ZiF WORKSHOP

The Good Life in Late Socialist Asia: Aspirations, Politics and Possibilities

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Minh Nguyen (Bielefeld, GER)
Dr. Phill Wilcox (Bielefeld, GER)

16 – 18 September 2019

SUNDAY – 15 SEPTEMBER

18:00 – 20:00 Arrival and Welcome Drink at ZiF

MONDAY – 16 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00 – Breakfast –

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 11:00 Opening remarks by:
Professor Veronique Zanetti (5mins) – Director of Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZIF)
Professor Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka (10 mins) – Dean, Sociology Faculty, Bielefeld University
Professor Minh Nguyen (15 mins)
Keynote address (60 mins) – In Search of the Good Life in China and Beyond – Professor Li Zhang

Session chair: Dr Phill Wilcox

11:00 – 11:15 – Coffee & tea break –
11:15 – 12:45  
**Panel – Infrastructure and Living Space**
- Building a new house, making a good life: A case study of Baikou New Village in southern China – Dr Wei Lan
- The good life at the heart of the home: Kitchen stories from Vietnam – Professor Annuska Derks
- Express train to the good life? The Lao-China railway, imagined futures and pragmatic aspirations in Laos – Dr Phill Wilcox

**Discussant: Professor Andrew Kipnis**  
**Chair: Dr. Éva Rozália Hölzle**

12:45 – 14:00  
**Lunch**

14:00 – 15:30  
**Panel – Ecology and Environment**
- The good life as the green life – Dr Charlotte Bruckermann
- Forest transition, institutional changes and livelihood dynamics in upland villages of Yunnan, Southwest China – Professor Jun He
- “The good life and lowland rice farming change in Savannakhet province, Southern Laos” – Professor Ian Baird

**Discussant: Professor Jonathan Rigg**  
**Chair: Dr Marius Meinhof**

15:30 – 16:00  
**Coffee, tea & cake break**

16:00 – 17:30  
**Panel – Governance and Policies**
- “Staying or moving: government compliance and agency in post Zomia” – Professor Guido Sprenger
- Modernizing a deficient population – lessons from colonial history – Dr Marius Meinhof
- Alternative routes to development? Hmong Christianisation and the question of neoliberalism in Vietnam’s highlands – Mr Seb Rumsby

**Discussant: Professor Ian Baird**  
**Chair: Dr Oliver Tappe**

19:00  
**Dinner at ZiF**
TUESDAY – 17 SEPTEMBER

08:00 – 09:00 – Breakfast –

09:30 – 11:00

Panel – Mobility and Livelihoods
- Trans-local households and family visions in contemporary Vietnam: A neoliberal shift? – Professor Hy Van Luong
- From rural to urban area: Workers’ motivation for migration and their social status at industrial zones (Binh Duong province and Ho Chi Minh city) – Professor Nguyen Duc Loc
- Mining for the Good Life? Artisanal mining, mobility and changing livelihoods in Khammouane (central Laos) – Dr Oliver Tappe

Discussant: Professor Jonathan Rigg
Chair: Professor Ruth Ayaß

11:00 – 11:15 – Coffee & tea break –

11:15 – 12:45

Panel – Religion and Spirituality
- Romance and compassion, this and other worlds: Performing good life in a Tibetan town – Dr Fan Zhang
- Protection and vulnerability: (Re)creating health in rural lowland Laos – Ms Elizabeth Elliott
- Spirits with morality: Social criticism and notions of a good life in Laos through the bangbot imaginary – Dr Michael Kleinod

Discussant: Professor Hy Van Luong
Chair: Mr Seb Rumsby

12:45 – 14:00 – Lunch –

14:00 – 16:00

Panel – Marriage and private life
- Not before 25. Resisting marriage and looking for the good life in contemporary urban China – Dr Roberta Zavoretti
- Ressentiment and recognition – Professor Bo Cheng
- Single mothers’ livelihoods in a rural area of north Central Vietnam: Struggles for a good life – Professor Tuan Anh Nguyen
- “Good life of polygamous marriage: Rational choice in the context of tradition and habitat - A case study of Benzilan village in Deqing county, Diqing Tibetan autonomous prefecture, Yunnan province” – Professor Li Zhi-nong

Discussant: Professor Susanne Brandstaedter
Chair: Dr Jake Lin

16:00 – 16:30 – Coffee, tea & cake break –

16:30 – 17:30

ERC Project WelfareStruggles kick-off – Ms Yueran Tian, Ms Minh Ngoc Luong, Dr Jake Lin, Professor Minh Nguyen

19:00 – Dinner at ZiF –
**WEDNESDAY – 18 SEPTEMBER**

08:00 – 09:00  —  Breakfast —

09:30 – 11:00  **Panel – Care and Welfare**
- Good baby, good life: exploring the new Akha life free from ‘abnormal births’ – Dr Ruijing Wang
- Paternal grandma’s obligation, maternal grandma’s right - A study of postpartum care in Chinese urban families – Professor Peiqin Zhou
- The predicament of care: grassroots philanthropy in late socialist China – Jiazhi Fengjiang

**Discussant: Professor Andrew Kipnis**
**Chair: Professor Alexandra Kaasch**

11:00 – 11:15  —  Coffee & tea break —

11:15 – 12:45  **Panel – Consumption and Desire**
- Europe’s new *Kulturbürger*? Chinese migrants in search of a pure land – Professor Pál Nyíri
- Aspiring for a better life in Vietnam: From an equal share of misery to an unequal dose of happiness – Dr Giang Nguyen-Thu
- “Plugged into the good life”: electric supply and home appliances in market socialist Vietnam” – Dr Kirsten Endres

**Discussant: Professor Susanne Brandstaedter**
**Chair: Dr Charlotte Bruckermann**

12:45 – 14:00  —  Lunch —

14:00 – 15:30  **Panel – Young lives**
- Rural schools as sites of the circulation, practice and articulation of contradictory versions of ‘The Good Life’ in late socialist Laos - Dr Roy Huijsmans
- Grasping a future: uncertainties, imagination and the ‘good lives’ of aspiring young migrant workers in Shenzhen, China – Professor I-Chieh Fang
- Dancing the good life, rapping about the “bad” life: aspiring subjects in Vietnamese hip hop – Professor Sandra Kurfuerst

**Discussant: Dr Kirsten Endres**
**Chair: Dr. Éva Rozália Hölzle**

15:30 – 16:00  —  Coffee, tea & cake break —

16:00 – 18:00  Wrap up and publication plans

19:00  —  Dinner at restaurant “Wirtshaus 1802 im Bültmannshof” —

- End of the Workshop -