



## Quarterly Newsletter

October 2020

Dear Members of the *Shaping Asia* Network,

We hope all of you are fine in spite of the stress of the epidemic.

Since our last newsletter many things have happened and the network is also moving on with events, publications and other initiatives. In order to keep you updated, we thought a quarterly newsletter would be beneficial. Therefore, we would also like to request you to send us regular updates. We would like to include this information not only in our regular newsletter but also on the *Shaping Asia* website that you can find under the address: <http://shapingasia.net/>

Further information about upcoming events and publications is available below:

### Upcoming Events

- The international workshop **Knowledge on the Move: Connectivities, Frontiers, Translations** organized by Claudia Derichs (Humboldt University Berlin) and Riho Isaka (The University of Tokyo) will take place as a *Zoom event* on 9th and 10th January 2021.

For further information please see the attached workshop programme.

In case of interest please send your registration request to:  
[claudia.derichs@hu-berlin.de](mailto:claudia.derichs@hu-berlin.de)

- Within the **Understanding Asia** lecture series organized by the Working Group Social Anthropology (Bielefeld University) – there will be four lectures held between November 2020 and February 2021.

The invited speakers are: Pierre Petit (Université libre de Bruxelles), Shelley Feldman (Cornell University), Ursula Rao (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) and Aike P. Rots (University of Oslo).

For further information please see the attached programme.

In case of interest please send your registration request to:  
[sekretariat.pfaff@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:sekretariat.pfaff@uni-bielefeld.de) /or/ [sekretariat.nguyen@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:sekretariat.nguyen@uni-bielefeld.de)

### Publications

- The article "**Shaping Asia: Connectivities, Comparisons, Collaborations**" written by Christiane Brosius and Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka has been published by *ISA e-Forum* in 2019.

The "article proposes that research and teaching across the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) can profit from relational and comparative conceptual and methodological approaches in studying societies and cultures in Asia" (Brosius and Pfaff-Czarnecka 2019, 1).

<https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/download/2939904/2939908/EBul-Brosius-PfaffCzarnecka-Dec2019.pdf>

- The special issue “**Shaping Mobile Worlds in Asia: Human and Non-Human Socialities**” edited by Kelvin E.Y. Low (National University of Singapore), Noorman Abdullah (National University of Singapore) and Elaine Lynn-Ee Ho (National University of Singapore) published by *American Behavioral Scientist* (Volume 64, Number 10) has appeared in September 2020.

The contributors of the special issue “critically consider the centrality of both human and non-human actors in constituting the different types, degree, and scales of migration and mobility” (Low and Abdullah 2020, 1396).

- Christiane Brosius has published the article “**Kulturerbe als urbane Ressource für lokale Partizipation - ein ethnologischer Blick auf Bangkok, Delhi und Kathmandu**” in the open access publication *Die Stadt von Morgen*, edited by Ulrike Gerhard and Editha Marquardt. Heidelberg: HeiUP: 53-67 and co-edited as well as co-authored with Roberta Mandoki the open access volume *Caring for Old Age. Perspectives from South Asia*. Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Press.

- The article “**Global Sixties in the Non-Western World**” by Claudia Derichs has been published in the *Southeast Asian Social Science Review* 5(2020)1: 5-26.

- An open access contribution “**1968 and the ‘Long 1960’. A Transregional Perspective**” by Claudia Derichs is about to appear in: Ouaisa Rachid, Friederike Pannewick, Alena Strohmeier (eds.): *Re-Configurations. Contextualizing Transformation Processes and Lasting Crises in the Middle East and North Africa*. Wiesbaden: Springer VS.

- The anthology “**Muslim Women’s Pilgrimage to Mecca and Beyond. Reconfiguring Gender, Religion, and Mobility**” edited by Marjo Buiteelar, Manja Stephan-Emmrich and Viola Thimm will be published in November 2020 in Routledge Studies in Pilgrimage, Religious Travel and Tourism.

With a focus on Mecca pilgrimage, the book investigates, from a multi-disciplinary perspective, how pilgrimage practices and experiences of Muslim women from Asia, Europe and the MENA region are embedded in historical and current contexts of globalization and transnational mobility.

## Network related announcements

- **Call for Papers**  
“China beyond China: Infrastructuring and Ecologizing a New Global Hegemony?”  
*International Quarterly for Asian Studies*  
Deadline for manuscript proposals: 15 October 2020  
For further information please see: <https://crossasia-journals.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/iqas/announcement/view/15>

- **Call for applications** for short term fellowships (July 2021 – June 2022) at the M.S. Merian – R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies ‘Metamorphoses of the Political’ (ICAS:MP), New Delhi, India.  
Deadline for application: 31 October 2020  
For further information please see: <https://micasmp.hypotheses.org/5534>

- For those who are interested in/or working on urban studies, two issues titled “**Urban Poetics and Politics in Asia Part I and Part II**” published by *International Quarterly for Asia Studies* (IQAS) are available under the following link: <https://crossasia-journals.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/iqas/issue/archive>

## Corona related postponements

- The workshop **Coastal Futures: Life between and at the edges of the sea** will take place at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology (Halle) between 6th and 7th May 2021.  
Organizers are Arne Harms (University of Leipzig) and Lukas Ley (Heidelberg University).
- The workshop **Situating Knowledge/Sites of Knowledge** had to be postponed due to the epidemic and is planned to take place in Kathmandu at the end of September 2021.  
Organizers are Joachim Kurtz (Heidelberg University) and Dhruv Raina (Jawaharlal Nehru University).
- **Alternative Discourses in Asia: Relevance, Resonance, Revisions** workshop organized by Noorman Abdullah (National University of Singapore) will be held in Singapore between 17th and 18th February 2022.
- **Embodied, Emotional and Sensorial Knowledge: Perspectives from Asia** workshop is planned to take place in Singapore between 18th and 19th February 2022.  
Organizer: Kelvin Low (National University of Singapore)
- The planned South-South opening workshop of the DAAD project **Urban Transformations and Placemaking: Fostering Learning from South Asia and Germany** had to be shifted from September 2020 (Delhi) to the summer of 2021 (Kathmandu).  
The network also expects to hold the first joint research-teaching excursion in Kathmandu in June 2021.

For those who are unfamiliar with the initiative:

The *Shaping Asia* network aims to bring together scholars from the Humanities and Social Sciences. It acts as a platform for trans- and interdisciplinary knowledge production among researchers working in Asia.

Methodologically, the network emphasizes three main lines of inquiries:

- Connectivities** Understand inter- and multicultural formations, their interrelations and how connections transform what is connected.
- Comparisons** See how difference and sameness are put into relation at different scales, questioning what otherwise would seem specific.
- Collaborations** Facilitate multi-sited and multi-perspective knowledge production through scholarly cooperation and exchange.

While Shaping Asia is inclusive, it doesn't work toward capturing the entirety of Asian cultures and societies. Instead, it adopts a framework within which research conducted in specific sites, on specific topics, and by specific disciplines can be placed on a broader basis. Consequently, the network seeks to grasp how Asia is shaped and has shaped the world at different points in history. It challenges disciplinary, national, and regional boundaries as well as cultural containers.

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**We welcome scholars working in and on all parts of Asia interested in joining the network.**

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