

SENIOR RESEARCHERS

- **Isa Blumi:** How Itinerate Ottomans Shaped the Modern World in a Transitional Era
- **Geert Castryck:** The Shadow of the Moon: The Infrapolitics of Leisure and Religion in East African Muslim Communities in the 20th Century
- **Martin Heckel:** The Sleeping Society in Islamic Law (Mudaraba): A Contract Between Tradition and a Global Financial World
- **Steffi Marung:** Area Studies in Eastern Europe: An Entangled History with a Specific Focus on Soviet African Studies
- **Markus Michael Müller:** Policing and State Formation during Latin America's Populist Period: Mexico, Brazil and Argentina in Comparative Perspective
- **Md. Noor Un Nabi:** Multi-level System of the Culture and the Capability Development in the Firms in the Context of the Harmonizing Rules Regime
- **Elisabetta Porcu:** Japanese Religions, Popular Culture and the Media in the Global Context
- **Kristin Seffer:** International Organizations: Considering the Impact of the Political Regime on IO Actors
- **Nadine Sieveking:** Constructing African Performance Arts as a New Resource for Development and Transformation: Cultural Encounters and Transcontinental Linkages
- **Sarah Ruth Sippel:** TNCs, NGOs and Consumers: New Power Structures and Solidarities within Global Commodity Chains

JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

- **Anahit Babayan:** Armenia on the Horizon of Europe: External Democratizations Effects of European Organizations in a Post-Soviet State (Supervisor: Stefan Troebst)
- **Claudia Baumann:** Universities as Portals of Globalization: Places of Global Entanglements and Transcultural Encounter (Supervisors: Ulf Engel & Matthias Middell)
- **Anne Dietrich:** Tropical Fruits, Cane Sugar and Coffee from Overseas – The GDR's Import Trade with the Developing Countries Cuba and Ethiopia between Consumer Assurance and Ideological Requirements (Supervisor: Hannes Siegrist)
- **Melanie Eulitz:** Jewish Congregations as Conflict Arenas of Global Processes: An Analysis of Religious, Social and Organizational Dynamics in Selected Jewish Congregations in Germany (Supervisor: Monika Wohlrab-Sahr)
- **Micha Fiedlschuster:** Concepts of Democracy and their Spatial References from the Perspective of Transnational Organizations, Sovereign States and the Critical Response by Alternative Globalization Movements (Supervisor: Helena Flam)
- **Sabil Francis:** The University as a Critical Juncture: IITs and India's Quest for the Ideal University (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)
- **Johannes Frische:** Home as a Critical Juncture? Urban Youth in the MENA-Region as Forces of Resistance and Local Transformation (Supervisor: Jörg Gertel)

- **Sonja Ganseforth:** The Corridor for Peace and Prosperity: Genealogy of a Japanese Development Project in Palestine (Supervisor: Jörg Gertel/ Steffi Richter)
- **Britta Elena Hecking:** From the Battle of Algiers to the Battle of Youth? Everyday Life, Place and Politics in Algiers (Supervisor: Jörg Gertel)
- **Anita Janassary:** Diaspora Members – Transnational Actors in International Peace Operations (Supervisor: Heidrun Zinecker)
- **Johannes Knierzinger:** Access to Raw Materials and Development Cooperation: Between Contradiction and Symbiosis – On the Example of Aluminium Commodity Chains between West Africa and Europe from 1957–2000 (Supervisors: Ulf Engel & Matthias Middell)
- **Nathanael Kuck:** Anti-colonialism in Berlin during the Weimar Republic (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)
- **Peter Lambertz:** Doing Japanese Religion in Kinshasa: Of Flowers, Ancestors and Healing Performances in a Congolese Religious Movement "from Japan" (Supervisor: Adam Jones)
- **Henriette Neef:** Organizing Diseases: Dengue and its Spatial Arrays (Supervisor: Sebastian Lentz)
- **Nancy Scharpff:** De- and Re-territorialization of Labour Markets: The Constitution of Social Spaces in the Course of European Integration (Supervisor: Georg Vobruba)
- **Alina Strugut:** Sustainable Rural Tourism and the Re-configuration of Social Spaces of Class, Ethnicity and Gender in Gura Riului (Romania) and Hoyos (Spain) (Supervisor: Helena Flam)
- **Valerio Verrea:** Fair Trade – The Non-profit Challenge to the Free Market: An Analysis of Fair Trade Relationships between Europe and Latin America (Supervisor: Hannes Siegrist)

