

Workshop:

“Conceptualizing (Geo) Political Imaginaries”

January 13, 2014, Long Table Room (ZiF)

The research group Geopolitical Imaginaries forms part of the project „The Americas as Space of Entanglement(s)“, which studies the processes and dynamics of transnationalization in the Americas. The latter project is located at the Center for InterAmerican Studies (CIAS) at Bielefeld University. Since both terms, Geopolitics and Imaginaries, on their own as well as combined, are not self-explanatory, the workshop gives the opportunity to discuss in more detail how concepts of geopolitical imaginaries might look like and how geopolitics and imaginaries may guide research practices.

This interdisciplinary workshop (with speakers from the disciplines of anthropology, geography, history, literature and political sciences) therefore aims at discussing Geopolitics not exclusively as an abstract idea of some decision-makers, but rather as ideas that manifest themselves in our everyday life, that is to say in political representations, urban spaces, borders, religions, the press etc. As these examples show, we are also interested in the imaginations attached to Geopolitics and wish to discuss how the term “imagination” can be concretized in order to be less of a catch-all term. After a short welcome by the organizers we will start with a talk of two historians, Angelika Epple and Klaus Weinhauer, who will elaborate on the possibilities of observing political imaginations in local context. We will continue with a presentation by Heinrich Schäfer and Clara Buitrago on religious imaginaries in Guatemala. This input from the fields of sociology and social anthropology advocates a use of Pierre Bourdieu’s concepts to conceptualize imaginaries. After a lunch break we will continue with a panel about Geopolitical Imaginaries in political geography and Global Governance where Paul Reuber discusses the role of space and the political scientist Mathias Albert presents his thoughts on the relation between geopolitics and global governance (this panel will be in German). Subsequently, Kirsten Kramer will show us how geopolitics and literature are related. In her presentation, she will combine theoretical concepts of Arjun Appadurai with examples from Mexican literature. Last but not least, in a concluding session, we will give the opportunity to summarize the main findings of the workshop and outline some perspectives for future research.

This workshop addresses the researchers and different research groups of the BMBF-project “The Americas as Space of Entanglement(s)” as well as the interested public.

Please register beforehand under cias@uni-bielefeld.de (particularly necessary for lunch reservation)!

Organization: Clara Buitrago, Mirko Petersen, Paul-Matthias Tyrell, Dorothea Wehrmann, Klaus Weinhauer

Programme:

9:30-9:45

Welcome by the organizing team

9:45-11:15

Angelika Epple & Klaus Weinbauer: (Geo)Political Imaginaries in local contexts

11:15-11:30: Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Heinrich Schäfer & Clara Buitrago: Religious imaginaries in Guatemala. Considerations following Bourdieu's approach

13:00-14.00 Lunch at the ZiF

14:00-15:30:

Panel with Mathias Albert and Paul Reuber: Geopolitische Imaginarien in der Politischen Geografie- und der Global Governance-Forschung

15:30-16:00: Coffee Break

16:00-17:00:

Kirsten Kramer: Flows and Disjunctures. Geopolitical Imaginaries in Globalized Modernity

17:00-17:15: Coffee Break

17:15-18:15:

Bringing the Concepts Together: What Geopolitical Imaginaries Might Be