



Practices of Traditionalization in Central Asia

November 16-18, 2017
 Institute for Advanced Study, University of Konstanz

Organized by Judith Beyer

“Tradition” has frequently been invoked in the context of Central Asian nation-building projects and there has been a tendency to investigate it “from above” by focusing on elites, political actors in powerful positions, and intellectuals who are often encouraged or urged to perform and write in the name of the nation. This body of literature has yielded important insights into the rational motivations behind invoking “tradition”. In this workshop, we aim to transcend this body of scholarly literature by offering exciting new anthropological research that complicates the assumption that state

power can and will monopolize tradition. Practices of traditionalization can thus be both inclusive and exclusive, integrative as well as divisive. While elites might be imposing their views and interests and try to force others to accept them as the (new) rules of the game, demotic actors always have the capacity to re-interpret and challenge top-down models. Investigating tradition from the perspective of practice allows one to study how tradition comes into being in the first place, how it gets legitimized but also how it is challenged, refuted or claimed.

Programme

Thursday, 16 November 2017

8.15 pm
 Dinner, restaurant Holly's

Friday, 17 November 2017

9.30 am
Judith Beyer (Konstanz) and Peter Finke (Zurich)
Introduction: Practices of traditionalization in Central Asia

10 am
Juliette Cleuziou (Paris)
Paper 1: Traditionalization or the making of authority. Reflections on wedding performance, Islam and economics in Tajikistan

11 am
 Coffee Break

11.30 am
Jarmila Ptackova (Prague)
Paper 2: 'Civilizing the backward periphery'. Local responses to state promoted modernity in rural Tibetan areas of Qinghai

12.30 pm
 Lunch, Bischofsvilla

2 pm
Dominik Müller (Zurich)
Paper 3: Second thoughts about the post-Soviet Islamic revival. An anthropological case study of Central Asian students at the Russian Islamic University in Kazan, Russia

3 pm
Diana Kudaibergenova (Lund)
Paper 4: Globalized and re-traditional. Instagram, gender and norms in Kazakhstan and Russia

4 pm
 Coffee Break

4.30 pm
Ulrike Gonzales (Bonn)
Paper 5: Nutgiin zövlöl: “Traditional” Mongolian networks or a post-socialist interpretation of civil society organisations?

7pm
 Dinner, restaurant Sedir

Saturday, 18 November 2017

9.30 am

Judith Beyer (Konstanz) and Aijarkyn Kojobekova (Bishkek)

Paper 6: **Women of protest, men of applause. Political activism, gender and tradition in Kyrgyzstan**

10.30 am

Tommaso Trevisani (Naples)

Paper 7: **The Veterans' gala. Indian capital meets Kazakh 'traditions' and Soviet legacies of work**

11.30 pm

Coffee Break

12 pm

Paper 8: **Discussing Mustafa Coskun's paper "Back to future? Kyrgyz oral poetry between retraditionalization and cultural dispossession"**

1 pm

Final Discussion and Steps Towards Publication

1.30 pm

Lunch and Farewell, Bischofsvilla

Organizational support

Carolin Hirsch, MA and Jessica Schmieder, BA