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ANU

2019 ANU-BFSU-COLOGNE

Migration & Social-Cultural Change Workshop

ANU
Australian Studies
Institute

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Program Schedule | 2 |
| Monday 8 July 2019 | 2 |
| Tuesday 9 July 2019 | 3 |
| Wednesday 10 July 2019 | 4 |
| Thursday 11 July 2019 | 5 |
| Friday 12 July 2019 | 6 |
| Monday Seminars | 8 |
| Professor Beate NEUMEIER | 8 |
| Professor CHEN Hong | 10 |
| Dr Alexandra DELLIOS | 11 |
| Professor Catherine TRAVIS and Dr Ksenia GNEVSHEVA | 12 |
| Associate Professor YAN Ting | 14 |
| Tuesday Seminars | 15 |
| Professor HAN Feng | 15 |
| Dr Susy MACQUEEN | 16 |
| Ms HU Dan | 17 |
| Dr Carsten SCHÄFER | 19 |
| Dr Sverre MOLLAND | 20 |
| Wednesday Seminars | 21 |
| Professor Boris BRAUN | 21 |
| Dr Devin BOWLES | 22 |
| Dr Clemens GREINER | 24 |
| Professor James RAYMER, Dr Jasmine TRANG HA and Ms Qing GUAN | 25 |
| Dr Carsten WERGIN | 26 |
| Thursday Seminars | 27 |
| Professor Heinz ANTOR | 27 |
| Professor Richard HU | 28 |
| Dr Victoria HERCHE | 29 |
| Dr XU Daozhi | 30 |
| Dr Bernard BAFFOUR | 32 |
| Friday Seminars | 33 |
| Mr Ruji AUETHAVORNPIPAT | 33 |
| Ms HU Yuling | 34 |
| Ms Leonie JOHN | 35 |
| Mr David KERN | 36 |
| Ms JIANG Lu | 37 |
| Ms Carly GORDYN | 38 |
| Ms Qing GUAN | 39 |

MONDAY 8 JULY

| Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|--|--|
| 9:30-9:45 | Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country > Professor Paul PICKERING | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct University Avenue |
| 9:45-10:45 | Faculty Seminar The Power of The Wall: Iconographies of Migration in an Age of Global Anxieties > Professor Beate NEUMEIER (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 10:45-11:15 | Morning Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 11:15-12:15 | Faculty Seminar The Belt and Road Initiative and its social and cultural impacts in the Pacific Region > Professor CHEN Hong (East China Normal University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 12:15-1:00 | Faculty Seminar Negotiating Industrial and Migrant Heritage in Public History Practice: The Latrobe Valley > Dr Alexandra DELLIOS (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 1:00-2:00 | Lunch | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 2:00-3:00 | Faculty Seminar Migration and Language Change > Professor Catherine TRAVIS & Dr Ksenia GNEVSHEVA (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 3:00-3:45 | Faculty Seminar The changes of population of immigrants from mainland China in Australia and its impacts on the Chinese community in the recent 10 years > Associate Professor YAN Ting (Jiangsu Normal University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 4:00 | Walk to Badger & CO. | University Avenue Kambri Precinct |
| 4:00-6:00 | Opening Reception Drinks | Badger & CO. University Avenue Kambri Precinct |

TUESDAY 9 JULY

| Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|--|---|
| 9:30-10:30 | Faculty Seminar Chinese Students and Sino-Australia Relations > Professor HAN Feng (Beijing Foreign Studies University & Chinese Academy of Social Sciences) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 10:30-11:00 | Morning Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 11:00-11:45 | Faculty Seminar Standardizing Migrants: The uses of English language tests in Australian migration > Dr Susy MACQUEEN (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 11:45-12:30 | Faculty Seminar The 132 visa, immigration and changing business models: the untold 'Chinese' stories behind Australia's booming wine export to China > Ms HU Dan (Beijing Foreign Studies University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 1:30-2:15 | Faculty Seminar Mobilizing the Diaspora: China's Diaspora Engagement Politics and its Implications in Comparative Perspective > Dr Carsten SCHÄFER (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 2:15-3:00 | Faculty Seminar Is anti-trafficking dead? Understanding Australia's role in regional anti-trafficking > Dr Sverre MOLLAND (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 3:15-3:30 | Afternoon Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |

WEDNESDAY 10 JULY

| Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|---|---|
| 9:30-10:30 | Faculty Seminar Climate Change and Migration in Coastal Bangladesh – A Critical Assessment of Migration Drivers under Economic and Environmental Stress > Professor Boris BRAUN (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 10:30-11:00 | Morning Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 11:00-11:45 | Faculty Seminar Policy and epistemological challenges of ecologically-associated migration: A health lens > Dr Devin BOWLES (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 11:45-12:30 | Faculty Seminar Migration and the Environment: A Translocal Perspective > Dr Clemens GREINER (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 1:30-2:30 | Faculty Seminar Evaluating the availability and consistency of annual migration flow data amongst ASEAN countries, 2000-2015 > Professor James RAYMER, Dr Jasmine TRANG HA & Ms Qing GUAN (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 2:30-3:15 | Faculty Seminar Recalibrating Migration in the Anthropocene: A Multispecies Approach > Dr Carsten WERGIN (Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 3:15-3:45 | Afternoon Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |

THURSDAY 11 JULY

| Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|---|---|
| 9:30-10:30 | Faculty Seminar Post-Migratory Trauma and the Ethics of Self-Positioning in Australian Fiction: Richard Flanagan's "The Sound of One Hand Clapping" (1997) > Professor Heinz ANTOR (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 10:30-11:00 | Morning Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 11:00-11:45 | Faculty Seminar Migration, mobility and social transformation: a study in Sydney > Professor Richard HU (University of Canberra) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 11:45-12:30 | Faculty Seminar Mediating Migration, Mediating Trauma: Nam Le's Short Story "The Boat" and its Adaptation > Dr Victoria HERCHE (The University of Cologne) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 12:30-1:30 | Lunch | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |
| 1:30-2:15 | Faculty Seminar A Pluralism of Belonging in Multicultural Australia > Dr XU Daozhi (The University of Hong Kong) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 2:15-3:00 | Faculty Seminar Big Australia, small Australia, diverse Australia: Australia's views on population > Dr Bernard BAFFOUR (The Australian National University) | Seminar Room 4.02 Marie Reaey Teaching Centre Kambri Precinct |
| 3:00-3.30 | Afternoon Tea | Level 4 Common Area Marie Reaey Teaching Centre |

FRIDAY 12 JULY

| Time | Event | Location |
|-------------|--|--|
| 9:30-10:30 | <p>Student Seminars - Session 1</p> <p>Overcoming Normative Crisis: Migrant Protection and the Ratification of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention in Thailand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Mr Ruji AUETHAVORNPIPAT (The Australian National University) <p>Migration and Australia's Language Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ms HU Yuling (Beijing Foreign Studies University) | <p>Seminar Room 4.02</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> <p>Kambri Precinct</p> |
| 10:30-11:00 | <p>Morning Tea</p> | <p>Level 4 Common Area</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> |
| 11:00-12:00 | <p>Student Seminars - Session 2</p> <p>"Of what are you made/my restless and/wandering child": Literary Representations of Maori Migrant Experiences in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ms Leonie JOHN (The University of Cologne) <p>Migration "Sub-Politics" and the Work of Post-Colonial Science Fiction: Ted Chiang's "Story of Your Life" (1998)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Mr David KERN (The University of Cologne) | <p>Seminar Room 4.02</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> <p>Kambri Precinct</p> |
| 12:00-1:30 | <p>Student Seminars - Session 3</p> <p>Discourse Analysis of Australian media Coverage and Representation of Skilled Migration from 2015 to 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ms Jiang Lu <p>The Bali Process: A help or hindrance to refugee protection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ms Carly GORDYN (The Australian National University) <p>The Relationship between Age, Duration of Stay and Internal Migration amongst Immigrants: Evidence from Inter-State Migration of the China-born Population in Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ms Qing GUAN (The Australian National University) | <p>Seminar Room 4.02</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> <p>Kambri Precinct</p> |
| 1:30-2:30 | <p>Lunch</p> | <p>Level 4 Common Area</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> |
| 2:30-3:00 | <p>Wrap-up and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Professor Paul PICKERING | <p>Seminar Room 4.02</p> <p>Marie Reaey Teaching Centre</p> <p>Kambri Precinct</p> |
| 3:00-3:15 | <p>Walk to Closing Reception</p> | <p>Drill Hall Gallery</p> <p>Kingsley Avenue</p> <p>Acton ACT 2601</p> |
| 3:15-4:30 | <p>Closing Reception</p> | <p>Drill Hall Gallery</p> |

The Power of The Wall: Iconographies of Migration in an Age of Global Anxieties

By Professor Beate Neumeier (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

According to current estimates there are about 244 million people on the move worldwide (World Migration Report 2018). Anxieties about migration and the concomitant social and cultural changes have led to a “backlash against globalization, [and] the resurgence of nationalism” in many parts of the world (Tim Marshall, *Divided* 2018, 1).

The humanitarian gesture of German chancelloress Angela Merkel in 2015, encouraging fellow citizens to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and to make a communal effort to accommodate them, spearheaded by the well-known slogan “wir schaffen das!”/“we can do it!” has led to division rather than unity. The controversy over border control seems to have brought the European Union close to its breaking point. Anxieties about changes instigated by the influx of migrants from Europe into Britain in recent years played a major part in the Brexit referendum. While in 1987 the former US president Ronald Reagan had urged the Soviet leader Gorbachev at the Brandenburg Gate to “tear down this wall!”, the current US president Donald Trump made it into office in 2016 with the promise to build a wall on the border to Mexico to prevent an “invasion of criminals” from the south.

