



Editorial

»Crossroads Asia«, »Invisible Frontiers in Eastern Central Europe« and »Urban Violence in the Middle East: Between Empire and Nation State« – these are the topics of three new projects that will commence as of 2011 at the ZMO. Two of them explore transregional perspectives more systematically – in the case of »Crossroads« those between Central and South Asia, in the case of »Invisible Frontiers« those between Europe and Asia, while the ex-

ploration of urban violence complements the investigations of urban conviviality and cosmopolitanism which have been major themes of urban studies at the ZMO. More importantly, however, all of these projects solidify the cooperative links the ZMO has built with a number of institutions, nationally and internationally. »Urban Violence« is a DFG-AHRC project linking the ZMO with the School of Oriental and African Studies (London), while the two other projects aim to build strong area studies networks within Ger-

many. »Invisible Frontiers« is led by the Centre Marc Bloch (Berlin) and involves Humboldt University as well as the University of Halle, while »Crossroads Asia« is coordinated by the University of Bonn and includes the Freie and Humboldt Universities Berlin and the Universities of Cologne, Munich and Tübingen. We expect that the ZMO's longstanding experience in transregional research will contribute to the success of these projects while intensifying our exchange with a wide range of German universities. *U. Freitag*



The above mentioned three new cooperative research networks, in which the ZMO will play an important role over the next few years, are part of the BMBF initiative to support networks in area and transregional studies.

First, the research and competence network »Crossroads Asia«, coordinated at the University of Bonn, will study, over the next four years, the interaction between social configurations and mobility in and between the neighbouring regions of South and Central Asia. Through dedicated working groups, the terms »conflict«, »migration« and »development« will be employed to analyse and understand the overlap, contrast and comparison between these regions. PD Dr. Dietrich Reetz, who is also one of the board members of the programme, will explore the networking activities of selected Islamic groups between South and Central Asia. In this context, Dr. Antía Mato Bouzas will continue her research on the wider Kashmir area with a project on processes of transformation in contested border regions of Jammu and Kashmir. Two PhD projects

at the ZMO will contribute to the work of the groups on mobility and conflict, with a focus on West and South Asia.

Second, Dr. Nora Lafi and Prof. Ulrike Freitag are involved in a research network focusing on virtual or felt boundaries (»Invisible Frontiers«) that played a significant role in the historical development of Central and Eastern Europe, which was plagued by a number of religious, imperial and other divides over the centuries. The project at the ZMO investigates spatial, social and symbolic boundaries that were created and maintained within the Ottoman system of government and administration, and it explores how these boundaries were either upheld or altered under changing political circumstances during the gradual decline and dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. Subjecting the case studies of Niş and Edirne to comparative analysis, the new doctoral or postdoc project will seek to tease out continuities and contrasts of urban transformations and their social significance.

Third, Prof. Ulrike Freitag and Dr. Nora Lafi are also participating in an Anglo-

Istanbul - Castell de Yedikule (photo: Lohen 11, Wikimedia Commons, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Istanbul_-_Castell_de_Yedikule.JPG)

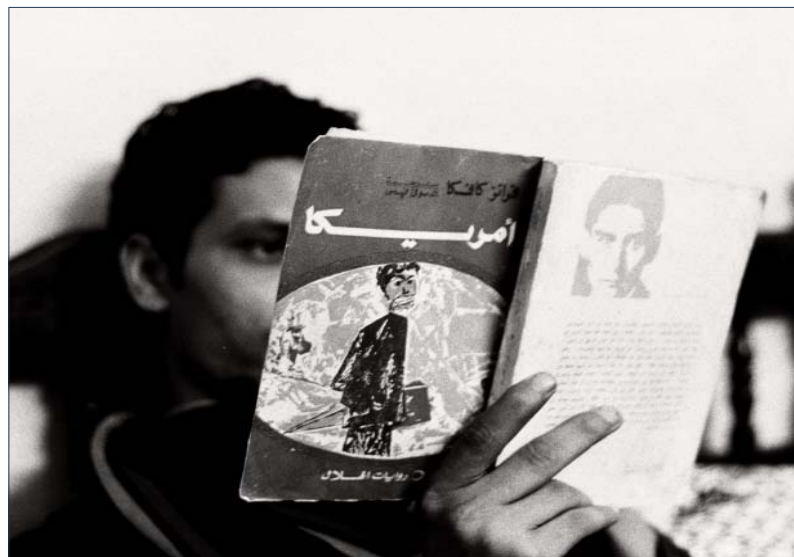
German research project with Dr. Nelida Fuccaro from the School of Oriental and Asian Studies. Starting in January, they will investigate »Urban Violence in the Middle East«, looking at the transitional period from Empire to nation state in the Ottoman Empire, the Arab lands and Iran. Working on a number of Arab and Iranian cities, the project is comparatively oriented and takes the articulation and expression of violence as an indicator of the relations between state and society. It proceeds by combining synchronic and diachronic axes of investigation, and it addresses the German, British and French traditions of research on urban history with the goal of broadening methodological and theoretical perspectives on both sides through joint engagements and discussions. Two doctoral students will join the German part of the team, while a postdoctoral researcher will cooperate closely with Dr. Fuccaro. *K. Kresse*

