



## **Workshop Outline**

### **Translocal Spatial Practices, Urban Transformations: Migration and Mobile Urbanism in South and South-East Asia**

Date: 14 to 16 January 2015

Venue: Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS), University of Freiburg

International migration and the experience of translocality have a considerable influence on spatial practices and spatial transformations in (urban) localities around the globe. Three observations emerge at the juncture of these topics: First, cities and urban spaces are undergoing transformations, not only triggered by local dynamics but equally so by global ones. International migration as a global process contributes to the emergence of diverse and fragmented urban spaces and the emergence of new spatial practices on multiple scales. Second, along with the recognition that urban theory for too long has prioritized 'Western models' and neglected the contribution of other cities around the globe came a reorientation of cities in the Global South towards models that are less 'distant'. Third, in recent years, translocality has become an important conceptual approach for investigating the interaction and interconnectedness between places, institutions, actors and concepts across (multiple forms of) borders.

Our understanding of translocality as a research perspective moves beyond analysing mobility and flows of actors, goods, ideas and symbols and additionally emphasises "situatedness during mobility". As such translocality offers much for the investigation of the production of space in specific localities as it implies the transgression of a fixed understanding of place. This stands in marked contrast to the notion that increasing migration leads to the "deterritorialization" of nation-states – "place matters" in the transnational social and political spaces created by migrants. Translocality thus promises to enrich research perspectives on new fields of social, cultural and political action emerging from international migration and the associated mobilities.

Based on these observations, the aim of the interdisciplinary workshop is to explore the nexus of international migration, spatial practices and urban transformations. Furthermore, we seek to explore what translocality as a research approach offers for embedding global mobilities into the analysis of local spatial practices and urban transformations.

The following leading questions will guide us through the workshop:

- How does international migration impact on fields of action and spatial practices of mobile actors?
- How do the experiences of international migrants and related changes in their practices influence the transformation of (urban) space and multi-scalar socio-spatial structures and processes in the cities?
- How does this transform social and political spaces and institutional landscapes in particular? What is the political dimension of these dynamic alignments and dealignments on the local level, where globally entangled spaces are negotiated in local governance arrangements?
- What does the concept of translocality as an approach offer for embedding global mobilities into the analysis of local spatial practices and urban transformations?

### **Conveners**

Dr. Kirsten Hackenbroch (University of Freiburg), Dr. Stefan Rother (University of Freiburg), Dr. Tabea Bork-Hüffer (National University of Singapore)

### **Cooperation partners**

The workshop will be convened in cooperation with FREINEM (Freiburger Netzwerk für Migrationsforschung), with the Freiburg Center for Transcultural Asian Studies (CETRAS) and with the FRIAS research priority area "Dynamic alignments and dealignments in global Southeast Asia".

## Workshop Programme

Wednesday, 14 January 2015

16:30-17:00	Registration of participants
17:00-19:00	<b>Key Note Lectures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Assist. Prof. Dr. Elaine Ho, National University of Singapore: Translocal connections of Sino-Myanmar mobilities and attendant urban transformations</li> <li>– Dr. Ayona Datta, University of Leeds Translocal cities: Utopian visions of migration and urbanization in India</li> </ul>
19:00	Welcome Reception

Thursday, 15 January 2015

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Welcome</b> at FRIAS and introduction to the Workshop programme
09:15 – 10:00	Getting to know each other (Academic speed dating)
10:00 – 10:40	<b>Paper Session I: Setting a frame for conceptualizing “Translocal spatial practices and urban transformation”</b> Paper Pitches (10 minutes each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Clemens Greiner: The places of translocality – concepts, questions, and research perspectives</li> <li>– Julia Verne: A sense of translocality: transcending topography</li> <li>– Tabea Bork-Hüffer: Transient urban spaces: Migrants’ agency, translocality and the transformation of urban spaces</li> </ul>
10:40 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	<b>Workshop I: Setting the frame</b> Working groups and plenary discussion
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 15:15	<b>Paper Session II: Transformative moments of mobility</b> Paper presentations (12 to max. 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Peter Kesselburg: Paradiplomatic trade relationships between southern Chinese, northern Laotian and northern Vietnamese province-level and county-level governments in the Reform era</li> <li>– Tim Kaiser: Transnational or translocal urban space? Urban planning and development in Vinh City, Vietnam</li> <li>– Sean Wang: The myth of ‘anchor babies’: Mapping Chinese birth tourism’s transnational circuits</li> </ul>
15:15 – 15:45	FRIAS Tea Break
15:45 – 17:15	<b>Paper Session III: Mobility networks and places</b> Paper presentations (12 to max. 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Susan Thieme: The “educational bazaar” in Kathmandu, Nepal: Spatial dimensions of the professionalization and internationalisation of services for students who want to study abroad</li> <li>– Andreas Benz: Studies in place – placing the students: Education migrants’ shifting socio-spatial positionalities in Gilgit, Pakistan</li> <li>– Stefan Rother: Parks and Demonstrations: Urban spaces as sites of transnational and global migrant activism in Hong Kong</li> </ul>
19:00	Workshop Dinner at Gasthaus Paradies

## Friday, 16 January 2015

09:00 – 09:15	<b>Summary of first day</b>
09:15 – 10:45	<b>Paper Session IV: Practices and spaces</b> Paper presentations (12 to max. 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Patrick Sakdapolrak, Benjamin Etzold: Translocal social practices – Remarks on the relation between embeddedness, mobility and the production of space</li><li>– S. Atif Bilal Aslam: Translocal spatial practices of Pakistani immigrants: Implications for urban transformations in Pakistan</li><li>– Hew Wai Weng: Chinese-style mosques and halal restaurants: Translocal spatial practices, mobile identities and immobile sites of Hui Muslims in urban Malaysia</li></ul>
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	<b>Paper Session V: Mobilities and spaces</b> Paper presentations (12 to max. 15 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Kirsten Hackenbroch: The mosaic of the global metropolis: Student mobilities and the making of planning cultures</li><li>– Anna-Lisa Müller: “The violoncello was with me wherever I went.” On the role of objects and spaces for international migrants</li><li>– Francesca Giangrande: Transnational migrants and urban studies. What can be (under)taken in the exchange Tatum – Milan</li></ul>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch Break
13:45 – 16:00 (integrated coffee break)	<b>Workshop II: From the framework to empirical studies – which perspectives does translocality offer?</b> Working groups and plenary discussion
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Conclusion from the workshops:</b> Exchange and discussion of workshop results
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Final discussion</b> and closing of the Workshop (Planning of further activities)

### Participation in the Workshop

For those interested to participate in the workshop we have a few seats available. If you would like to participate please register with Anna Blattner ([anna.blattner@frias.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:anna.blattner@frias.uni-freiburg.de)) until 15 December 2014. Please note that you would have to pay a workshop fee of 75 Euro for lunches and coffee breaks during the workshop. Participation in the conference dinner on Thursday would cost an extra 24 Euro.