The symbolic value of the wall seems to have shifted from a deplorable sign of imprisonment and lack of freedom to a desirable sign of protection and fortification against “others”. The long history of the wall as an ambivalent image evoking anxieties of and desires for a loss of boundaries raises questions about the construction of nations and the control of memory.

Drawing on British writer John Lanchester’s acclaimed dystopian novel *The Wall* (2018) this presentation will look into the implications of the power of the wall as transnationally available symbolic currency *and* as materiality. Lanchester’s futuristic vision of a wall around Britain calls upon a historical and cultural echo hall of walls ranging from the Berlin Wall to the Wall in the serialised tv version of George R. R. Martin’s *Game of Thrones*. The novel’s three parts seem to signal a shift of focus from “The Wall” to “The Others” to “The Sea”, while at the same time foregrounding the continuity of the perspective of the narrator and those associated with him. The British setting of Lanchester’s novel remains eerily unspecific, as identity of place and people seem to be swallowed up by the Wall as an all-engulfing, life-defining presence, generating isolated de-individualized citizens governed by fear rather than empathy, reduced to the sheer will of survival. At the same time the experience of the Wall, which everyone has to undergo, inevitably tends to create a closeness in distress, and a concomitant desire for intimacy.

Lanchester explores the implication of the Wall as an attempt of absolute control, in which the literal and the symbolic conflate. The novel’s section on the Others, whom the Wall is supposed to keep out, does not provide insight into their existence. Rather, the third section on the Sea effectively others the narrator’s small group of people abandoned on a boat in the ocean. The text foregrounds the relationality between the wall and the boat as complementary – and ultimately interchangeable - symbols of inside/outside divisions, which have been politically instrumentalised throughout history. The novel follows this strategic pattern to its extreme conclusion in a frightening dystopian vision of a world destroyed by climate change, powerfully interrogating how nations define themselves by exercising control, and how this control affects notions of community and individual.

At the same time the novel also shows the limits of physical, mental and psychological control, and the power of unforeseen situations and associations generating possibilities. The creation of Lanchester’s novel drawing on a rich intertextual web is as much proof of this, as is the present success of the novel in the context of the imminent material and symbolic walls planned by Trump and the Brexiteers, which were unforeseeable when the author started writing.

Lanchester’s novel investigates the power of iconographies of migration in an age of global anxieties exploring the social and cultural implications of the return of the wall as symbol of national security in relation to the insecurity of the boat. It is only in the margins of the text that another powerful symbol emerges which needs exploring in its potential for the future: the road.

(Continued on next page)

About

Beate Neumeier is Professor and Chair of English at the University of Cologne.

She is the co-director of the *Centre for Australian Studies* CAS at the University of Cologne (2016-) and co-coordinator of a network of German universities developing an interdisciplinary online teaching platform in Australian Studies (2015-). She is also president of the *German Association of Australian Studies (GASt)*. Her research interests are gender studies, postcolonial and diaspora studies, anglophone drama and performance studies. She is also the editor of the e-journal *genderforum* and of *GenderInn*, a gender studies data base.

Publications include *Gothic Renaissance* (with Elisabeth Bronfen, Manchester UP 2013), *Decolonizing the Landscape: Indigenous Cultures in Australia* (with Kay Schaffer, Rodopi 2014), *Nature and Environment in Australia* (with Boris Braun and Victoria Herche, wvt Trier 2018), and *Ecocritical Concerns and the Australian Continent* (with Helen Tiffin, Rowman & Littlefield 2019). Current research projects focus on indigenous performances of ecological concerns in Australia, as well as on Kim Scott and Alexis Wright in the context of world literatures.

See also

<http://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/beateneumeier.html>

<http://centreforaustralianstudies.org>

The Belt and Road Initiative and its social and cultural impacts in the Pacific region

By Professor Chen Hong (East Normal China University)

Abstract

The South Pacific region is the natural extension of China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has affected the region not only economically but also in the social and cultural dimensions. In addition to the business, trade, investment and aid aspects, the BRI affords social changes to the local community, including education availability, capacity building and social wellbeing accessibility. On the other hand, the BRI also complements and enhances the local multiculturalism against the background of globalisation and people-to-people relations. This paper studies the social and cultural impacts brought to the Pacific island nations by the BRI, and contests the fallacious claims fermented by some Western critics about the BRI being exploiting and predatory in the region.

About

Professor Chen Hong is Director of Australian Studies Centre, Executive Director of Asia Pacific Studies Centre, and Head of Department of English at East China Normal University in Shanghai. He is also Executive Vice President of the Chinese Association of Australian Studies, and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *The Chinese Journal of Australian Studies*, and *The Journal of Studies of Australian Culture*. Chen Hong's research interests include China Australia relations, Australian foreign policies, Australian politics, Australian culture and Australian literature. He is author and co-author of several books and more than 30 academic papers in Australian Studies. Professor Chen teaches and researches in Australian Studies at East China Normal University. He also publishes and commentates frequently on China Australia relations and other international issues in major Chinese and international media outlets including Phoenix Television, Xinhua News Agency, China Radio International, China News Service, *China Daily*, *Global Times*, *Liberation Daily*, *Shanghai Morning Post*, *Xinmin Evening News*, The ABC (Australia), *The Australian*, *The Australian Financial Review*, *The Sydney Morning Herald/The Age*, WION Television (India), etc.

Negotiating Industrial and Migrant Heritage in Public History Practice: The Latrobe Valley

By Dr Alexandra Dellios (The Australian National University)

Abstract

In this paper, I intentionally ‘read against the grain’ of a monument to migration: the Gippsland Immigration Park, which was erected by a local Italian community group from south-eastern Australia in the coal-rich region of the Latrobe Valley. I am concerned with how community-initiated monuments might be used in more progressive and transformative histories, ones that harbour the potential to challenge existing public and collective memories of post-war migration and multiculturalism that occur on a national stage and within the ambit of Australia’s heritage industry. That is, how do community groups tackle complex histories around labour, deindustrialisation and migrant worker’s rights? And how might we assess these public and local history process in relation to wider, more mainstream discourses around state multiculturalism and the ‘success’ of postwar immigration? State-sanctioned migrant heritage sites, like the Snowy and Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre, offer a version of migration history that stresses progress, national efficiency, modernisation, development, and harmonious transition—silencing structural inequality and difference, material hardship, migrant resistance and protest, racial tensions, economic and social segregation and marginalisation.

This Gippsland Immigration Park derives some of their rhetorical function from the multicultural success story—as its applications to government grants demonstrate. And yet, a close examination of those involved in its making, and the historical narratives they offer, hints at the monument’s possibility to become a site around which histories of structural difference, inequality and discontent may be shared.

Working class and industrial heritage is a growing field of study in the critical heritage studies literature. Here, I want to stress its obvious intersections with migrant heritage—an intersection that is less explored in the literature. However, even if we are to think of this heritage as labour heritage, rather than industrial heritage—that is, from the perspective of working people represented in the Gippsland Immigration Park—there still remains the issue of bitter memories of the coal industry. Some post-WWII migrant groups, especially assisted migrants and displaced persons experienced unfair working conditions, poor housing and limits to their economic advancement. And like other residents in the Valley, their families are now dealing with widespread unemployment in the wake of deindustrialisation and privatisation that began in the 1990s. The environmental impacts of the coal industry has also been a concern of many local communities, especially since the coal-mine fire at Hazelwood in 2014—although environmental protests against coal industry in the Valley were also widespread in the 1970s, alongside industrial disputes involving the Central Gippsland Trades and Labour Council and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. How does the Valley reconcile those difficult experiences with the need to foster community memory of an industrial past? Far from being the only answer to a lack of physical conservation of former power stations, the Park is simply one attempt to deal with this past and safeguard this industrial and migrant heritage. It offers an avenue to explore public history practice within post-industrial towns with an unacknowledged migrant history.

About

Research Profile: <https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/dellios-a>

MONDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Migration and language change

Presented by Professor Catherine Travis (The Australian National University)

Paper by Professor Catherine Travis and Dr Ksenia Gnevshva

Abstract

It is widely recognised that the massive migration of our time has prompted social and cultural change. In this talk, we take a linguistic perspective to migration, considering the impact of increasing linguistic diversity in major urban centres across the globe, and with a particular focus on Sydney, Australia. We address, on the one hand, the impact of increased diversity on patterns of language use, and on the other, its reception by the broader public and the manifestation of language-based discrimination.

Migration is changing Australia's linguistic landscape in terms of the languages that are spoken by its inhabitants, which in turn can change Australian English itself. Close to a quarter of the Australian population speaks a language other than English at home, a proportion that is growing steadily (ABS 2016). And while first-generation migrants from non-English speaking countries speak English as a second language, their children and grandchildren acquire English as a first language (and may or may not speak the community language). It has been observed that in such cases, an ethnolectal variety may emerge, that is, a way of speaking used by ethnic minorities that is differentiated from standard varieties spoken by the broader society (e.g., Clyne et al. 2001). When such ethnolects are pervasive, they may produce an effect on the monolingual variety (Labov 2001), as was proposed in early work in Australia (Horvath 1985), and as has been observed in London, where ethnolectal features are spreading to the broader society (Cheshire et al. 2011). In Australia, differences in pronunciation have been reported for speakers of Greek background in the 1990s (Kiesling 2005), which have been found to have been taken up today by Australians of Anglo background, as well as more established and newer migrant groups (Italian and Chinese respectively, Travis et al. 2018).

When language use varies across speakers of differing social backgrounds, it can be a source of stereotyping and discrimination (Piller 2016). Experimental work has shown that, as compared with speakers using a non-standard variety (or accent), speakers using a prestige variety are more likely to be deemed not only better educated and better paid, but also more attractive, intelligent, and competent (cf., Giles & Billings 2004). As a direct outcome of that, accented speakers have been found to be disadvantaged in a range of realms, including employment (Hughes & Mamiseishvili 2014), education (Chin 2010), housing (Purnell et al. 1999), and healthcare (Rubin et al. 1997). And despite the social divisions this creates, Australian law recognises ethnic or racial, but not language-based, discrimination.