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CENTRE
FOR
AREA
STUDIES

WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR AREA STUDIES

The Centre for Area Studies (CAS), founded in 2009, is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research institute at the University of Leipzig that places a special emphasis on the academic collaboration between area studies and other disciplines in social sciences and humanities. The central research focus of CAS concentrates on the questions of how global flows of people, ideas, goods and capital affect the existence and perception of different world regions, as well as to what extent the world is both deterritorialized and reterritorialized through the interwoven processes of globalization. With these inquiries, the current research programme for the study period 2010–2013 promotes projects under the theme “Cultural Encounters and Political Orders in a Global Age”.

The Centre for Area Studies benefits from the academic structure of the University of Leipzig, which belongs to one of the few German universities that, owing to a rich tradition of institutes dedicated to regional studies, possesses the necessary framework to develop a broad and comprehensive scholarly programme. The current research programme undertaken at CAS is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBWF) from 2010 until 2013 by the initiative “Strengthening Area Studies in Germany”, with additional funding from the German Research Council (DFG).

In examining the aforementioned topics, CAS holds an annual lecture and conference, workshops and a weekly colloquium during the academic semesters as well as cooperates jointly with its 23 participating institutions in collaborative events. Currently, there is an international group of 10 senior researchers undertaking projects for the CAS research programme, 17 junior researchers examining “critical junctures of globalization” under the DFG Research Training Group (GK 1261), a research team focusing on “changing stateness in Africa” within the DFG Priority Programme (SPP 1448), as well as several guest researchers working under the auspices of the Centre for Area Studies.

CAS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND POLITICAL ORDERS IN A GLOBAL AGE

In order to address the aforementioned issues, the CAS research programme focuses – within the framework of examining and analysing the relationship between intra-regional encounters and the emergence of new forms of governance and political order – on the following research fields:

- The Relationship between Economies of Violence and Attempts to Establish New Forms of Order
- Processes of Cultural Transfers within and between World Regions
- Circulation and Adaptation of Elements of Mass and Popular Cultures
- Migration and Legal Transfer amongst Converging World Regions
- Commodity Chains and Socio-economic Connections between World Regions
- New Regionalism, Macro-regional Integration and International Organizations as Places of a Global Synthesis of Culture
- Technologies and Significations in the Production of Order and Disorder
- Critical Junctures in the History of Globalization
- Self-Reflective Area Studies: The Consequences of the Spatial Turn for Disciplines Concerned with the Study of World Regions

DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP (GK 1261)

CRITICAL JUNCTURES OF GLOBALIZATION

Focusing on the description, explanation and classification of “critical junctures of globalization”, the postgraduate programme adopts innovations in the fields of global historiography and new political geography. Critical junctures of globalization are understood to be the social arenas and historical moments in which, through globalization processes, spatial orders – or “regimes of territorialization” – are being negotiated, transformed or created anew through deterritorialization and reterritorialization. In this way, it is possible to better comprehend how under conditions of globalization, throughout preceding eras and up until today, control was achieved and power was exercised over accelerated flows of people, goods, capital and ideas.