In search of Europe: considering the possible in Africa and the Middle East

Junior research group under the direction of Dr. Samuli Schielke

The interdisciplinary research project is based at the Zentrum Moderner Orient from 2010 until 2014 and funded by the Federal Ministry of Research and Education. The research team consists of four regular and two associated researchers who combine anthropological and historical approaches; this is complemented by a curator responsible for an exhibition scheduled for 2013. The project aims to gain an interdisciplinary, empirically grounded and theoretically reflective understanding of the ways people in Africa and the Middle East engage the idea of »Europe« as a metonymy of possibilities, both in its affirmative and in its critical forms. The focus of the project is therefore not so much on the representations people make of Europe as it is on the way people are compelled to com-

pare themselves with metropolitan – that is, European, American, Gulf Arab etc. – standards in order to think about their own trajectories. »Europe« thus often comes to represent those things that people consider possible, desirable, dangerous or inevitable in their own society. With this project we therefore want to remove Europe »as such« from the centre and instead focus on the search for points of orientation and spaces of action that, from the point of view of people involved in this search, may allow them to realise social development, economic prosperity, space for cultural expression and personal happiness. What unites these political, social and personal engagements is the creative and critical moment of a search for aspects of agency in the midst of powers that are felt to be inevitable.



Reading Kafka
in Egypt
(photo: Samuli
Schielke, 2010)

Vanessa Díaz: Europe and the image of one's own in the contemporary art of Lusophone Africa

In her PhD project, Díaz pursues the question how, in the emerging market of fine arts, the collective ideas and material images of Europe help to create, question and establish present and future expectations of an African modernity. The search for an African identity in the visual arts is not comprehensible without the ambivalent presence of Europe and the West more

widely. Just as European art has used African »primitive« motifs as a source of new inspiration, African art has come to make use of images and motifs of Western origin that have emerged through decades of relations. Today, through global networking and diaspora, these images are not mere representations of strangers, they are part of the social and cultural life. Until as late as the mid-seventies, Portugal under Salazar's dictatorship refused to abandon its »overseas provinces«, now known as Lusophone Africa. The after-effects of the long and armed independence

struggle and autocratic colonial rule can be still observed in post-colonial Angola, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique, in daily life as well as in the arts scene. For example, the governments still refer to the liberation movements as sources of political legitimacy. Yet the artistic production of these countries has been fruitful despite wars.

Díaz investigates the interactions between the European and the African Lusophone art world at the level of aesthetic standards, the art market and the notions of self and world that underlie the production of art, which often come together in uneven and problematic but also creative ways. Her focus lies on the question of how presences such as »Europe« and »tradition« contribute to the project of »African Art« in Lusophone contexts. How do the awareness of global aesthetic standards and the question of what counts as art, and what counts as African art, intertwine with the search for possible new ways of individual and collective self-perception?

Dr. Bettina Gräf: Public debates in transcultural space: the concept of Islam as political order at the beginning of the Cold War

Bettina Gräf's research project investigates, from a media perspective, the confrontation of Arabic-language authors from the environment of the Azhar University in Cairo and of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers with ideologies and political movements that were dominant during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as with European perceptions and theories of the state during that time.

In modern European thinking, Islam has been a widely discussed, controversial and notionally explosive entity. Yet conversely, the term West (*al-gharb*) – primarily a synonym for Europe up until the end of World War II – has also played a decisive role in Arabic-language debates and imaginaries in many ways. The modernist 1950s-1960s were marked by the formation of the Warsaw Pact and the alliance of Western Europe after the end of World War II. The division into blocs at the beginning of the Cold War was the end of Europe as a cohesive region of communication and imagination. At the same time, in the Arab world this period was marked by Nasser's rule, the project of Arab socialism and the massive suppression of Islamic political activities in Egypt and elsewhere. The question this project poses is: what role did the European political ideologies of communism, socialism and liberalism and the European states as

parts of the two opposing blocs (socialism versus capitalism) during this period play in the formulation of Islam as a distinct political system and an alternative to those societal models? Further, what were the political and economic conditions of production of the Arabic-language media of these debates, and how were they connected with other local, national or transregional media (books, radio, television)?



Toktok driver in northern Egypt with German flags and a Dutch jersey. Video still from »Messages from Paradise #1« by Daniela Swarowsky and Samuli Schielke, 2009

Dr. Knut Graw: Envisaging Europe in migration and diaspora

One of the most striking aspects of African migration to Europe is the almost complete anonymity of its protagonists. Due to this, the reasons and motivations of African migrants are mostly perceived in very general terms as the outcome of a lack of economic development, ecological crises or military conflicts. Cultural, personal or historical reasons tend to remain largely out of sight. This is also true for the reasons and motivations of Senegalese migrants in Spain and the often iconic power of the image of Europe as a space of possibility. This project takes issue with this situation and attempts to describe the reasons for migration as described by the individual actors themselves. In this regard, the project investigates the role which idealized ideas of Europe play in this context as well as the relation of these ideas and expectations to the lived reality of migratory praxis. As a both internal and external perspective, migratory and diasporic perceptions of Europe form hereby an important link between the formation of ideas around Europe in- and outside of the continent. In this regard, the project not only aims at documenting heterogeneous, subaltern ideas and perceptions of Europe but also examines European self-perceptions in relation to the economic and political realities of migration. The project is embedded in a larger ongoing research project on migration as postcolonial praxis in Spain (since 2008).