In reviewing such work here, we highlight the importance of considering the role of language in migration and social-cultural change. In today's increasingly globalised world, people come into frequent contact with speakers from diverse language backgrounds. Understanding how multiple languages work within individuals and society can help promote tolerance and mitigate negative stereotypes, thereby facilitating greater social inclusion.

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Kiesling. 2005. Variation, stance and style: Word-final -er, high rising tone, and ethnicity in Australian English. *English World-Wide* 26(1): 1-42. Labov. 2001. *Principles of linguistic change: Social factors*, vol. 2, 3 vols. Oxford: Blackwell.

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About

Prof Catherine Travis Research Profile: <https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/travis-ce?term=catherine+travis>

Dr Ksenia Gnevsheva Research Profile: <https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/gnevsheva-k?term=ksenia+gnevsheva>

MONDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

The Changes of Population of Immigrants from Mainland China in Australia and Its Impacts on the Chinese Community in the Recent 10 Years

By Associate Professor Yan Ting (Jiangsu Normal University)

Abstract

There is a long history for People from Mainland China to Emigrate to Australia and the wave of emmigration to Australia has formed since the 1990s. In nearly 10 years, the quantity of immigrants from Mainland China to Australia has reached an unprecedented level and the population of immigrants also has changed greatly, such as declining proportion of skilled immgirants, much higher proportion of business investment immigrants, and much lower proportion of naturalized population. This has brought some deep influences for Australian Chinese community: on the one hand, the growth of immgirant amounts laid the population basis for its future development, and made the people from Mainland China become the main Chinese group and the representative of the Chinese ethnic group in Australia, meanwhile it further strengthened the economic and social ties between the Australian Chinese community and Mainland China. On the other hand, in a short period of time the large increase of the immigrant population from Mainland China to Australia and the significant changes of the immigrant population structure also aroused the suspicion of the mainstream society of Australia towards the Chinese ethnic group and questioned their loyalty to Australia, as has made the Chinese community caught in a certain state of embarrassment.

About

Yan Ting, Associate Professor, Ph.D of World History, a member of Australian Studies Center & Overseas Chinese Studies Center, Jiangsu Normal University. Principally focus on Australian History and Overseas Chinese Studies.

TUESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Chinese Students and Sino-Australia Relations

By Professor Han Feng (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

Abstract

1 Background

Current situation of Chinese students in Australia

2 Reasons

- 1) High educational competition within China
- 2) Chinese Tradition for studying abroad
- 3) Australia National Policy and Good Environment for Education

3 Problems

- 1) Social Shock for Australian-social even political dissatisfied
- 2) Policy gap b/w universities and government in Australia
- 3) Weak capacity for cross-cultural communication for Chinese students

4 Improvement

- 1) Policy coordination: society, university, government
- 2) Social accommodation and experiences
- 3) Chinese students management with Australian ones

5 Conclusion

- 1) It is a complementary industry for both sides with some problems
- 2) It can be dealt with in the professional ways rather than political ones
- 3) It can be able to strength the bilateral relations if we can do better

About

Mr. Han Feng is currently a Professor, Australia Study Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University(BFSU). He is also the Senior Fellow of National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). He graduated from the Department of International Politics, Peking University in 1982. He has been working in CASS since 1984, in Institute of World Economics and Politics (Oct. 1986 — Dec. 1988) and in Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies (Dec. 1988 - 2011) respectively. Now Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies has changed its name to the National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS). He has been the Deputy Director-General for Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies and NIIS during 2001-2016. And he has been the Senior Research Fellow (Professor) since 2002. His research area is the current international relations in the Asia-Pacific region, especially ASEAN and South Pacific areas. He is the former President for Chinese Association for Australia Studies. He is also the former Vice President for Chinese Association of Asia-Pacific Studies and for China Association of Southeast Asia Studies respectively.

TUESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Standardizing Migrants: The uses of English language tests in Australian migration

By Dr Susy Macqueen (The Australian National University)

Abstract

Language has long been used as a means of identifying who can move across territorial spaces. In modern society, cultures which have prioritized one or more languages as their national or official languages are increasingly using standardized language tests to categorise who is allowed in to a jurisdiction. Often seen as an objective means of sorting people, language tests are value-laden, political instruments imposed by more powerful social groups on less powerful ones (McNamara & Roever, 2006). In the Australian context, the use of tests has a particularly notorious history with the use of the dictation test as a means of enacting the White Australia Policy in the early 20th Century. A century later, language tests remain significant in Australian migration processes. Their role is multifaceted, for instance, a language test score will be used to determine if a nurse who undertook training in a language other than English has sufficient English language proficiency to communicate in Australian healthcare workplaces. At the same time, language test scores are used to limit the pool of applicants for skilled migration, and they have featured prominently in recent public debate about requirements for Australian citizenship. Thus, English language tests are important mechanisms of social-cultural action and they determine the futures of thousands of migration applicants on an annual basis.

This paper, a view from Applied Linguistics, proposes that language tests are a political response to 'manufactured risks' or risks that result from modernization processes (Giddens, 1998). While language is not inherently risky, in migration and citizenship policy formation, language, or more precisely, other languages, are increasingly associated with risk: for example, the risk that migrant doctors might not understand their patients, or that migrants' lack of proficiency in the official language might pose a risk to social cohesion. Standardized language tests offer an expedient political solution to these perceived risks. However, their potential for social discrimination has been the subject of a growing literature in Applied Linguistics, including the use of language tests for immigration, citizenship and asylum (e.g. Eades, 2009; Extra, Spotti, & Van Avermaet, 2009; Shohamy, 2007).

Giddens has argued that 'the idea of risk is bound up with the aspiration to control and particularly with the idea of controlling the future' (1999, p. 3). Focusing on the Australian context, this paper will explore the way language tests are implicated in a desire to control the future, particularly in terms of social harmony and work efficiency. Casting language tests as complex and consequential 'human sorters', it will examine the fact that standardized tests are often commercial products with their own agenda, one which includes manufacturing trust in their capacity to sort people reliably, objectively and fairly.

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About

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TUESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

The 132 visa, Immigration and Changing Business Models: The Untold “Chinese” Stories behind Australia’s Booming Wine Export to China

By Ms Hu Dan (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

Abstract

While many would argue or assume that Australia’s booming wine export to China can be attributed to drivers like ChAFTA, quality Aussie wine and the changing aspirations and tastes of China’s emerging middle class, this talk, based on field work conducted in South Australia, argues for a hidden migration factor behind the phenomenon, by showing how Australia’s migration policy and recent Chinese immigrants have been driving the astounding growth (estimated to be between 30-40% of wine export). It will then go on to analyse the seeming absence of conflict or apprehension from the local people towards the new immigrants, in spite of controversies over intellectual property and conflicting business practices. The researcher will explore the causes with three cases.

Australia’s wine export to China has recorded very strong growth, having been hailed by DFAT and Austrade as the fastest growing and biggest beneficiary of China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA). While the FTA which lowered tariff from 14/20% to zero this January, quality Australian wine and China’s emerging middle class who have come to fancy a more cosmopolitan life style have certainly played their part, there seems to be evidence arguing otherwise.

To start with, astounding growth had already been witnessed even before the FTA took effect, the 66% growth rate immediately before the ChAFTA took effect beating all later years. Though it can be argued that this surge should be attributed to a sudden unleash of enthusiasm in the sector in the prospect of an FTA and a relatively low base number, it is still evidence to suggest that FTAs may not be that decisive in determining or facilitating trading activities across borders.

This, in fact, is in line with research on FTA usage rate over the years, with large-scale surveys and interviews by The Economist Intelligence Unit and Thomson Reuters-and-KPMG both pointing to a “widespread, institutional failure of global companies to use what’s there for the taking to maximize profits”, earmarking a usage rate between 19-41%. Therefore, the 86% usage rate by the wine industry after ChAFTA, as publicly quoted by the Australian Embassy, seemed to constitute a grave challenge to the above findings.

The researcher, therefore, went on trips to Australia’s major wine-producing regions, in particular South Australia which is responsible for half of the country’s wine output and export and interviewed businesses (wineries and exporters), industry associations (e.g. South Australia Wine Industry Association), peak bodies (Wine Australia, Austrade and embassies), as well as research institutions (e.g. the Wine Economics Research Centre at University of Adelaide and Australian Wine Research Institute).

A most surprising finding is that Australia’s wine success for the past few years is strongly related to immigration, or to be specific the 132 visa. Visa subclass 132 is a business talent visa which grants you permanent residence in Australia. It has been extremely popular with Chinese businessmen who may not have an advantage if applying for a skilled-worker visa but have proud business history to prove that he will contribute to the Australian society through establishing a new or developing an existing business in Australia.

Similar to the experience of Chinese immigrants to many parts of the world, the first group of immigrants started with the easiest: establishing a wine export company, collecting cheap wine and labelling with their newly crafted brand and shipping to China. Possible breach of IP rights and fake and shoddy wine also became controversial.

What is surprising, and thus the second question to enquire into, is why local community has seemed to be at peace with this influx of conflicting practices. In addition to the employment and business opportunities brought about by these Chinese Australian businesses, the attitude can also be attributed to the makeup of wine exporting businesses to China and, more importantly, changing business models adopted by these Chinese businessmen who have come to embrace the values of Australia’s proud industry. The researcher will use three cases to show case such shifts.

Against the conflicts and controversies between China and Australia for the past 18 months, both at the government and people-to-people level, the researcher sees this understated story of Chinese immigrants and Australia’s wine export a very encouraging and implicative one, which hopefully will show the way out and shed some light of hope on bilateral relations.

