining the fact that localities are increasingly constituted by, or even consist of, connections and mobilities across political, cultural and geographical boundaries.

## activities

• In the first half of the year 2000 the following **Public Seminars** took place:

Prof. Dr. *Thomas Philipp* (Friedrich Alexander University, Erlangen): *Die Rolle der Armee in den Gesellschaften des Nahen Ostens. Eine Neubetrachtung* (27th January)

Prof. Dr. *Gerd Spittler* (University of Bayreuth): *Lokales Wissen und lokale Vitalität im globalen Kontext* (24th February)

Prof. Dr. *Dietmar Rothermund* (Centre for South Asian Studies, Heidelberg): *Methoden und Themen des historischen Vergleichs* (2nd March)

Prof. Dr. *Alexander Flores* (Hochschule Bremen): *Islam, Islamismus und Nationalismus im Palästinakonflikt* (9th March)

Prof. Dr. *Tschangiz Pahlevan* (Imam Sade University, Teheran): *Globalisierung und die neuen nationalstaatlichen Entwicklungen in der Region Iran Afghanistan Pakistan Tadschikistan* (29th June)

Dr. *Ulrike Freitag* (Historische Kommission, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Munich): *Biography as a source for social history: the case of the Hadhrami diaspora in the 19th and 20th centuries* (14th July)

• **Working Seminars/Staff Seminars** (Arbeitsgespräche, internes Kolloquium)

Working Seminars, which are held regularly at the Centre, are another significant method of presenting project ideas and discussing research results or work in progress. These meetings are not only a forum for fellows of the Centre to deliver their papers and give reports, but also an opportunity to meet interesting guests and discuss a particular subject or exchange experience in the use of theoretical approaches.

*Dr. Tazeen Murshid* (Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin): *Women's access to the colonial legal system and the restoration of conjugal rights* (February)  
*Salma Kojok* : *Municipalities and local power in Lebanon* (see GUESTS)

*Abdou Salam Fall* (Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire, Dakar University Cheikh Anta Diop): Les interactions rurales et urbaines: circulation et mobilisation des ressources (April)

Dr. *Pardis Minucheher*: Free press in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution 1905-1911: Intellectuals seeking civil society (see GUESTS)

Dr. *Farish Noor* (Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin): The Islamic discourse in Malaysia and the Islamic party PAS (June)

*Irfan Engineer* (Centre for the Study of Society and Secularism, Bombay): Hindu-Muslim relations under the BJP government in India and its Hindu-nationalist agenda (June)

Prof. Dr. *Tanika Sarkar*: Religious categories of the Hindutva movement in contemporary India (see GUESTS)

## Other activities

### • German Association of African Studies (VAD)

„Afrika 2000 in Leipzig“ was the general theme of this year's meeting of the bi-annual academic conference of the German Association of African Studies VAD, which took place from 30th March to 1st April at Leipzig University. *Atja Flberg-Stolberg* and *Brigitte Reinwald* were the convenors of „Africa in the Atlantic Space. Networks, Perceptions and Representations“, a panel which dealt with interrelated transatlantic relations between Africa and the Americas in a historical perspective. To highlight the plurality of the interconnected geographic regions, to explore the multifarious mental concepts of „Africa“ which evolved from these transatlantic relations, and to discuss the notion of „Atlantic Communities“ were its major objectives. Thus, the papers delivered focused on African-American identity concepts in the Civil and Post-Civil Rights' context, the Black Athena Debate, the „Brazilian“ Community in Ouidah (now Benin) and the formation of „Yoruba Ethnic“ Groups in the context of the *candomblé* in Bahia Brazil.

### • Workshop „Translocality“, held by Group Project 3 on 24th Februar

During the research work in Group Project 3 („Locality and the state“), several concepts emerged that provide good reference points for a systematic comparison of results from the different sub-projects, as well as for conclusions that might inspire future research at the Centre. These concepts are, therefore, the subject of a series of evaluation workshops attended by group members and other interested colleagues. Because of its particular relevance to the new research programme at the Centre (see Editorial) the first of these workshops addressed the topic of „translocality“. In recent debates, this term has become as fashionable as it has remained fuzzy. Thus, to start with, at least five different current meanings of „translocality“ were discussed with special reference to the overall theme of the Group Project. Subsequently, each of the six group members presented an empirical case from his or her sub-project, linking it to one of these definitions or debates. Among the results gained from this procedure were new insights into the importance of translocal migrations and projections for the „building“ of place, also in a literal sense into the tension between imaginations of the localness of ethnicity and its factual pluri-locality and into the role of place as an interface between different translocal or transnational communities.