Dr. Aïssatou Mbodj: The making of ordinary imaginations of Europe between France and Mali: migrants' letters and domestic archives

The aim of this project is to investigate how imaginations of Europe are fuelled by images, objects and discourses circulating between France and Mali. How do letters, photos, videos, cassettes and gifts tell specific stories about Europe and migration? How are these commodities embedded in narratives of migration and of the distant places they come from? How do the stories of these objects travel, and what kind of discourses draw upon them?

These discourses and images will be analysed at two levels: first, as discursive and visual material providing representations of Europe, designed by the migrants in ways that need to be documented; second, as objects locally appropriated, sometimes contested, in family memories and representations of the outside.

Dealing with writings and objects that document migration over decades, this research will touch on the issue of the memory of migration, in the context of a political will in France as in other European countries to »patrimonialise« this part of history. The project departs from this general orientation by its ethnographic stance, seeking to investigate how individuals and communities themselves deal with these issues.

Leyla von Mende: »Today's neighbour – yesterday's subject«: the Balkans between the Ottoman Empire and Europe from the perspective of Ottoman travellers, 1870–1918

In the course of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, the Ottoman Empire lost almost all its European provinces. Suddenly »yesterday's subjects« became new neighbours and also competitors in the process of retaining the Empire and of asserting its position against Europe. The dissertation project aims to analyse the Ottoman perception of the new independent Balkan states on the basis of travelogues. How did the travellers view the new situation and the results of the independence of the Balkan states? Without a doubt, their perception was influenced by the fact that, prior to their independence, these new states had been Ottoman provinces. This triggered reactions varying from trivialisation or even disregard of certain developments to astonishment and sometimes admiration. As a sec-

ond step, the dissertation seeks to examine the extent to which Ottoman travellers deemed themselves able to learn something from these new Balkan states about their perceived progress towards the standards of metropolitan Europe. Therefore, the goal is to shed light on the networks of relations among the Ottoman Empire, the Balkans and Europe and to clarify the Ottomans' self-location within this newly established arrangement.



A young man with a Che Guevara T-shirt in northern Egypt (photo: Samuli Schielke, 2007)

Dr. Samuli Schielke: Imaginary cosmopolitans? Engaging the world between Egypt and Europe

One of the most ambiguous outcomes of globalisation has been the emergence of a large class of people around the world who consume images, subscribe to ideologies of global currency and locate themselves in complex multiple identities of religion, consumerism, nationalism, sports, music and creativity, without having access to the mobility or the means of class distinction that have often been associated with the notion of cosmopolitanism. Unlike many other notions of the cosmopolitan, these experiences are strongly marked by a troubling sense of boredom and frustration in the face of a tremendous pressure to advance, created by the promises of a better and grander life that is taking place elsewhere. Under such conditions, the search for a place in the world often takes the shape of an active work of fantasy, be it in the shape of unlikely plans to acquire money or a visa, or a playful engagement with media and literacy that become sites of thinking about possible futures. The key research question of this ethnographic project, located in a village and in a large city in northern Egypt, is the extent to

which the practice of imagination can open spaces of agency, and the extent to which it may actually increase the pressure of certain paths and expectations of a good life.

Daniela Swarowsky: Exhibition project

The research projects will be accompanied by an exhibition at the Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien in Berlin in 2013. Daniela Swarowsky, an artist, curator and filmmaker who in recent years has developed new ways of reaching audiences beyond the art, academic and cultural circles, has been commissioned to develop and curate this exhibition. Swarowsky's concept is to link each researcher with an artist or artist group, ideally from the region or country where the research is located. Six artists will be commissioned to produce new work in collaboration with each of the researchers, developed in an ongoing dialogue between the parties involved. The goal is not a mere translation or interpretation of the scientific research into artistic media, but rather artistic visions around the topics of the research, thus bringing in commentaries from and discourses of local actors. Some researchers are also interested in mediating the methods and the process of research itself to a larger audience. Therefore, another layer of the exhibition will not only focus on the research topics as such, but will also include the process of research and fieldwork. As preparation towards the main exhibition in Berlin, part of the concept is to collaborate with cultural actors in the countries of research in organising academic-artistic exchanges in the form of exhibitions, debates, workshops and/or film screenings in the course of 2012. A selection of these works and processes will flow into the final exhibition in Berlin at the end of 2013. The exhibit will be accompanied by an auxiliary programme.



A barber shop in a village in northern Egypt (photo: Samuli Schielke, 2007)

activities

■ Workshops

Identifying new themes in South Asian history, ZMO, 15-17 June 2010

The objective of the workshop at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin was twofold: first, strategic, to encourage productive exchange among young South Asianists; and second, thematic, to address new fields and research areas in the social history of South Asia. This initiative both reflects and aspires to contribute to the recent rise of Modern South Asian Studies in German-speaking countries for which the organizers wanted to develop a closer collaboration, especially among the researchers in their doctoral and post-doctoral stages. Though the disciplinary focus was on history and on the researchers based in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, applicants from the UK and the Netherlands, as well as researchers from related disciplines like political science, arts, anthropology, media and literature studies, also participated in the workshop. By doing so, they supported the transnational and interdisciplinary approach to the field.