(Continued on next page)

About

Ms. HU Dan teaches “Australian Economy and Its Economic Relations with China”, the only course in China featuring Australian economy, comparing Australian and Chinese economies and regulatory systems and examining key issues in bilateral economic. She has chaired or participated in several projects on China-Australia (economic) relations, with funding from the National Social Sciences Fund, Ministry of Education and Foundation on Australian Studies in China. Her PhD thesis examines China’s investment during the Labor government and the latter’s FDI policy and approach towards China. She was delegate to both 2015 China Australia Millennial Project and Australia-China Youth Dialogue (FASIC Fellow) and has been an active commentator on Australia-related issues on media and thinktanks, including China’s national TV and radio CCTV and CRI, *Jiefang Daily*, SBS, *Financial Review*, Reuters and UTS ACRI. She is Deputy Director of the Australian Studies Centre of Beijing Foreign Studies University and Deputy General Secretary of the Chinese Association for Australian Studies. She is also Co-Deputy Chief-Editor of *Blue Book of Australia* and Co-Executive Chief-Editor of *Journal of Australian Studies* in China.

TUESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Mobilizing the diaspora: China's diaspora engagement politics and its implications in comparative perspective

By Dr Carsten Schäfer (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

Migration studies usually means the study of immigration. While integration, acculturation or incorporation are important fields of study, the role of the sending state is by and large neglected when it comes to analyzing these processes. Yet, large sending states such as China increasingly aim to reach out to, embrace and control "their" diaspora. By incorporating Chinese living beyond the borders of the People's Republic, Beijing seeks to strengthen China's international image and to foster economic modernization – and thus to reinforce the country's competitiveness in the global arena.

This paper analyses China's recent policies towards overseas Chinese in a comparative perspective. The mixed-method approach of this study includes a qualitative content analysis of overseas Chinese online and print media in Austria and Germany, as well as of official Chinese documents and publications on China's diaspora politics. Furthermore, it includes expert interviews with leading personnel of overseas Chinese organizations in Europe and an online survey conducted among overseas Chinese netizens in Austria.

First, the paper looks at the official overseas Chinese discourse in the People's Republic and the political apparatus that deals with overseas Chinese. According to Beijing, all overseas Chinese – regardless of their citizenship – belong to China. Thus, since the early 1980s political bodies have been created for the purpose of establishing direct links to Chinese communities outside China – as a result of which for example 25 out of 40 Chinese organizations in Austria currently are linked to the Chinese nation state. In the second part, the paper analyses the mechanisms for incorporating overseas Chinese into the Chinese state structure and for claiming the identity of "the sons and daughters of the Middle Kingdom". In this context, it not only focusses on "top-down" state initiatives, but also discusses Chinese migrants' responses.

Looking at migration regimes from a global perspective demonstrates that China's diaspora politics are by no means unique but rather part of a global trend of "extraterritorial politics" pursued by a growing number of sending states in order to mobilize emigrants. Therefore, in the final section, the paper compares China to other states using diaspora engagement policies – including Australia – by reviewing the literature on this research field. By contextualizing China's politics within this larger setting of multiple migration regimes, the paper discusses the consequences of such politics for the conceptualization of modern nation-states and for the understanding of citizenship in the globalized world: It seems that many sending states by means of their diaspora engagement essentially negate the very basis of the modern nation-state – its territorial and geographical restriction – and shape new, trans-local citizenship formations beyond mere legal categories.

About

Carsten M. Schäfer is research associate and lecturer at the Institute of East Asian Studies (department for Modern Chinese Studies) at the University of Cologne, Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 he worked at the Department of East Asian Studies/Sinology, University of Vienna, Austria. He studied in Freiburg/Br. (Germany), Shanghai, Beijing (China), and Vienna and received his Ph.D. in 2018, his M.A. in 2010. His research interests include international Chinese migration, overseas Chinese politics, Greater China studies, Chinese film, and the history and historiography of the People's Republic of China. He is currently working on a project on China's diaspora policies and its implications for host countries and China. Furthermore, he is conducting research on overseas Chinese contributions in China's modernization project and on the image of Deng Xiaoping and Mao Zedong in Chinese fictional films. In his leisure time he translates modern Chinese literature into German language.

TUESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Is anti-trafficking dead? Understanding Australia's role in regional anti-trafficking

By Dr Sverre Molland (The Australian National University)

Abstract

This paper examines a seeming paradox: On the one hand, the Australian government portrays itself as a leading bilateral actor devoting increasing resources towards anti-trafficking in the region. Yet, alongside Australia's growing focus on human trafficking, the broader anti-trafficking sector in the Mekong region is on the decline.

Based on media reporting, a casual observer may get the impression that human trafficking is on the rise. Since the 1990s, the media, governments and the aid sector has invested considerable attention to human trafficking. Numerous aid programmes and United Nations agencies have implemented programmes that aims to eliminate trafficking in persons. The Australian government has risen to become one of the largest bilateral actors in regional anti-trafficking efforts. Alongside the *Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime*, considerable financial resources have been devoted to several anti-trafficking programmes. A central target for these interventions has taken place in the Mekong region which is commonly considered one of the world's hotspots for trafficking. Australia has placed particular focus on technical support for the criminal justice sector witnessed by increasing multi-million funds devoted to such programmes.

However, despite Australia's increasing role in anti-trafficking, the sector appears to move in the opposite direction. In the early 2000s there were no less than six regional anti-trafficking projects implemented by United Nations agencies. Today, all of these regional projects have vanished with only one agency maintaining operational activities on a regional level. Several NGOs that enjoyed healthy donor funding in the early 2000s have either closed down or rebranded their operation away from a specific anti-trafficking focus. At the same time, alternative discourses, such as modern slavery and safe migration, have gained momentum amongst multilateral, bilateral as well as corporate agencies.

Based on two decades of research and programme experience in the Mekong region this paper deliberates the reasons for the simultaneous rise and fall of anti-trafficking and how it relates to kin-discourses of migration management, safe migration and modern slavery. In contrast to Australia's claim of being a "leader" in combating human trafficking, this paper argues that it is more appropriate to understand Australia as a follower in the way in which the aid sector has approached human trafficking in the region. The paper suggests wider implications this has for how anti-trafficking is understood and theorised in light of changing donor landscape. The paper concludes by speculating on the futures of policy interventions that marry migration management with an emancipatory politics relating to labour conditions.

About

Dr. Molland has close to two decades of research and programme experience on human trafficking, development and mobility in the Mekong region. In his PhD fieldwork he carried out research on migration human trafficking along the Lao-Thai border as well as various development organisations which implement anti-trafficking projects. His current ongoing ethnographic work explores safe migration governance in the Mekong region.

Dr. Molland's overarching research interests examines the intersections between migration, development and security in a comparative perspective, with specific focus on governance regimes and intervention modalities in mainland Southeast Asia. Initially trained in Social Anthropology at University of Oslo and Asian Studies in Australia, he worked for the United Nations Development Programme in the Mekong region before returning to the social sciences. After completing his PhD and a postdoctorate in Anthropology at Macquarie University, Dr. Molland was in 2012 appointed lecturer in Anthropology (Development Studies) at the Australian National University.

Dr. Molland is currently the Discipline Head of Anthropology, School of Archaeology and Anthropology, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University. Dr Molland, serves at the Associate Editor for Asia-Pacific Journal of Anthropology and editorial board member for the Anti-Trafficking Review. He is also a founding member of the Association of Mainland Southeast Asian Scholars (AMSEAS). He has published widely on human trafficking and migration governance in mainland Southeast Asia and is the author of [The Perfect Business? Anti-Trafficking and the Sex Trade along the Mekong \(University of Hawaii Press\)](#).

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WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Climate Change and Migration in Coastal Bangladesh – A Critical Assessment of Migration Drivers under Economic and Environmental Stress

By Professor Boris Braun (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

The question of how the resilience and sustainability of climate change affected populations can be strengthened and managed in times of rapidly changing coastal environments is of great importance. This is particularly true for countries of the Global South whose highly vulnerable populations have only limited scope for local adaptation. The role of migration is widely debated in this context for two main reasons. First, it can be understood as an efficient means of adaptation to changing environmental conditions. Second, however, substantial out-migration may result in a loss of human capital and therefore a reduced potential to build up local resilience. It also can cause considerable distress to the people, families and communities involved.

Large delta areas have been at the spotlight of attention in debates about the consequences of climate change, sea level rise, and migration. More often than not, direct causal relationships are assumed between rising sea levels, catastrophic floods, tropical cyclones, coastal erosion and extensive migration flows. Thus, the migration of millions of “climate refugees” often appears as an unavoidable consequence of climate change and resulting environmental transformations.

The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Delta and Bangladesh in particular are often-cited examples for projecting many millions of “climate refugees”. However, these forecasts of millions of people on the move must be treated with caution as they are mostly based on simplified assumptions about the impact of climate change and even more so the dynamics of migration within Bangladesh. However, over the last few years, scholars have been analysing processes of climate-induced migration with much higher levels of differentiation and sophistication.

This paper aims to give an overview of recent studies that deal with the interrelations of environmental change and migration in coastal Bangladesh. It shall also discuss major findings of a recent German-American-French-Bangladeshi research project. Based on data from an extensive household survey in nine climate-stressed rural communities in coastal Bangladesh (6100 individuals in approx. 1200 households) the paper examines the importance of environmental stressors in migration using descriptive data and multi-leveled regression analysis. Our findings suggest that only a relatively small share of rural coastal people have actually migrated, overwhelmingly domestically and on a temporary basis. The main motives are better employment opportunities in urban areas, marriage/family reunification, and education. Being male, younger, and working outside of agriculture facilitate migration, and also those with greater human and horizontal social capital are more likely to migrate. Exposure to severe river erosion, residing closer to major waterways and in saltwater shrimp farming zones spur migration only to a moderate degree. Migration is in its first instance economically induced with environmental stress only contributing as a secondary push factor. Overall, our analyses suggest that migration is a complex process which cannot be adequately described by deterministic models and simplistic concepts such as climate or environmental migration. Rather, our results point toward a deeper understanding of climate- and disaster-induced mobility that recognises the significant barriers to migration for vulnerable households as well as their substantial in situ adaptive capacity.

