



Quarterly Newsletter

December 2020

Dear Members of the **Shaping Asia** Network,

We hope all of you are doing well!

With our last newsletter for this year, we take the opportunity to wish you all happy holidays and a peaceful new year!

Please find the information about network activities 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.

Please send your contact information via the registration form by the 6th of January. The organisers of the workshop will send access information and other details to your email address.

Registration form <https://forms.gle/o6X4SPD4AAXKsR5A7>

For further information please see the workshop programme.

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

The invited speakers are Ursula Rao (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology) and Aike P. Rots (University of Oslo).

For further information please see the events' posters 1 and 2.

In case of interest please send your registration request to: sekretariat.nguyen@uni-bielefeld.de

Publications

- The position paper titled "**Field of Exceptional Uncertainty. The Challenges of Early-Career Anthropologists in the Wake of the Corona Pandemic**" published by Minh Nguyen (Bielefeld University) and Thomas Stodulka (Freie Universität Berlin) in October 2020, is online and can be downloaded under the following address:

<https://boasblogs.org/fieldworkmeetscrisis/field-of-exceptional-uncertainty/>

- A four volume set titled *Asian Families and Intimacies*, edited by Emiko Ochiai and Patricia Uberoi will be published in a few months by Sage. The volumes aim for the establishment of common intellectual bases in fields like, but not limited to, gender studies in the Asia region.

For further information please see the volume's poster.

Network related announcements

- **Shaping Asia Working Papers** series will start in February 2021 and will be available on the website shapingasia.net. We hope for numerous and cutting edge submissions.

Those who are interested in submitting a paper, can send their texts to working.papers@shapingasia.net

- The network is growing steadily and we are registering interest by colleagues whose research interest resonates with **Shaping Asia** in joining the initiative. To be able to incorporate people joining the initiative later, we have created a new category under the name **Associated Projects**. This is a new category meant to expand our network and build new relationships and collaborations. On our website this is accessible under the same name.

Kindly write to us in case you have similar projects in mind.

Please contact Éva-Rozália Hölzle (eva_rozalia.hoelzle@uni-bielefeld.de).

Associated projects

- The project **Environing Infrastructure: Communities, Ecologies, and China's "Green" Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia** funded by the Volkswagen Foundation from 2020 to 2025 is now linked to the Shaping Asia Network as an associate project.

Environing Infrastructure is carried out by a team of researchers based at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich. Part of the team are the social anthropologists Prof. Dr. Alessandro Rippa and Dr. Roger Norum, and the human geographer Huiying Ng.

For further information, please consult the website <https://www.environing.asia>

Corona related postponements

- The workshop **Decentralizing knowledge: Learning with the 'Peripheries'** will take place in early 2022.

Organizers are Prof. Dr. Birgitt Röttger-Rössler, Irina Savu-Cristea, Prof. Dr. Thomas Stodulka, and Dr. Ferdiansyah Thajib from the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin.

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.

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

Contact:

Related to the network please contact:

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Related to the website shapingasia.net please contact:

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