Interested in identifying current trends and future research potential within South Asian Studies, Michael Mann, the recently appointed chair of South Asian Studies at the Humboldt University, analysed the scope of the presentations in his opening key note address. While applauding the presence of a number of papers on »newer« themes like print media and historically based approaches to literary studies, he highlighted global history as another influential new approach that was represented

in a number of projects on diverse topics, such as psychoanalysis, slavery and online marriages. Though the workshop reflected a wide range of highly debated issues, Mann rightly pointed out the absence of a few topics, like environmental and urban history and the study of minorities, the subjects that otherwise score very highly on the South Asian research agenda in South Asia. A point of further deliberation is their absence on European or more precisely German research agendas, which might reflect a particular European interest that diverges from the main and current research interests within the region itself.

While reflecting upon the proceedings of the three-day conference, the concluding round table discussion also highlighted the need to regularise such meetings. As a result, this new initiative has decided to meet annually on a rotating basis under the name of Y-SASM (Young South Asia Scholars Meet). A preliminary schedule is as follows: 2011, HU Berlin; 2012, SAI Heidelberg (coinciding with the 50th foundational Jubilee of the SAI); 2013, ETH Zurich; 2014, University of Göttingen.

The workshop was organized by Aditya Sarkar (University of Göttingen), Anna Sailer (University of Göttingen), Maria Framke (Jacobs University, Bremen), Nitin Sinha (ZMO, Berlin). For more see <http://geschichte-transnational.clio-online.net/tagungsberichte/id=3298&count=158&recno=1&sort=datum&order=down&segment=16>

N. Sinha



Out of place or belonging. Exile, *hijra* and community, ZMO, 1-2 July 2010

This workshop was the last of a series of three workshops titled »Experiences and narratives of migration – at home, on the way and away«, organized by the research group Actors in Translocal Spaces. Its initial aim was to question the idea that exile is the last stage within a process of migration at home (see Orient Bulletin No. 16), the transit situation (see Orient Bulletin No. 17) and the exile or Diaspora situation. Methodologically, the concept of exile was compared with another form of translocal out-of-place experience, the *hijra*. The papers presented dealt with exile situa-

tions of Indians, Turks or Arabs in Europe, as well as with cases of *hijra* to Mecca and Medina performed by various West African actors during the colonial period. The papers clearly showed that power and social dimensions affected the situation preceding exile or *hijra*. Individuals or groups feel »out of place« in their supposed homes. The comparisons made it clear that we should overcome the dichotomies according to which exile is regarded as a (static) situation whereas *hijra* is mostly described as a process or as a movement. This implied the notion that exile is still

perceived as a passive and *hijra* as an active phenomenon. In other words, exiles are often primarily described as victims and *muhajirun* (*hijra* performers) as actors. Rather than emphasising these dichotomies, the papers presented at the workshop showed that both exile and *hijra* are often in-between times and spaces. Both concepts stand for translocal settings incorporating different other settings and belongings of the actors. Both concepts imply the idea of a journey, including movements, displacements and situations of being out of place, as well as arriving and moments of belonging.

H. Liebau



Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V.

Colloquium in honour of Petra Heidrich: Indian agrarian and peasant history – a challenge to current research, ZMO, 23 September 2010

On behalf of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des ZMO e.V., Annemarie Hafner, Ravi Ahuja and Heike Liebau organised a one-day colloquium, »Indian agrarian and peasant history – a challenge to current research«. With this colloquium they remembered a friend and colleague, Petra Heidrich (1940–2006), and her research in the field of agrarian studies. Petra Heidrich was born in Berlin. She studied Indology and Social Anthropology at the Humboldt University in Berlin. In 1965 Petra Heidrich joined the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the



Participants of the colloquium at ZMO

GDR. During the 1970s she spent several years in India with her family. In 1983 she obtained her PhD from the Academy of Sciences of the GDR and was a staff member of the Institute of History. In 1992 she joined the ZMO in Berlin with a project on peasant leaders in colonial India.

During the colloquium, researchers from various disciplines and institutions dis-

cussed the role of Indian agrarian and peasant history in current research. Annemarie Hafner (Berlin) started the morning session with comprehensive and touching memories of Petra Heidrich as a researcher, friend and human being. This was followed by programmatic papers relating Petra Heidrich's work to the broader context of peasant studies presented by Ravi Ahuja/Göttingen (»Agricultural labour in India (1988): A present-day reading«), Sumit Sarkar/Delhi (»Agrarian History and the Environmental Turn in South Asian Studies«), and Michael Mann/Berlin (»Why are we returning the peasant to South Asian History?«). In the afternoon, case studies