### • Workshop „Perspectives on the Indian Ocean“, 14th-16th July

In July, the recently established Indian Ocean Research Group launched its first exploratory dhow: a workshop to examine different „Perspectives on the Indian Ocean“ was held at the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies and jointly organised by members of the research group and the Department of African Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin. It focused on analytical ideas and methodological approaches to explore the history of the western part of the Indian Ocean rim with its „multi-cultural“ - not necessarily territorially-based - societies or societal segments.

Papers and case studies were presented by fellows of the Centre who work on similar conceptual lines and by invited guests from other German research institutions. They addressed topics such as „places“ and „spaces“,

„translocal transnational communities“, and „cosmopolitan culture“, and also (re)considered ideas that implicitly influence analyses of the history of the Indian Ocean such as „networks“ and „world system theory“.

The workshop was marked by a lively and occasionally controversial discussion. The convenors of the workshop rightly believed that by establishing first-hand dialogue with researchers who deal with similar historical, social and cultural themes, the meeting would succeed in overcoming disciplinary and institutional limitations and „blind spots“. Although convinced that the challenge of research on the multifaceted features of transoceanic sites, movements and ideas still has to be met, the convenors feel encouraged to sail ahead.

## guests

From December 1999 to February *A. H. M. Sheriff* Curator of the Zanzibar National Museum, came to the Centre to renew contacts and advise members of the Centre on their future research. This was a particularly fortunate coincidence as the newly-formed Indian Ocean Group had just started its work. Professor Sheriff gave several talks on the history of the Indian Ocean, particularly on Arab African dhow trade, Hadhrami migration to East Africa, and the history of Zanzibar Stone Town. In February, he gave a lecture to the Berlin African Studies Seminar at Humboldt University on the transformation of „Indian Ocean Dhow Culture in the Twentieth Century“. Moreover, during his stay at the Centre he wrote an introduction to the translation of an Arabic nineteenth-century manuscript on law enforcement in Zanzibar. The booklet, entitled *The Jurisdiction of the Sultan of Zanzibar* was edited by *Uwe Bromberg* and will be published by the Centre this year. Professor Sheriff also lectured on African History at Humboldt University in summer term 2000.

In January/February, Dr. *Adapa Satyanarayana* from the Department of History at Osmania University in Hyderabad renewed acquaintance with the Centre. He was a visiting scholar in 1998 in his capacity as an expert on transformation processes of late colonial agrarian society and caste formation in South India. This

time, he gave a lecture on „Birds of Passage. Migration of South Indian Labour to South East Asia (19th and 20th centuries)“, in which he also developed the long-term impact of intercontinental migration on the social mobility of the „untouchables“. The focus of his current research proved of great interest to the Centre's newly-constituted Group Projects dealing with translocal processes, and gave rise to lively rounds of discussion during his stay.

Between January and April, Dr. *Pardis Minuchehr* from Columbia State University in New York fostered cooperation with members of Group Project 1 (Islam and Globalisation) already established when she was a fellow of the Working Group Islam and Modernity (1998) in Berlin. Due to her extensive research on modern Iran, she was able to enhance discussions in the Project Group dealing with more general aspects of Muslim responses to globalization. In addition, she gave a lecture on „Free press in the Iranian Constitutional Revolution 1905-1911: Intellectuals seeking civil society“ which was open to all colleagues at the Centre.

In March, *Salma Kojok*, a researcher at the CERMOC (Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain), Beirut, Lebanon, and doctoral fellow in history at the University of Nantes in France, was a guest of Group Project 3. At a round of discussion, Salma Kojok met with researchers of the Centre and presented her work on Lebanese migration to West Africa in historical perspective. Discussing her topic in the context of the Centre's current research theme „translocality“, led to a vivid and fruitful exchange on the various understandings of this concept.

Furthermore, Salma Kojok presented her current project which is part of CERMOC's research programme on „Municipalities and local power in Lebanon“. Research on the municipality of a multi-confessional village is being carried out in close cooperation with Anja Peleikis from the Centre.