About

Boris Braun is Professor of Human and Economic Geography at the University of Cologne. His research interests include urban and regional development, social and economic aspects of climate change, and environmental management in regions such as South/Southeast Asia, Western Europe, and Australia. Currently he is involved in a larger research programme on Sea Level Change and Society.

WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Policy and epistemological challenges of ecologically-associated migration: A health lens

By Dr Devin Bowles (The Australian National University)

Abstract

Human societies operate within an Earth System which provides essential ecological services. The scientific community has described a number of planetary boundaries which, if crossed, could fundamentally disrupt the Earth System and diminish its ability to support human societies. Ecological degradation is occurring at a historically unprecedented rate, and some planetary boundaries may already be exceeded. The effects of an altered global ecology are unevenly distributed, both geographically and socio-economically. Many of those least responsible suffer the worst effects. Consequences for migration are already evident, and will escalate.

Climate change and ocean acidification are widely-known examples of planetary boundaries under pressure. Other boundaries, including biological diversity, atmospheric aerosols, and the nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, are under-appreciated but could be equally significant. Local, regional, and global manifestations of an altered Earth System include reduced availability of essential resources, such as fresh water and productive land. These will interact with social, economic and political systems at various scales, contributing to migration. For instance, reduced economic productivity can contribute to migration through a variety of pathways. Diminished revenue limits the ability of governments to meet citizens' demands. General scarcity can worsen governance and increase corruption and xenophobia. In certain political and social circumstances, scarcity contributes to the onset of violent conflict. Each of these factors affects to decisions about migration.

The understanding of the effects of migration associated with global ecological change is not commensurate with its growing importance. Early analysis of climate change-associated migration suggests that tensions between individual and government control of migration will escalate. Mass migration can reach tipping points for social change, including civil conflict. It has been plausibly argued that climate change increased rural to urban migration in Syria, and that the poverty and corruption experienced by migrants in cities ill-equipped for their arrival helped precipitate the civil conflict. This drove additional migration.

In a global political system characterised by cooperation and stability, migration could help match human populations to a rapidly changing global ecological system, thereby enhancing human health. To date, climate change-associated migration policy has fallen short of this ideal, implications of pressure on other planetary boundaries receive little consideration. Policy has foundered for several, mutually-reinforcing reasons. Contestation among political actors with competing agendas is complicated by diffuse responsibility for ecological degradation and by other psychological and social impediments to cooperative action. There are also epistemological challenges to identifying 'ecological' migrants. Decisions around migration are rarely based on a single factor, and causal chains between ecological degradation and migration may include several steps, including those which are externally influenced. Specific manifestations of ecological degradation can often be linked to global drivers only probabilistically, further hindering identification of 'ecological' migrants. Yet identification is critical to formulating policy.

Health disparities are sensitive indicators of social and cultural change and also affect the outcome of social and political movements, with the pursuit of health an important motivator for individual actors. Health disparities are also ethically important in their own right. The issues raised in this paper will be analysed with particular regard for population health.

About

Dr Devin C Bowles is a lecturer in the Australian National University Medical School, where he teaches population health. Devin is also the Executive Director of the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia, the region's representative organisation for universities and other institutions which teach and research public health.

At the ANU's Research School of Population Health, Devin completed his PhD on the socially-mediated health effects of climate change, with a particular focus on migration and conflict. This has been the primary topic for his research, and he has 13 publications on the subject. Devin remains a visitor at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health.

(Continued on next page)

Devin has a further background in the social sciences and psychology, having completed a MA (hons) in anthropology and an honours degree in psychology, both at the ANU, as well as a BA in anthropology in the USA. Other publication topics include political science, conflict prevention, religious conversion, Indigenous health, and prosopagnosia (face-blindness).

In a voluntary capacity, Devin serves as the President of the Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health and Insight (BODHI) Australia. Devin currently sits on the board of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), and is a past board member of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Devin spent nearly a decade working for the Australian government, primarily at an executive level, and has extensive experience in the non-profit sector.

WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & bios

Migration and the environment: a translocal perspective

By Dr Clemens Greiner (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

In the face of current discussions of climate change, the migration-environment nexus has gained currency in the past decade. Research into this relationship, however, often focusses on the environment as a cause of migration. In this context, some of the recent environmental-migration literature tends to exhibit an under-theorized notion of migration, which is portrayed as an emergency response and a one-time movement. This neglects the circularity and everydayness of migration in many societies and ignores its adaptive capacities. In this chapter, I use the concept of translocality as a framework for research into the migration-environment nexus.

The concept of translocality can be summarized as the emergence of migrant networks that facilitate the circulation of resources, practices and ideas and thereby transform the places they connect. It builds on insights from transnationalism, while at the same time attempting to overcome some of the limitations of this long-established research perspective. As such, translocality is used to describe socio-spatial dynamics, processes of simultaneity and identity formation that transcend boundaries including but also extending beyond those of nation states. Translocality has been widely applied as an approach to grasp the tension between mobility and locality, to describe socio-spatial strategies of migrants and to understand diasporic conceptions of territorial belonging.

In this talk I will first trace the roots and dimensions of the concept of translocality and, in a second step, use it to sketch out ethnographic perspectives on the migration-environment nexus. I will do so by focussing on rural-urban migration and its impact on the natural environment, resource extraction and agricultural production in migrant sending areas. Based on ethnographic cases from Southern and Eastern Africa I will argue that translocal research enhances our understanding of the complex relationship between networks, communities and the environment.

About

Clemens Greiner (clemens.greiner@uni-koeln.de) is a cultural and social anthropologist and the academic coordinator of the Global South Studies Center (GSSC) at University of Cologne, Germany. His research interests include political ecology, rural change, migration and translocality. He has done extensive fieldwork in Kenya and Namibia.

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WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Evaluating the availability and consistency of annual migration flow data amongst ASEAN countries, 2000-2015

By Professor James Raymer, Dr Jasmine Trang Ha and Ms Qing Guan (The Australian National University)

Abstract

This paper seeks to provide a better understanding of migration data and patterns amongst the ten countries constituting the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The paper elucidates annual migration movements and pathways, which have remained largely unknown due to the lack of data to date. Our effort thus helps generate better understandings of social and demographic changes in the South-East Asian region, where international migration have been thriving and increasing rapidly in the two recent decades. To do this, we start by reviewing all publicly available international migration data sources and examining the possibility of harmonizing these data. We then estimate annual bilateral migration flows amongst the ten ASEAN countries with a multiplicative component model, borrowing data from 35 countries and auxiliary information including population sizes, demographic and economic conditions, as well as bilateral relationships such as bilateral trade flows and remittance flows. Our results include an annotated database of reported ASEAN migration data and a set of estimates for annual country-to-country migration flows amongst the ten ASEAN countries from 2000 to 2015. We find that the reported data suffer from many issues, including missing data, inconsistent definition of migrants and severe under-coverage of specific types of migration (such as returned nationals). Further, no particular data source stands out as a consistent and reliable benchmark from which other reported data can be compared. Against that backdrop, our estimated migration flows represent an important first step to overcome the crucial issues of missing and incomplete data in South-East Asia.

About

Prof James Raymer Research Profile: <https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/raymer-j>

Qing Guan is a PhD candidate in the School of Demography. Her research focuses on migration theory and modelling, particularly in international migration modelling and spatial integration of immigrants in Australia. Qing is also a Research Assistant in the ARC Discovery Project 'Overcoming the problems of inconsistent migration data in the Asia Pacific' (DP170102468).

Jasmine Trang Ha is a Research Fellow at the School of Demography. She obtained her PhD in Sociology from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, United States, where she studied migration patterns of international students into and within the United States. Her research focuses on migration data estimation, theorizing and quantifying the components and categorizations of migration, and understanding the impacts of migration policies.

WEDNESDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Recalibrating Migration in the Anthropocene: A Multispecies Approach

By Dr Carsten Wergin (Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg)

Abstract

The Anthropocene challenges us to open up the mobilities paradigm towards the more-than-human, and migration studies as trans-regional studies are particularly suitable to do so. Migration encompasses a rich field of interdisciplinary enquiry across the domains of politics, economics, ecology, arts and media. Migration also stimulates strong sentiments, most notably in regards to the attraction, abstraction, or rejection of the other, be it the illegal migrant, the poisonous cane toad, the malaria-infected mosquito, the majestic whale or the enduring migratory bird. These sentiments are linked to the agency of migrants: The way they transform environments and environments are transformed for them.

On a general note, mobility is what connects the world and in doing so affects every dimension of life. Sheller and Urry (2006) have proclaimed the 'New Mobilities Paradigm' to mark no less than a new world order with changing boundaries and a wider shift towards the deterritorialization of identities and people's individual forms of belonging. Accelerated travel has led tourism scholar Adrian Franklin and sociologist Zygmunt Bauman to suggest 'touristification' as a defining metaphor for modern life at large, which for them is characterized by a constant state of becoming, of transformation, and a general feeling of uncertainty (Franklin 2003). This Modernist perspective on the relevance of migration and mobility for our contemporary lifeworlds continues to proclaim dichotomies of developed vs. emerging regions; us vs. them; nature vs. culture.