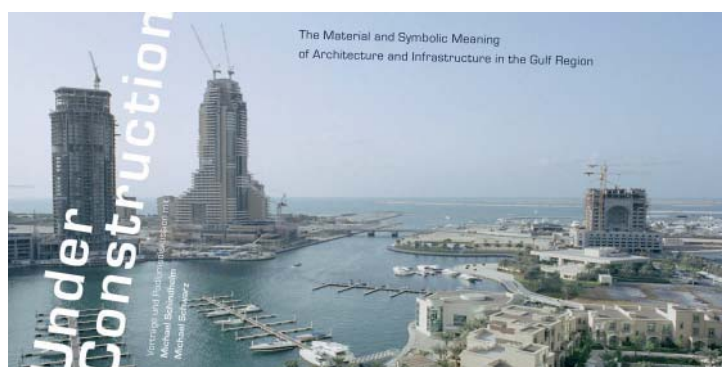
related to various topics were discussed. Nitin Sinha/Berlin focused on »The role of Sadhus for the mobilization of peasants«; Adapa Satyanarayana/Hyderabad/Bremen dealt with »Kulak Pettandars: The Rise of Dominant Caste Peasantry in Andhra Pradesh«; and Corinna Unger (Jacobs Universität Bremen) concentrated on »Industrialization or Agrarian Reform? West German Modernization Policies in India in the 1950s and 1960s«.

Thus, the colloquium not only aimed at appreciating the work of a unique scholar, but at the same time also sought to give new impulses to South Asian agrarian and peasant studies.

H. Liebau



Under construction. The material and symbolic meaning of architecture and infrastructure in the Gulf Region, ZMO, 6–10 October 2010



The international workshop was organised by Katrin Bromber, Birgit Krawietz (FU Berlin) and Steffen Wippel (presently on leave for the University of Leipzig), who are currently working on research projects converging on the Gulf region, its transregional links and the new sports cities and transport infrastructure established there. The three-day conference was an outcome of current debates on the »hyperrealities« of integrated tourist complexes in the Arab world, »iconic buildings« in Gulf cities and on the »economy of fascination« they generate.

The workshop, which grew into a conference with nearly 40 active participants, traced phenomena such as the widespread construction of artificial islands, global container ports, free zones, museums, theme parks etc. It analysed and compared activities of this kind and their rhetoric within a theoretically informed framework from the overall perspective of material and symbolic impacts. A transdisciplinary dialogue developed between scholars from a wide range of research fields, such as Islamic Studies, geography, architecture, economics, urban studies, anthropology and history.

The meeting started with a public double keynote – a dialogue between Michael Schindhelm, former advisor to the Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, and Michael Schwarz,

architect from Ajman University of Science and Technology.



from left: Michael Schindhelm, PD Dr. Katrin Bromber, Prof. Michael Schwarz (photo: Sebastian Treytnar)

The following days were organised around nine major panels covering a wide range of issues from »Culture, Identity and Commodification« and »Orientalism and Postmodernism« through the economy and the politics of infrastructure and architecture to »Global (Destination) Branding«, including specific developments in Saudi Arabia and Iran. A final panel discussed translocal and transregional effects of developments in the Gulf under the title »Dubai elsewhere«.

Papers have also been presented by practitioners in the cultural field, such as former managers of the Museum of Islamic Art at Doha and the Louvre Abu Dhabi project. With photo and poster exhibitions on Dubai, a video production on gender topographies and a presen-

tation of architectural models for the Gulf region, artistic works on the Gulf phenomenon complemented the paper presentations. An urbanistic excursion to the highly contested »Mediaspree« waterfront project allowed participants to compare issues such as citizens' involvement with experiences in the Gulf. Also included were visits to current exhibitions on urban development in Germany and abroad. The DFG assumed the major part of the conference costs. An edited volume that will take up several papers and issues discussed during the conference is in preparation. *S. Wippel*



■ ZMO Lecture Series

Islam and society in Central Asia, 2010/2011

The initial goal of this lecture series is to present the region of Central Asia as a new research field within the ZMO program »Muslim Worlds – World of Islam? « To this end, researchers (anthropologists, historians and Islamic Studies scholars who concentrate on examining this region) will not be the only people invited. It is also planned to give local actors (participants and shapers of the transformation processes) the opportunity to present the issues from their viewpoint. The series thus provides the possibility for an exchange of ideas and opinions about the region and at the same time contributes to the debate within the ZMO on the diversity of cultures and societies shaped by Islam.

The lecture series will concentrate on the social and cultural role of Islam in the region. This includes issues of the diversity and dynamics of Islam in post-Soviet Central Asia, the relationship between state and religion and between the religious and the secular and considerations of the significance of Islam in the process of forming a national consciousness and ethnic identities. Lectures in the series will be held once every two months (from October 2010 probably through September 2011). *D. Wilkowsky*

Guest Scholars July–December 2010

Dr. Hassan Mwakimako, University of Nairobi ■ Dr. Markus Dressler, Istanbul Technical University ■ Prof. Mohamedou Mohamedan Meyine, University of Nouakchott ■ Dr. Atreyee Sen, University of Manchester ■ Navid Fozi-Abivard, Boston University ■ Dr. Amir Sheikzadegan, University of Friburourg ■ Prof. Giovanni Balcet, University of Turin ■ Dr. Tanika Sarkar, Jawaharlal Nehru University ■ Dr. Christian Steiner, Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz ■ Tania Sengupta, University of Westminster ■ Mohtar Saad Shehata ■ Dr. Muhiddin Kabiri, Islamic Revival Party Tajikistan ■

■ Other Activities

Transforming identities and new representations of Muslims in contemporary Ethiopia, Bergen, 26-27 June 2010

On 26 and 27 June 2010, an international workshop on Muslims in contemporary Ethiopia was convened by Terje Østebø (University of Florida) and Patrick Desplat (University of Cologne) with financial support from the ZMO, the Center for African Studies (University of Florida), the Chr. Michelsen Institute, the University of Bergen and the NLA University College. The event delved into some of the questions central to contemporary research activities on Muslim cultures and societies in Ethiopia. In ten interdisciplinary case studies – ranging from political science, anthropology, history and religious science to Islamic Studies – researchers investigated the interplay of Islam, politics, social life, boundary-making and Christian-Muslim relations in various regions of Ethiopia.