In June/July 2000 Prof. Dr. *Tanika Sarkar* from the Centre for Historical Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi was a guest of the Centre for Modern Oriental Studies. Her main fields of work are popular movements, gender and cultural studies, and the current Religious Rights in India. Some of her publications are: *Bengal 1928-1934; the politics of protest*, New

Delhi 1985, and *Words to win: the making of Amar Jiban* (see PUBLICATIONS)

Invited by the research group „Agents of Change“, she gave a talk on „Religious Categories of the Hindutva Movement in Contemporary India“. Tanika Sarkar explored the nature of the new devotional world view that the Hindutva movement is grafting on to older notions of the sacred. She traced the process back to the development of two relatively new religious principles: *deshbhakti* (patriotic devotion) and *Rambhakti* (devotion to Ram) and went on to show how these two were bound together by Vishwa Hindu Parishad. She looked at new modes of communicating and disseminating this brand of faith, at a new breed of religious leaders and institutions that organise the movement, and the processes through which aggressive right-wing politics ingratiate itself as the traditional faith of the Hindu people. Her lecture focused on older devotional categories often used in constructions of *deshbhakti* and *Rambhakti* and enabling the communal and militant nationalist politics of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to filter into organisations and belief structures of contemporary Hinduism.

Among the visiting scholars expected during the coming months is *Ai a Ahmad* (1st-30th September 2000).

## publications

### • ZMO publication series

#### Studien

**Vol. 13:** *Höpp, Gerhard/Brigitte Reinwald* (eds.): *Fremdeins tze. Afrikaner und Asiaten in europäischen Riegen* (1914-1945), Berlin 2000.

#### Arbeitshefte

**No. 17:** *Harneit-Sievers, Axel* (ed.): *Afrikanische Geschichte und Weltgeschichte: Regionale und universale Themen in Forschung und Lehre*, Berlin 2000.

**No. 18:** *Gerhard Höpp*: *Texte aus der Fremde. Arabische politische Publizistik*

in Deutschland, 1896-1945. Eine Bibliographie, Berlin 2000

### Schriften des Arbeitskreises Moderne und Islam

**No. 2:** *Stephan Rosiny*: *Shia Publishing in Lebanon. With Special Reference to Islamic and Islamist Publications*, Berlin 2000.

### • Other publications by the fellows

*Fürtig, Henner*: *Wahlen in Kuwait als Gradmesser politischer Entwicklung*. In: *Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika*, 27 (1999) 4, pp. 341-364.

• *Ira as a Golem. Identity Crisis of a Western Creation*. In: *Hafez* (ed.), *The Islamic World and the West. An Introduction to Political Cultures and International Relations*, Leiden et al. 2000, pp. 204-216.

• (with *Atajun Amirpur* and *Javad Pooroshy*) *The Euro-Iranian Dialogue and the West in Iranian Media: Official, Loyalist, and Alternative Views in the Nineties*. In: *Hafez* (ed.), *Islam and the West in the Mass Media: Fragmented Images in a Globalizing World*, Cresskill 2000, pp. 121-140.

*Harneit-Sievers, Axel*: (with *Dirk Ohnert*) *Nigeria: der schwierige Weg zur Demokratie*. In: *Der Araber* 35 (1999) 4, pp. 71-75.

*Hegasy, Sonja*: *They Dare to Speak Out. Changes in Political Cultures of Egypt, Morocco and other Arab countries*. In: *Hafez* (ed.), *The Islamic World and the West. An Introduction to Political Cultures and International Relations*. Leiden 2000, pp. 146-160.

• *Transformation through Monarchy. The Cases of Morocco and Jordan*. In: *ISIM Newsletter No 5*, Juni, 22.

*Höpp, Gerhard*: „Ein Komma zwischen den Kulturen“. *Der Dichter Asis Domet*. In: *Das Jüdische Echo*, 48 (1999), pp. 156-160.

• „Nicht Ali zuliebe, sondern aus Hass gegen Muawiya“. *Im Ringen um die „Arabien-Erklärung“ der Achsenmächte 1940-1942*. In: *Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika*, 27 (1999), pp. 569-587.

• *Eine Biographie zwischen den Kulturen: der „arabisch-deutsche Dichter“ Asis Domet (1890-1943)*. In: *Manfred Lechner Dietmar Seiler* (eds.), *zeitgeschichte.at*. 4. österreichischer

eitgeschichtetag 99. Innsbruck, Wien, München 1999 (CD-ROM).