With reference to illustrative examples from anthropological work undertaken in tourism studies, critical heritage studies and the environmental humanities, this presentation suggests new socio-technologies and hybrid geographies that draw on multispecies engagement to reimagine our migratory lifeworlds beyond such modernist constraints. The multispecies perspective builds on the fact that being assigned to a place (a town, region or nationality) is far from the norm for all other-than-human agents in this world. Instead, it draws attention to the art of place(-)making, of dwelling, of being 'at home in the world' (Jackson 2000), of balancing out organic, individual, collaborative, localized and globalist agency. Other-than-human agents like cane toads or mosquitoes, but also what are considered less invasive species like whales or migratory birds, continue to successfully do so. What lessons can we learn from them in times of ongoing political, cultural and environmental crises?

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About

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THURSDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Post-Migratory Trauma and the Ethics of Self-Positioning in Richard Flanagan's *The Sound of One Hand Clapping* (1997)

By Professor Heinz Antor (University of Cologne)

Abstract

Migration is often caused by and itself causes disruptive change that can have traumatic effects for those having to leave their native country in order to escape from persecution and other abuses and to build up a new existence in a different environment. The potentially negative effects of migration have often been dealt with in literary texts, particularly (but not exclusively) in narratives from the postcolonial regions of the world. Thus, in 1997, the Australian writer Richard Flanagan published his novel *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*, in which he critically engages with some of the traumatic aspects of his country's history as well as with the traumas many of those who came to Australia in order to begin a new life there suffered from. The book describes the fortunes of the Buloh family, who emigrate from Slovenia to the so-called fifth continent in the aftermath of the Second World War with the intention of building up a better existence there. But the ravages of war as well as the experience of migration and its consequences have traumatized the whole family. Flanagan impressively depicts what the traumas of the Buloh family members consist in, how they try to deal with them, and to what extent there can be a process of healing. Some of the main problems dealt with in the novel include the problems of knowing what happened and of understanding it, issues of annihilation, the re-constitution of identity, of forgetting and, by implication, remembering. The depiction and analysis of traumatization is combined in this novel with the narrative construction of attempts at reconstructing an orientational framework in a situation in which things seem to have fallen apart, and this tentative self-repositioning of the traumatized characters adds an ethical dimension to the novel, which deals with the putting together again of the broken fragments of ethos in the Greek sense of the word, i.e. 'character', and which opens up the history of post-war immigration to Australia to an ethical evaluation that critically undermines official contemporary historiography.

About

Heinz Antor is Professor of English Literatures and Cultures at the University of Cologne (Germany). His research interests include the British novel, postcolonial, inter- and transcultural studies as well as Australian and Canadian literature. He is editor of *Anglistik*, the official journal of the German Association for the Study of English. Among his monographs are books on the Angry Young Men, the Bloomsbury Group and the English university novel. He has edited numerous articles and volumes on inter- and transculturality, among them *Intercultural Encounters - Studies in English Literatures* (1999); *English Literatures in International Contexts* (2000); *Inter- und Transkulturelle Studien* (2006), *Fremde Kulturen verstehen – fremde Kulturen lehren* (2007); *From Interculturalism to Transculturalism: Mediating Encounters in Cosmopolitan Contexts* (2010).

Research Profile: <http://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/6960.html?&L=1>

THURSDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Migration, Mobility and Social Transformation

By Professor Richard Hu (University of Canberra)

Abstract

The traditional definition of migration by source of country, ethnicity, or cultural background is still valid today, but it is insufficient to capture the increasing movement of people in a global age. Mobility, not migration, is more appropriate to describe the human flows in contemporary globalisation. In this study, I use mobility to reconceptualise new migrants to investigate the social transformation associated with their movement. I broadly classify the new migrants into internal migrants and international migrants to testify if their social transformation patterns converge or diverge in their destinations. To address these questions, I conducted a community survey in Sydney, Australia's gateway global city, to obtain information that is not available in Australian census. The survey results show different employment and financial trajectories between the internal and international migrants. A distinct gap is identified, revealing that the internal migrants are overall better off than the international migrants, despite the fact that the latter are younger and better qualified. Sydney's rise as a global city has been underpinned by its attractiveness to new migrants; but it is also a process of intra-migration polarisation.

Keywords: migration, mobility, global city

About

Richard Hu is an urban designer and planner (Australia and US registered) with a wide range of professional experiences in design, planning, and property development and management in multi-national contexts. He is currently a professor at Faculty Business, Government and Law and Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis, University of Canberra, Australia. Based in the Globalisation and Cities Research Program headed by him, his research cuts across urban design, urban science, and urban policy to investigate important contemporary issues concerning design excellence, global cities, urban competitiveness and sustainability, and place-based innovation in an environment of increasing uncertainty and change.

Research Profile: <https://researchprofiles.canberra.edu.au/en/persons/richard-hu>

THURSDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Mediating Migration, Mediating Trauma: Nam Le's short story "The Boat" and its adaptation

By Dr Victoria Herche (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

"Even time took on a false depth: the six days before the storm stretched out, merged with memory, until it seemed as though everything that had ever happened had happened on the boat."

(Nam Le, "The Boat")

My current research centers on the repository of images and narratives connected to notions of forced migration and explores the implications of central iconographies in different historically and culturally situated contexts. In this context I particularly focus on the public reception of and affective investment in the trope of the boat in different memory cultures and the re-conceptualisations of the iconography of the boat in public discourse, film and narrative.

Medial representations of refugees arriving by boat, both in the Pacific region and in the Mediterranean Sea, usually encourage the public to feel a sense of invasion and violation: "the images of flotillas of the unwanted, the undesirable, the supposedly hostile" (Keneally 231). Wenche Ommundsen comments on Australia: "From the First Fleet to the "children overboard" affair, from the "dream" or "ghost" ships observed by indigenous Australians at first encounter to the recent film *Ten Canoes*, boats have haunted the cultural imagination of the island continent" (507). Elsewhere, Suvendrini Perera similarly stated: "This is a country full of boat stories . . .", "[s]ome are commemorated in museums. Some live on in jubilee voyages and lovingly crafted replicas. Others are unspeakable passages to be relived only in dreams" (24). Representations of the boat often stand in for a discussion of the refugee crisis at large. It is therefore not surprising that contemporary authors and artists have sought to shift the focus from boats back to personal stories of the asylum seeker.

In my talk I will focus on Vietnamese-born Australian writer Nam Le's short story "The Boat" (published 2009) that tells the harrowing experience of sixteen-year-old Mai on a boat full of refugees trying to escape the hardships of Communist Vietnam in the late 1970's. A recent graphic adaptation of this story into a web-based graphic novel by New York-based Matt Huynh (2015) translates the traumatic tale of one girl's boat experience into an interactive medium which offers a valuable example of mediating boat stories into a collective spectatorial experience, which simultaneously acknowledges and repudiates the 'personal' frame of reference of this particular boat narrative. By analysing the representation of trauma and how it is triggered by the boat's presence, this paper suggests that this story captures the relation to the past as both individual, embodied, and lived, as well as collective and constructed, which invites further discussion on how current representations of the 'refugee crisis' connect to boat stories of the European and Australian past.

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About

Victoria Herche is a post-doctoral Researcher and Lecturer in the English Department at the University of Cologne. Since 2017 she serves as Public Relations coordinator at the Centre for Australian Studies in Cologne. After studying Theatre, Film and TV Studies, English Studies and German Studies at the University of Cologne, she conducted a dissertation project on "The Adolescent Country – Re-Imagining Youth and Coming of age in Contemporary Australian film" which will be published in Universitätsverlag Winter (2019). She has recently published articles on "Reassessing Aboriginal Self-Determination in Rolf De Heer's *Charlie's Country* (2014)" and "'Rights of Passage': Exploring the Liminal Position of Indigenous Australian Youth in Warwick Thornton's *Samson and Delilah* (2009) and Ivan Sen's *Toomelah* (2011)".

Research Profile: <http://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/victoriaherche.html>

THURSDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

A Pluralism of Belonging in Multicultural Australia

By Dr Xu Daozhi (The University of Hong Kong)

Abstract

Home as a metaphor for a sense of belonging is prevalent in Australian Indigenous, diasporic and settler literatures. However, questions remain: what does “belonging” actually mean for different groups of people who have been dislocated either by force or by choice? How could one insist the right to belong? To what extent is one’s belonging to a place not exclusive of others’ claims of home? The complex issues of belonging underline enduring debates on national identities, histories, borders and territories in Australian settler society. This paper will first of all address different and contested forms of belonging vis-à-vis Indigenous and Asian Australians in literary and cultural expressions, untangle the web of power relations underpinning these matters of disputes, and then consider the possible ways that open up a space for a pluralism of belonging in the multicultural Australia.

A sense of belonging has always been a matter of contestation and discord in Australia. It is associated with pressing concerns of Indigenous groups regarding their racialised identity and legitimate positioning in territorial entitlement. It also deals with the rising concerns of Asian immigrants who report being excluded from national debates regarding Indigenous-settler relations, and who are desirous of participating (Rolls, 2014). However, a bifurcation in political and demotic discourses between Indigenous affairs and their relationship with the nation state on the one hand, and on the other scholarship pertaining to multicultural/ethnic affairs, has functioned to cloud understandings of more complex and nuanced interrelationships between Indigenous and Asian Australians (Curthoys, 2000; Edwards & Shen, 2003; Stephenson, 2003). In connecting indigeneity and diaspora, concepts that have been considered isolated or oppositional to each other (Clifford, 2001; Harvey & Thompson, 2005), this paper provides a theoretical apparatus that intervenes in the binaries of black/white, coloniser/colonised, Anglo/Ethnic, so characteristic of the discourses analysing race and ethnic relations. It seeks to yield new ways of understanding the significant contacts between Indigenous groups and Asian immigrants, as well as their interactions with European settlers, in creating communities and different ways of belonging within the nation.