The aim of this workshop was to explore the questions of how recent socio-political dynamics have shaped new patterns of integration and translocal entanglements, while at the same time contributing to new practices of boundary making. Such reciprocal and dynamic processes explain how new trajectories of communications may trigger old as well as possible new lines of conflict. In general, the event challenged the popular notion of a primarily »Christian Ethiopia«. The workshop was organized in three sections of different analytical scale: a) Ethiopian Muslims in the



Mosque »Din Agobara«, Harar, Ethiopia (photo: Patrick Desplat, 2003)

wider regional setting of the Horn of Africa, b) capacities and constraints of Muslim representations in Ethiopia and c) transformations of Muslim identities against the background of reform, appropriation and resistance.

The workshop was exceptional in the sense that it filled this overlooked aspect of Ethiopian and Islamic Studies while broadening our understanding of Muslims in Africa in general. The lively and occasionally controversial debates proved the significance of more detailed analyses of a most neglected topic in social sciences: Muslims cultures and societies in Ethiopia. An edited volume is in preparation. *P. Desplat*



De Sacy and the development of the European Orientalist academic tradition, Paris, 14-16 October 2010

Nora Lafi (ZMO), Michel Espagne and Pascale Rabault-Feuerhahn (both CNRS-ENS Paris) organised an international conference on »Silvestre de Sacy: a European Orientalist Project«. The conference was held at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris and at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. The main focus was on the international networks of orientalist knowledge that shaped the European intellectual panorama at the turn of the 18th to the 19th century around figures like de Sacy. Based upon a rediscovery of de Sacy's correspondence in the archives of the Institut de France, researchers focused for example on the complex relationship between the German school of orientalist and biblical studies and French scholars. Nora Lafi presented a paper on the network of knowledge de Sacy used in Italy: not only the rich Italian tradition of manuscript collection, both in the Vati-

can and among noble families, but also the continuous presence at the Vatican Library of Maronite scholars who played a very important role in cultural and linguistic mediation between the Orient and Europe. At the turn of the 19th century, many of these scholars, like Simone Assemani, were integrated in prestigious Italian universities, Padua for example, and participated in the fashioning of the European academic knowledge on the Orient. Such perspectives are an invitation to revise common views of the »rediscovery« of the Orient by Europe. Among the other participants were Mohamed al-Dali Sabri, Nazan Maksudyan and Munir Fakher Eldin (all former EUME fellows at the ZMO), who presented papers on the reception of de Sacy's work in Egypt, Istanbul and the Druze region, reinforced the opening of the conference in the direction of a transnational intellectual history and were able to connect spheres of knowledge that are generally not in necessarily in contact. A publication project is under way with the Parisian publisher CERF. *N. Lafi*

The ZMO at internationales literaturfestival berlin and ALFILM 10, Berlin (September/November 2010)

For the first time, this year the ZMO took part in the international literature festival (ilb, www.literaturfestival.com) founded in 2001, as well as the 2nd Arab film festival (www.alfilm.de), founded in 2009. The literature festival is an event staged by the Peter Weiss Foundation for Art and Politics and the Berliner Festspiele in cooperation with the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. Here, the ZMO presented two recent publications about the Qatar-based religious preacher Yusuf al-Qaradawi. Prof. Gudrun Krämer, Prof. Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen and Dr. Bettina Gräf discussed a volume edited by the latter two about the »Global Mufti« and a monograph by Bettina Gräf on the popularization of Islamic law by the means of media fatwas. The ZMO also presented the first German translation of Tâdsch os-Saltane's memoirs, written in 1914, at the ilb in cooperation with its sister institution, the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung (ZfL). The Persian princess was the daughter of the Qajar Schah Nâser ed-Din and died impoverished in Teheran in 1936. She was a prominent member of the local »Society of Women's Freedom«. Finally, the Tunisian writer Hassouna Mosbahi read from his novel »Return to Tarschisch«. In it, Mosbahi, who lives in exile in Munich since 1986, reflects about his alienation from his homeland.

This year's Arab film festival ALFILM 10 focussed on issues of migration, integration, alienation and belonging. These topics have been thoroughly addressed by Arab filmmakers worldwide. The festival was a rare opportunity to see a selection of them in Berlin. The ZMO participated in the public panel discussion »Fremdbilder und Selbstdarstellung von arabischen Migranten im Film« with ZMO guest Mokhtar el-Shehata from Egypt. ZMO members Samuli Schielke and Daniela Swarowsky were selected to present their film »Messages from Paradise #1«.