- Frontenwechsel. Muslimische Deserteure im Ersten und zweiten Weltkrieg und in der wischenkriegszeit. In: G. H pp B. Reinwald (Hg.), Fremdeins tze. Afrikaner und Asiaten in europ ischen riegen, 1914-1945, Berlin 2000, pp. 129-141.

*Linkenbach, Antje:* Anthropology of Modernity: Projects and Contexts. In: Thesis Eleven Number 61, May 2000, pp. 41-63.

*Peleikis, Anja:* Female Identities in a Globalized Village. A Case Study of South Lebanese Migration to West Africa. In: J. n rr B. Meier (eds.), Women and Migration. Anthropological Perspectives, Frankfurt M. 2000.

The emergence of a translocal community. The case of a South Lebanese village and its migrant connections to Ivory Coast. In: CEMOTI, les diasporas, le monde turco-iranien et la M diterran e orientale (forthcoming).

*Reinwald, Brigitte* (with Dorothea Schulz and atharina St dtler): Afrikanische Frauen im globalisierten ulturbetrieb. In: G. Spittler H.-P. Hahn (eds.): Afrika und die Globalisierung, M nster, Hamburg 1999, pp. 305-322.

- (with Andreas Eckert) Das Geisteswissenschaftliche entrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. In: Periplus 9 (1999), pp. 151-158.

- Les anciens combattants africains, la vie uotidienne et la citoyenn te. Une tude socio-histori ue sur la vie post-militaire d'anciens soldats volta ues burkinab s ayant servis dans l'arm e fran aise (1945-1960). In: Clion en Afri ue. L'histoire africaine en langue fran aise [http: www.up.univ-mrs.fr/wclio-af](http://www.up.univ-mrs.fr/wclio-af) (forthcoming).

- wischen Imperium und Nation: Westafrikanische Veteranen der franz ischen Armee im sp tkolonialen Obervolta. In: G. H pp B. Reinwald (eds.), Fremdeins tze. Afrikaner und Asiaten in europ ischen riegen (1914-1945), Berlin 2000, pp. 227-252.

*Wippel, Steffen:* Mohammed VI (Muhammad as-sadis). Marokkanischer nig. In: Orient 40 (1999) 4, pp. 533-543.

### • Recent publications – guests

*Kojok, Salma:* Migrations, r seaux familiaux et strat gies commerciales: uel ues pistes d'analyse partir de la trajectoire d'un immigr arabe dans la C te d'Ivoire coloniale. In: En u tes et documents. In: Revue du Centre de Recherche sur l'Histoire du Monde Atlanti ue (Universit de Nantes), No. 26, pp. 151-164.

- Migrations et strat gies identitaires: la mobilisation de leur nouvelle nationalit par les Libanais de C te d'Ivoire (1920-1945). In: Ultramarines. Revue du Centre des Archives d'Outre Mer d'Aix-en-Provence (forthcoming).

*Sarkar, Tanika:* Words to Win: the Making of Amar Jiban a Modern Autobiography, New Delhi 1999.

- Hindu Wife and Hindu Nation: Faith, Justice and Family in Colonial Bengal (forthcoming).



Efforts to appoint a successor to the late Professor Dr. Ulrich Haarmann as permanent Director of the Centre are continuing. In early July 2000, five candidates gave lectures and were interviewed on their ideas for the future development of the Centre. It's hoped that a new principal will soon be found and can begin work next year. In the light of this unresolved situation, the positive response by evaluators of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) in July to the bulk of a research proposal designed to supplement the proposal already approved in 1999, including four additional projects due

to start in January 2001, was a particularly important achievement. A final decision on funding by the DFG is expected in the autumn.

A further notable achievement is the appointment of a Deputy Director for development planning and programme organisation. As of 1st September 2000, Dr. Thomas itelmann will be employed under contract until the end of 2001. He will concentrate on liaising with partner and funding institutions and on developing proposals for additional activities, and will take over organisational tasks in the current programme.

Ingrid Malsch, our secretary, has been the heart of the Centre in many ways since it came into existence in 1996. Many colleagues knew her before that from her



work in the Centre's predecessor institutions for more than four decades.

With her energetic personality she not only managed the secretarial end of things but contributed to an atmosphere of optimism, team-spirit and continuity throughout changing conditions, localities and directorships. Although she is now retiring at the age of 64, we are certain she will continue to take up new challenges in the years to come. All of us would like to wish her the best of health and good spirits for the future.