Disputes over belonging can be manifested in disparate understandings of the responsibilities that belonging is attached to. In this regard, Rita Wong (2008) argues for the complicity of Asian Canadians in the processes of colonisation, as well as their alliances with indigenous people in the processes of decolonisation. Yu-Ting Huang (2015) puts forward the concept of “minor settler” to describe the racialised position of non-white settlers, later-coming immigrants, or ethnic minorities in settler societies. She examines the literature of Chinese minor settlers in relation to colonial dispossession and the silencing of Indigenous people in Hawai’i, New Zealand, and Taiwan. While the year 2018 marked the 200th anniversary of Chinese migration to Australia, commemorating the first recorded Chinese settler, Mak Sai Ying, who came to Australia from the Chinese city of Canton in 1818, little is known about different understandings of the ubiquitous term “settler” and its implications among Chinese and other Asian immigrants in Australia. Connecting with research undertaken elsewhere on the issue of settling or belonging among diasporas in the host countries, this paper will explore how Asian diasporas in Australia perceive themselves in relation to Indigenous people and the unresolved issues of colonisation/dispossession. In doing so, it seeks to elucidate the possible ethical ground for a pluralism of belonging in multicultural Australia.

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About

Xu Daozhi is currently a part-time lecturer at School of English, the University of Hong Kong, and a University Associate with the School of Humanities, the University of Tasmania. She holds a PhD in English literary studies from HKU. Her research interests include postcolonial studies, Indigenous literature, Asian diasporic literature, children's literature, cultural theory, studies of race and ethnicity. Her monograph *Indigenous Cultural Capital: Postcolonial Narratives in Australian Children's Literature* (2018) won the "Biennial Australian Studies in China Book Prize for an Original Work of Scholarship (in English)", awarded by the Australia–China Council. Her scholarly articles have appeared in *Journal of Australian Studies*, *Australian Aboriginal Studies*, *Papers: Explorations into Children's Literature*, and *Antipodes*, etc. She is interested in translation and has translated or co-translated several books. She is on the Executive of the International Australian Studies Association.

THURSDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Big Australia, small Australia, diverse Australia: Australia's views on population

By Dr Bernard Baffour (The Australian National University)

Abstract

Countries grow through a combination of an excess of births over deaths and an excess of immigrants over emigrants. Unlike many other developed countries, Australia has experienced a relatively rapid growth over the last decade or so. This has mainly been driven by high levels of immigration.

The attitudes of Australians towards population growth are constantly changing. To examine this, in the 28th ANUPoll, a representative sample of Australians, were asked a series of questions about their attitudes to the growing population, and the impact of immigration in contributing to his growth. The headline results were that more than two-thirds of adults do not think that Australia needs more people, a dramatic increase since a similar question was asked in 2010.

However, the things people take into account with regards to population growth are quite diverse and also appear to be changing. Most people are supportive of cultural diversity. But, crowding and housing affordability have become key issues. Australians also do not want population growth to come at the expense of Australia's natural environment.

In this presentation, we will explore these initial findings in greater detail through examining whether there are socio-economic, demographic and geographical differences in these attitudes to migration and population growth.

The findings contribute nuance to an area in which views and attitudes can often be quite heated. The ANUpoll series, conducted by the ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods and the Social Research Centre, is designed to inform public and policy debate, as well as to assist scholarly research. It is an important contribution that ANU makes to public debate about the key social issues facing Australia and the type of country in which we want to live.

About

Bernard Baffour is a lecturer at the School of Demography at the Australian National University. Previously he worked at the Institute for Social Science Research at the University of Queensland in Australia. He completed his PhD in social statistics from the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom, where he investigated the statistical properties of triple system capture-recapture estimators in population censuses, and subsequently undertook a post-doctoral fellowship in the Southampton Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI) examining the relationship between weather and health, through quantifying the impact drops in temperature had on hospital admissions.

His research interests cover survey research methods and official statistics, and applying statistical methods to better understand demographic processes, particularly in the sources and diversity of migration in Australia.

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Overcoming Normative Crisis: Migrant Protection and the Ratification of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention in Thailand

By Mr Ruji Auethavornpipat (The Australian National University)

Abstract

In January 2019, the Thai government became the first Asian country to adopt global norms on the protection of migrant fishers by ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Work in Fishing Convention (C188). This was despite widespread protests from the most influential stakeholder: regional and national fisheries associations. Regardless of the strong local opposition, Thailand went ahead with the ratification, and in effect brought about domestic legal changes that would drastically improve the working condition of fisheries workers based on international standards. It is thus puzzling that Thailand adopted such norms even though powerful domestic constituents completely rejected the Convention.

The Thai state's ratification cannot be explained by existing International Relations approaches to norm diffusion. The norm socialization approach expects Thailand's decision to be shaped by the institutional effect whereby ILO members would pressure Thailand into accepting new norms. Yet, the Convention has been ratified by only 14 out of all 187 ILO members since it became effective in November 2017. In this circumstance, norm adoption in Thailand should have never happened. In comparison, the norm localization approach anticipates ratification with local actors' support in selectively choosing norms that are most congruent with pre-existing domestic ideas and conditions. Thus, norms should be transferred and localized without domestic contention. Yet, local actors staunchly opposed such norms and the Thai state instead adopted the Convention in its entirety. Consequently, both perspectives fail to capture Thailand's behaviour in relation to the ratification. Particularly, they are unable to explicate why and how norm diffusion occurred the way that it did.

In contrast, this paper argues norm contestation is central to understanding the Convention adoption in Thailand. By applying to the critical approach to norm diffusion, I contend that the domestic opposition is a normal and integral process in norm adoption whereby "affected stakeholders" negotiate and re-negotiate norms' intersubjectivity. This contestatory practice establishes norm legitimacy as these actors discursively deliberate on the norms and what they mean in the adoption and subsequent use. By tracing the activities of involved actors, I show that through contestation, stakeholders engage in constructing the shared validity of norms that eventually results in the ratification of the Convention.

This paper provides two important lessons for both scholars and practitioners of migration issues. First, it offers a novel account of norm diffusion by encapsulating conflictual interaction in mutually contesting, and thus overcoming, international norm legitimacy problems. Second, it sheds new light on the dynamics of policymaking behind in the adoption of unpopular norms that lead to progressive changes towards the protection of migrant workers in Thailand and elsewhere.

About

Ruji Auethavornpipat is a PhD Candidate in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University. His doctoral study examines the contestation of migrant worker rights norms in Southeast Asia. In particular, it investigates the divergence of normative meaning and application in migrant worker protection. In doing so, his PhD contributes to the emerging critical norm scholarship in IR. His research interests also include human trafficking and migration governance.

At the height of migrant trafficking politicisation in Southeast Asia, Ruji took up the Asia Studies Fellowship at the East-West Center in Washington, DC in 2017 where he conducted research on ASEAN-US cooperation on human trafficking. This research was also supported by the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the UK's (ASEASUK) Research and Impact Awards.

Ruji previously held visiting fellowships at the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, Germany; ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; and Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia.

Ruji holds both BA (Honours) and MA degrees from the University of Victoria, Canada.

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Migration and Australia's Language Education

By Ms Hu Yuling (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

Abstract

One great change that took place in Australia was the coming of Asian migrants after the second World War when Australia realized that they need to attract more people to come to Australia to get rid of the dilemma of "population or perish". Yet the inflow of Asian immigrants was not large in number until the Australian government decided to stop the White Australia policy and adopted multiculturalism in 1970s. The continuous inflow of Asian migrants has brought about many changes in Australian society. One of which was the change in Australia's language education. In 1950 the most commonly taught languages in Australian schools were of European origin like German, French and Italian. However, since 1980s the most commonly taught languages have been Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, etc and at the same time, the Australian government has made a series of policies to promote language education in Australia, with a strong emphasis on Asian languages and cultures. Many schools began to offer courses of Asian languages, and the community schools offering Asian languages are also on the rise. To take Chinese as an example, before 1980s Chinese was a community language taught only in a few schools. Yet after 1980s, especially after the 1990s when Chinese was regarded as a priority language, many more primary schools and secondary schools have set up Chinese language programs. Statistics shows that in 2014 about 1,030 primary and secondary schools offer Chinese, and about 126,506 primary school and 46,283 Secondary students are learning Chinese.

With the continual inflow of immigrants, Australia is becoming a more ethnically and linguistically diverse country. The paper aims to investigate how Australia's immigration has influenced the language education in Australia since 1970s. It will take Chinese language education in Australia as a case study. It will first give a profile of historical development of Australia's immigration. Then it will explore the measures the Australian government has adopted to meet the diverse education demand of the new immigrants, and consequent changes taken place in language education in Australian schools, and in this case, Chinese language education. Besides, the relationship between migration and the making and implementation of Australia's language policies will also be included.

About

Yuling Hu is a lecturer in Beijing Foreign studies University, and also a PhD student of Australia Studies Centre, Renmin University of China. Her research interests are Australian language policies and its implementation, second language acquisition and English reading for children and adults. Currently she is doing a project in Chinese language education in Australia.