S. Hegasy



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Awards

We congratulate our colleagues Dr. Heike Liebau and PD Dr. Steffen Wippel. Heike Liebau's monograph *Die indischen Mitarbeiter der Tranquebarmission (1706-1845). Katecheten, Schulmeister, Übersetzer* was selected for translation into English by »Geisteswissenschaften International – Preis zur Förderung der Übersetzung geisteswissenschaftlicher Literatur«. This award was founded by Deutscher Börsenverein, Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung, VG Wort and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is granted two times a year for publications of distinct scientific quality and aims to promote the international circulation of German research results in the social sciences and humanities.

On 4 November 2010 Steffen Wippel was awarded the annual Habilitation Prize of the Universitätsbund Erlangen-Nürnberg e.V. for his habilitation thesis on »Territorialisierungen und Regionalisierungen im nord-westlichen Afrika. Wirtschaft, Politik und Raum in den marokkanisch-mauretanischen Beziehungen«.

publications



Review

Ulrike Freitag (ed.): *Saudi-Arabien. Ein Königreich im Wandel?*, Verlag Ferdinand Schöningh, Paderborn, Munich 2010)

»(...) Only rarely is conclusive information about this state available (...) In this lamentable situation, a book edited by Ulrike Freitag, the Director of the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, is quite welcome. In its twelve individual papers, students report on their research results. In 2008, these young Arabic-speaking researchers had the extraordinary opportunity of a study residence in the family kingdom, which is still mostly shut off from the outside. They report on the opposition, the pilgrimage to Mecca, the chances of the Saudi market, the role of the media and other important topics (...)«
Süddeutsche Zeitung 5 Oct. 2010

Other Publications (selection)

- *Frede, Britta*: Nur ein Nomade kann ein Held sein – drei gemeinsame Saharareisen von Odette de Puigaudeau (1894-1991) und Marion Sénones (alias Marcel Born-Kreuzberger, 1886-1977), in: Bekim Agai, Zita Ágota Pataki (eds.), *Orientalische Reisende in Europa – Europäische Reisende im Nahen Osten: Bilder vom Selbst und Imagination des Anderen*, Bonner Islamstudien 19, Berlin: EB-Verlag, 2010, 135-158.
- *Freitag Ulrike, Malte Fuhrmann, Nora Lafi, Florian Riedler* (eds.): *The City in the Ottoman Empire. Migration and the Making of Urban modernity*, SOAS/Routledge Studies on the Middle East, London: Routledge, 2010, 269 p.
- *Hegasy, Sonja*: Die Säkularisierung des Denkens in der arabischen Welt, in: *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* Nr. 24/2010.
- *Janson, Marloes*: The Battle of the Ages: Contests for Religious Authority in The Gambia, in: Linda Herrera and Asef Bayat (eds.), *Being Young and Muslim. New Cultural Politics in the Global South and North*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 95–111.
- *Liebau, Heike, Katrin Bromber, Katharina Lange, Dyala Hamzah, Ravi Ahuja* (eds.): *The World in World Wars. Experiences, Perceptions and Perspectives from Africa and Asia*, Leiden: Brill, 2010, 592 p.
- *Liebau, Heike, Andreas Nehring und Brigitte Klosterberg* (eds.): *Mission und Forschung. Translokale Wissensproduktion zwischen Indien und Europa im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*, Hallesche Forschungen 29, Verlag der Franckeschen Stiftungen Halle/Harrassowitz Verlag in Kommission, 2010, 303 p.
- *Mende-Altaylı, Rana von* (ed.): *Fatima Aliyye / Mahmud Esad: Ta'addüd-i Zevcat Zeyl – Continuation of the Debate on Polygamy*, Bd. 9 der Reihe Studien zur Sprache, Geschichte und Kultur der Turkvölker, hrsg. von G. Hazai, Berlin: Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2010, 177 p.

- *Reetz, Dietrich* (ed.): Islam in Europa: Religiöses Leben heute. Münster: Waxmann, 2010, 250 p.
- *Wagenhofer, Sophie*: »Rassischer« Feind – Politischer Freund? Inszenierung und Instrumentalisierung des Araberbildes im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland, Islamkundliche Untersuchungen Bd. 29, Klaus Schwarz Verlag: Berlin, 2010, 132 p.



news

We congratulate our colleague PD Dr. **Steffen Wippel** on his appointment as Privatdozent on November 4, 2010 by the president of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. Until September 2011, Steffen Wippel is on leave from the ZMO to finish the project »Between the Arab World and the Indian Ocean: Oman's regional economic orientations« at the Department for the Economy and Social Geography of the Arab World at the Institute for Oriental Studies, University of Leipzig, Germany. We also congratulate our colleague Dr. **Jeanne Féaux de la Croix** on being awarded a PhD by the University of St. Andrews in November 2010. Her dissertation deals with »Moral geographies in Kyrgyzstan: how pastures, dams and holy sites matter in striving for a good life«. **Larissa Schmid** has been the ZMO's new Assistant to the Director since August 2010. She was already connected to the Centre as a student assistant. Larissa Schmidt studied History, Islamic Studies and Political Science in Berlin; her MA thesis discussed »Das Berliner Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen in der Weimarer Republik«. Her predecessor **Leyla von Mende** (see Bulletin No. 16) is still a ZMO colleague, but has moved to the newly established BMBF project »In search of Europe: considering the possible in Africa and the Middle East«. Three further researchers in the group, Dr. **Samuli Schielke** (see Bulletin No. 16), Dr. **Knut Graw**, who will be associated in 2012 (see Bulletin Nos. 14, 17) and Dr. Bettina Gräf are known to the Centre as they worked here before. **Bettina Gräf** (see also Bulletin No. 14) worked in the academic year 2009/10 as a post-doc fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies and took up work at the ZMO as of June 2010. Dr. **Aïssatou Mbodj-Pouye**, associated from October 2010 until October 2011, studied Philosophy and Anthropology at the Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris before completing a PhD in Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Lyon. Her thesis is based on fieldwork in Southern Mali on reading and writing practices in Bamanan