While renegotiations of spatial orders can give rise to local or regional consequences, resulting crisis can also be synchronized into a sort of global crises. The programme, accordingly, intends to focus during its second research phase (2011–2015) particularly on these interdependencies between regionally limited critical junctures. The period under investigation stretches from the end of the 18th century to the present, while including world regions throughout Western and Eastern Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, South and East Asia as well

as sub-Saharan Africa. Embedded into an intertwined network of international co-operation – and supported by a modularized study programme, an international guest researcher programme as well as interdisciplinary co-supervision and working groups – the highly interdisciplinary programme provides an exceptional opportunity for excellent PhD students to compose an innovative dissertation in an extremely dynamic research field of increasing social relevance.

DFG PRIORITY PROGRAMME (SPP 1448)

ADAPTATION AND CREATIVITY IN AFRICA – TECHNOLOGIES AND SIGNIFICATIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF ORDER AND DISORDER

Africa is witnessing one of the most precarious periods in its postcolonial time as new distributions of sovereignty and forms of ordering are being negotiated at various levels. The capacities of African societies to navigate these changes are crucial, yet the determinants of these capacities are heavily under-researched. The DFG Priority Programme (SPP 1448) addresses the key question of how actors in postcolonial Africa deal with the multiple challenges they are facing by mobilizing and transforming their institutional capacities of adaptation and creativity. Particular attention is being paid to the role of technologies and systems of signification in the production of order and disorder. The research programme aims at utilizing the collaborative potential of African studies throughout Germany and increasing the discipline’s international visibility. It does so by facilitating innovative, interdisciplinary research and by promoting research approaches that promise to take African agency seriously.

The implementation of the SPP 1448 is shared together by the universities of Halle and Leipzig, with the first of three two-year periods of funding beginning on 1 January 2011. Changing Stateness in Africa – Practices and Imaginations from Cameroon and Ghana

CAS PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Collaborative Research Centre (SFB 586): “Difference and Integration: Interaction Between Nomadic and Settled Forms of Life in the Civilisations of the Old World” ■ Department of History ■ Francophone Research Centre of the University of Leipzig (FFSL) ■ Global and European Studies Institute ■ Ibero-American Research Centre of the University of Leipzig (IARCUL) ■ Institute of African Studies ■ Institute for American Studies ■ Institute of East Asian Studies ■ Institute of Ethnology ■ Institute for Geography ■ Institute of Oriental Studies



CHANGING STATENESS IN AFRICA – PRACTICES AND IMAGINATIONS FROM CAMEROON AND GHANA

This project, which is a common initiative of Ulf Engel (Institute of African Studies), Matthias Middell (Global and European Studies Institute) at the University of Leipzig and David Simo from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon, within the framework of the DFG Priority Programme (SPP 1448) aims at contributing to the debate on the nature of the state in Africa by focusing on the subjective experiences of changing stateness in Africa. Predominantly the debate in the humanities and social sciences on the state in Africa is highly normative. Based on a Weberian understanding that a state ought to be a model of statehood, which seemingly exists in the OECD world, is transferred to Africa. The state in Africa then is measured in terms of deviations from this model. The academic, and political, debate is focused on phenomenologies, which are descriptive rather than analytical, but rich in metaphors. Unsurprisingly the state in Africa is seen as deficient, where “juridical” trumps “empirical” statehood and the conventional narrative is one of “state decay” or “state failure”. Thus, the central topic of the project is how order, or disorder, in Africa is produced through the institution of the state and from the perspective of some of its subjects. Particular emphasis will be placed on empirical research to reconstruct the signifying processes that are at the centre of the translation of “travelling concepts”, such as the “state”. The project team, including Janine Klæge and Frank Mattheis at CAS, argues that this approach will give substantial insights into the social capacities for adaptation and creativity of African states and societies.

■ Institute of Philosophy ■ Institute of Political Science ■ Institute for Public International Law, European Law and Foreign Public Law ■ Institute of Romance Studies ■ Institute for the Study of Culture ■ Institute for the Study of Religions ■ International SEPT-Program ■ Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) ■ Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East Central Europe (GWZO) ■ Research Training Group (GK 1261): “Critical Junctures of Globalization”