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

“of what are you made/my restless and/wandering child”: Literary representations of M ori migrant experiences in Australia

By Ms Leonie John (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

Stories of migration play an important role in the self-conception of M ori tribes, since the latter trace their roots back to other Pacific islands from whence their ancestors went on voyages of exploration for new habitats, thereby displaying sophisticated sailing technologies and navigational abilities. Today, representatives of the indigenous population of Aotearoa/New Zealand can be found all over the world, thus replicating, yet also expanding, earlier migratory movements. Australia is a particularly popular destination for temporary and permanent migration among M ori, which has led to the creation of M ori or Polynesian communities in many larger cities. Even though such stories of migration have not received ample attention in M ori creative writing (or in related literary academic discussions), individual characters or families are often mentioned as living in Australia en passant. Besides, in a number of instances, such expatriate experiences are indeed examined in greater detail. This presentation will deal with a selection of three short stories – Patricia Grace’s “Ngati Kangaru” (1994), Jean Riki’s “Te Wa Kainga: ‘Home’” (1999) and Shirley Simmonds’ “A Ferry Ride to ‘Eua” (2017) – as well as the poem “A third migration” (2014) by Jean Riki, thus covering works from the previous quarter of a century. The discussion of these primary sources is embedded in a more theoretical framework of roots and routes based on specific indigenous concepts of place and belonging. More specifically, the seemingly static notions of t rangawaewae (a place to stand) and ahi k (home fires) will be employed as analytical tools. As will be demonstrated, both concepts are in effect rather dynamic and exceed purely geographical understandings, instead requiring relational and spiritual aspects to be taken into account. In sum, the primary texts are interpreted as complex and multifaceted commentaries on the (dis)continuities of M ori migration. Ranging between ironic and more serious accounts, and written from different perspectives, they deal with aspects of belonging, indigeneity, otherness, returning, distance and shifting socio-economic circumstances. Even though they vary with regard to their evaluation of the legitimacy and value of migration, they all feature a critical examination of the emigrant status. What can be derived from these findings is that, depending on each character’s circumstances and motives, the question posed in the title of this presentation (which is taken from Jean Riki’s poem) may be answered in different ways. Ultimately, then, what all four selected works suggest is that modern indigeneity constitutes an intricate negotiation between mobilising tendencies and the desire to stay put, with endless possibilities of locating oneself along this scale.

About

Leonie John completed her studies of English and Educational Sciences at the University of Cologne as well as of Physical Education at the German Sport University Cologne in June 2016. She is currently a PhD student and scholarship holder at the a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School of the Humanities Cologne. Her research interests include M ori literature, postcolonial and indigenous theories, memory studies and mobility studies.

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Migration “Sub-Politics” and the Work of Post-Colonial Science Fiction: Ted Chiang’s “Story of Your Life” (1998)

By Mr David Kern (The University of Cologne)

Abstract

This presentation argues that Science Fiction (SciFi) narratives make a huge contribution to theorizations of migration “sub-politics” (cf. Ulrich Beck 1997). While SciFi is most commonly understood as a critical agent in assessing the evolution of technology and its role in human life, its relative position to pressing issues such as migration, cultural change- and politics, remains curiously marginal. This presentation thus provides an analysis of contemporary (post-colonial) SciFi exploring its take on human journeys, displacement, and the cultural politics of migration.

It is motivated by an observable yet scarcely acknowledged trend in the development of SciFi narratives in recent years – as well as post-colonial theory’s recent interest in them – to negotiate migration and cultural changes(s) in ways which indicate, expose and criticize anxieties about migration in the wake of inter, trans- and cross-cultural (first) encounter. Such narratives can be read as moments of what Ulrich Beck et al. have termed “reflexive modernization” (2003) in their emphasis *on* and criticism *of* how the naturalization of institutions and modes of thinking are inhibiting – in light of growing political reactionism and resurgences of conservative nationalisms across the “global west” – alternative ways of envisioning migration politics.

Reading Ted Chiang’s “Story of your Life” (1998), which inspired the major motion picture *Arrival* (2016), I suggest that SciFi narratives and post-colonial readings of them enable, precisely through their inherent narrative transposition of contemporary concerns into future (speculative) scenarios, a much needed criticism of cultural essentialism as a reflex to global migration movements.

Chiang’s text is a densely rich prism through which moments of first encounter can be re-imagined and, at its heart, is a powerful counter-narrative to reactionist migration politics and fiction. While operating from an extremely speculative end, though, “The Story of your Life” illustrates the potential of post-colonial SciFi literature to be an agent or invigorator of “reflexive modernization” inspiring future migration “sub politics.” The analysis of this text and the general exploration of the interrelation of post-colonial SciFi and issues of migration, will be further contextualized with recent examples from (Australian) Indigenous writing.

About

David Kern is a PhD candidate and lecturer in the English Department at the University of Cologne, Germany, where he is also a member of the Cologne *Centre for Australian Studies*, currently serving as coordinator for the center’s inter- and transdisciplinary eLearning program “AS-Online.” Holding a teaching degree, he has in the past served as a high school teacher of English and Philosophy in different capacities, most recently for young adults in detention. His research areas include Indigenous Literatures from Australia and North America, Post-Colonial Theory, Eco-Criticism and Environmental Philosophy, as well as critical discourse analysis. He is working on a PhD project entitled *Anthropocenic Renditions – Literary Activism in Indigenous Australian and Canadian Climate Fiction*, which revisits the concept of ‘Literary Activism’ for the era of anthropogenic climate change, reading climate change narratives by Indigenous Australian and Canadian writers as social justice activist interventions into ‘slow violence’ (cf. Rob Nixon 2011) and climate change denialism.

Research Profile: <http://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/davidkern.html>

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

Discourse Analysis of Australian Media Coverage and Representation of Skilled Migration from 2015 to 2018

By Ms Jiang Lu (Beijing Foreign Studies University)

Abstract

Australia is widely acknowledged as a country of immigrants, in which the rapidly increasing skill-based migration is a key component. However, public opinion on skilled migration is complicated. By discourse analyzing news reports from two Australian mainstream newspapers with different political leanings—The Australian and The Sydney Morning Herald, this paper finds out that the coverage intensity correlates with the change of government policy. Skilled migration is acknowledged politically as a pillar in the policy-making process, and socially interpreted as a threat to environment and community. Economic coverage is more divided, recognizing skilled migration's great potential in bringing wealth while guarding against its latent disadvantages. Four images of skilled migration emerge out of the coverage are contributor to national interest, creator of city congestion, vacancy filler and job stealer. This paper also delves into the role media play in shaping public opinion on skilled migration by comparing reports from two newspapers.

Key words: Australians mainstream newspapers, discourse analysis, media representation, skilled migration

About

Jiang Lu, currently teaching at the Graduate School of Translation and Interpreting (GSTI), Beijing Foreign Studies University. She received her master degrees from the University of Oxford (MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy) and GSTI (MA in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics), and bachelor degree from the School of International Relations, BFSU (BA in Law). She is a PhD candidate at the School of International Journalism and Communication, BFSU. Her research interests include public diplomacy, Australian politics and media, and global communication.

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

The Bali Process: A help or hindrance to refugee protection?

By Ms Carly Gordyn (The Australian National University)

Abstract

This paper examines the role of bilateral approaches to irregular migration in influencing multilateral approaches to refugee protection. It does so by analysing Australia-Indonesia cooperation through their co-chairmanship of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (Bali Process). The Bali Process is a unique regional platform that brings both signatory and non-signatory parties of the Refugee Convention together to discuss issues of irregular migration, including the movement of asylum seekers and refugees. This raises questions about membership involving countries with mixed obligations and priorities, and how this impacts the protection of refugees and the legitimacy of the refugee regime. Based on my interviews with government officials and academics in Australia and Indonesia, this paper argues that despite the Bali Process' focus on people smuggling and transnational crime over refugee protection, mixed membership and priorities have brought about a number of positive outcomes for refugee protection in a region of largely non-signatory countries. First, having one co-chair of the Bali Process as a non-signatory has encouraged other non-signatory states to come to the discussion table. Second, it has facilitated the involvement of the UNHCR in discussions with non-signatory members. Third, it has encouraged Indonesia to take a leading role in refugee protection and to adopt some Convention principles in its own domestic approaches to refugees. Fourth, it has provided non-signatory members with a basis to criticise signatory members such as Australia when behaviour does not match its obligations. Based on these interviews, this paper also finds that individual leadership also matters for the promotion of refugee protection, which could be key in moving the protection of refugees higher up on the priority list of the Bali Process.

About

Carly Gordyn commenced her doctoral studies at ANU in early 2014. Her research examines the historical cooperation between Australia and Indonesia in managing irregular migration, specifically from 1965 to 2002. In 2018 Carly was awarded the Australian Government's Endeavour Research Fellowship, which she spent as a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Jakarta and at the Centre for Refugee Studies (CRS) at York University in Toronto. She is also the recipient of the Ruth Daroesman Graduate Study Grant for her field research in Indonesia. In 2014 she was awarded the Australian Journal of International Affairs' Boyer Prize for her co-authored article (with Dr Amy Nethery), 'Australia-Indonesia Cooperation on Asylum-Seekers: A Case of "Incentivised Policy Transfer"'. Prior to joining the ANU, Carly worked in Australia's immigration detention facilities on Nauru and Christmas Island. She received a First Class Honours in 2011 from Deakin University where she majored in International Relations and Indonesian language. She is also a Research Affiliate of the Refugee Law Initiative and a member of the Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies.

<https://researchers.anu.edu.au/researchers/gordyn-c>

FRIDAY SEMINARS

Abstracts & Bios

The Relationship between Age, Duration of Stay and Internal Migration amongst Immigrants: Evidence from Inter-State Migration of the China-born Population in Australia

By Ms Qing Guan (The Australian National University)

Abstract

With over 28 percent of the population born overseas, immigration to Australia is a major driver of demographic change and subnational population growths. This paper explores the subsequent internal migration behaviours of immigrants from mainland China to better understand Australian states' abilities to attract and retain them. In particular, the complex relationships between age, duration of stay, and immigrants' inter-state migration patterns are analysed with data obtained from 2006, 2011 and 2016 Australian censuses. The results demonstrate that inter-state migration intensities peak for young and recently arrived immigrants, but the age and duration patterns varied considerably across different immigrant birthplaces. In examining the China-born immigrants, New South Wales retained more than 80% within a five-year period, whereas Tasmania retained less than 50%. In both cases, retention increased with age and duration of stay.

About

Qing Guan is a PhD candidate in the School of Demography. Her research focuses on migration theory and modelling, particularly in international migration modelling and spatial integration of immigrants in Australia. Qing is also a Research Assistant in the ARC Discovery Project 'Overcoming the problems of inconsistent migration data in the Asia Pacific' (DP170102468).

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