and French. While on a junior research and teaching position at the Centre for African Studies (EHESS, Paris) from 2006 to 2010, she has engaged in discussions in the field of »literacy studies« as well as in wider debates on writing and orality in Africa. **Vanessa Díaz Rivas** studied Anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. For her M.A. thesis she explored the social practices of portrait photography in Rwanda. After her studies, she worked there as a lecturer and taught in the field of media and art anthropology. She started her research at the ZMO in August 2010. **Daniela Swarowsky** is an Austrian artist living and working in Rotterdam and Berlin. Since 2001 her work has focused on migration and identity and the role of art in gentrification processes. Her film trilogy in-progress »Messages from Paradise – About the permanent longing for elsewhere« is a series of fictitious dialogues around imaginaries of a better life and myths associated with migration. Since 2003 she has been the Artistic Director of the ZIM (Zwaanshals in Motion) foundation based in Rotterdam. In September 2010, she started a 2-year research fellowship at the ZMO to curate and develop an art exhibition associated with the project planned for late 2013 at the Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien. For an introduction to the project »In search of Europe«, see the »Profiles« in this edition. The ZMO also welcomes three new Alexander von Humboldt fellows, Prof. Michael Provence, Dr. Prem Poddar and Dr. Nazan Maksudyan. **Michael Provence** is Associate Professor, Department of History, University of California, San Diego. He earned a PhD in Modern Middle Eastern History from the University of Chicago. He is the author of the book »The Great Syrian Revolt« (2005) and several articles on the colonial Middle East of the 1920s. During 2010-2011 Provence is an Alexander von Humboldt fellow at the ZMO, where he is working on a book on the emergence of the modern Arab Middle East after WWI. **Prem Poddar** started research at the ZMO in November 2010 and comes from the University of Southampton, where he was working on the AHRC project »The Indian Ocean: narratives in literature and law«. He has broadly worked and published in the area of Postcolonial Studies; his current work at the Centre is on the cultural politics of the eastern Himalayas. He is also preparing a monograph on a cultural history of the passport. **Nazan Maksudyan** is also known at the Centre. She was an EUME fellow in 2009/10 (see Bulletin No. 17) and will begin a fellowship in February 2011. The EUME academic term 2010/11 started in October and the ZMO welcomes the new fellows: Dr. Gülhan Balsoy, Dr. Hanan Hammad and Dr. Zeynep Türkyilmaz. **Gülhan Balsoy**

graduated from Binghamton University in 2009. Her dissertation, »Gender and the politics of female body: midwifery, abortion, and pregnancy in Ottoman society (1838-1890s)« examines the politicization of reproduction in the mid- to late-nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire. Currently she is working on medical institutions for women in Ottoman society. **Hanan Hammad** is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Texas Christian University. She earned her PhD in Middle East History with a supporting field in Persian studies at the University of Texas at Austin in 2009. She is currently writing a book manuscript tentatively entitled »Mechanizing people, localizing modernity: industrialization and social transformation in modern Egypt.« **Zeynep Türkyilmaz** received her PhD from the Department of History at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2009. She wrote her dissertation on »Anxieties of conversion: missionaries, state and heterodox communities in the late Ottoman Empire«. Her academic interests include state formation, heterodoxy, gender, religious politics, missionaries and nationalism in the Middle East from 1800 to the present.



calendar

ZMO-KOLLOQUIUM 2010/11

»Agency reconsidered: between life worlds and world order«

- 27 January 2011, 18.00, ZMO
PD Dr. *Thomas Zitelmann*, University Luzern/FU Berlin: Person, Individuum, Agency, Akteur - methodische und regionale Facetten in der Ethnologie
- 24 February 2011, 18.00, ZMO
Prof. *Walter Ötsch*, Johannes Kepler University, Linz: Akteur und Markt, Subjekt und Ordnung in der ökonomischen Theorie
- 24 March 2011, 18.00, ZMO
Dr. *Rose Marie Beck*, University Leipzig: Mit Herero-Worten Herero-Dinge tun. Möglichkeiten und Grenzen ethnographischer Gesprächsanalysen

OTHER EVENTS

- 9 December 2010, 18.00, ZMO
Prof. *Rüdiger Seesemann*, Northwestern University Evanston: Primacy of the Master or Primacy of the Evidence? Competing Approaches to Islamic Knowledge in Africa
- 31 January 2011, 19.30, Jüdisches Museum Berlin, Prof. *Marc Baer*, ZMO: Zur Geschichte von Juden und Dönme in der Türkei

For further information see:
www.zmo.de/veranstaltungen