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“AFRICA-ASIA CONNECTIONS”

FIELD SCHOOL IN CAPE TOWN, SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 8, 2017

Organized by Michaela Pelican, Oliver Tappe, Ulrike Wesch (Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne) and Kira Schmidt, Bradley Rink (University of the Western Cape)

South African partners: Ciraj Rassool, Ala Alhourani, Uma Dhupelia-Mesthrie, Jung Ran Annachiara Forte (University of the Western Cape), Ana Deumert, Nkululeko Mabandla, Sibonile Mpendukana, Chen Tian, Francis Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town), Scarlett Cornelissen, Ross Anthony (University of Stellenbosch)

Funding: DAAD Thematic Network “Remapping the Global South – Teaching, Researching, Exchanging”, GSSC

This field school is a collaborative project of the Global South Studies Center (GSSC, University of Cologne, Germany) and the University of the Western Cape (UWC, Cape Town, South Africa). It is funded within the frame of the thematic network “Remapping the Global South – Teaching, Researching, Exchanging” by the DAAD.

South Africa, and the city of Cape Town in particular, has long been a focal point of historical and contemporary connections between Africa and Asia. These include different forms of mobility (e.g. Indian indentured labourers in colonial South Africa, Chinese investors in present-day Africa, African business people and students in today’s Chinese megacities) as well as flows of goods and ideas, as reflected for example in South Africa’s markets, heritage, and popular culture. The translocal lifeworlds and everyday experiences of Cape Town’s inhabitants illustrate historical and contemporary movements, entanglements, and ruptures across the Indian Ocean. The field school „Asia-Africa Connections“ aims to foster a deeper understanding of different forms of interconnections and mobility within the Global South.

Through a balanced mix of course work, student workshops and joint excursions, the field school aims to promote exchange and debate between German and South African students interested in the subject of Africa-Asia connections. In addition, we will organize group excursions to selected destinations of both historical and anthropological relevance in and around Cape Town. The summer school will thus offer thematic input, intellectual exchange, as well as intercultural experience.



Field school “Africa-Asia Connections”: Preliminary programme

Fri	29.09.	Arrival 16.20h Historic City Tour
Sat	30.09.	Visit to Bellville with Ala Alhourani Optional (afternoon): Visit to Newlands Forest Meeting at T-House with Chen Tian (evening)
Sun	01.10.	Visit to China Town with Chen Tian China Town Mall Lunch at Spicy and Hot Chinese Restaurant 14h/16.20h pm Bo-Kaap Tour
Mon	02.10.	Workshop 1 (9.30-16h) Venue: UWC, School of Public Health (1C & D) Introduction “Africa-Asia Connections” Discussion & exchange, student presentations (three thematic blocks): 1) Indentured labour and slavery; India/Malaysia – South Africa 2) African students/migrants in China, racialization processes 3) Chinese businesses in Africa, artistic reflections 19h pm: Welcome Dinner at The Cousins Trattoria
Tue	03.10.	Visit to District Six 9-11h District Six Museum and site tour University of Technology (CPUT), Campus District 6 14-15.30h Presentation by Oliver Tappe; History Department, UWC (topic: Vietnamese indentured labour under French colonialism). Optional: Visit to Stevenson Gallery, Solo exhibition by the visual activist and photographer Zanele Muholi.
Wed	04.10.	Excursion to Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum, Lwandle, Strand and Stellenbosch University Schedule: - Departure from Cape Town to Strand (8.30h) - Tour at Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum and neighbouring Townships (9.30-11.30h)



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transfer to Stellenbosch, lunch (12-13.30h) - Visit to Center for Chinese Studies, Meeting with the Director Dr. Ross Anthony, Dr. Kim Yeyoo, Meryl Burgess (14-16h) - Meeting with Prof. Dr. Scarlett Cornelissen (16.00-17.30h) - Return to Cape Town (18-19h)
Thu	05.10.	<p>Workshop 2 (9.30-16h)</p> <p>Venue: UWC, School of Public Health (1C & D)</p> <p>Presentation of student projects/research ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translocal migration and social welfare - Human-environment relations and eco-tourism - Global refugee situation - Artivism, etc.
Fri	06.10.	<p>Visit to University of Cape Town (UCT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction by Ana Deumert - Presentation by Nkululeko Mabandla on Chinese traders - Presentation by Sibonile Mpendukana on the student protests and Fallist Movements <p>19h: Farewell Dinner at Timbuktu Ethiopian Restaurant</p>
Sat	07.10.	Wrap up (morning)
Sun	08.10.	Departure



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Field school “Africa-Asia Connections”: Student workshops

During our ten-day field school in Cape Town, we will hold two workshops at UWC as well as various excursions to District 6, China Town, Llwande Migrant Museum Strand, and more. Students and staff of UWC and UCT are warmly invited to participate in these workshops and engage in discussions and exchange. Students of UWC and UCT who would like to participate will also have the chance to join the excursions free of charge.

On the side of the University of Cologne (UoC), we will be a group of seven Master students with a background in Cultural and Social Anthropology or in Chinese Studies and two lecturers who have worked on Asia-Africa connections in historical and contemporary perspectives. Together we have prepared ourselves for the field school in the form of a seminar, the content and discussions of which will inspire our workshops.

Workshop 1: Monday, 2.10.17, UWC

China-Africa Connections: Historical and contemporary perspectives

We will have three thematic blocks: Starting with India, we will look at historical relations between Asia and Africa in the 19th century. Particularly India and South Africa as well as Malaysia and Cape Town will be the focus in terms of indentured labor and slavery. We seek to discuss the concept of ‘coolitude’, the usage of the term, the treatment of laborers, and repercussions for descendants today.

The second theme concentrates on the Asian geographical context: Here we will talk about African students in China and the role of education in Sino-African relations looking at the impact of Chinese scholarship initiatives as well as the advantages and drawbacks of the Chinese system for students from Africa. Also in this block, we will look at the debate on a Chinese washing detergent advertisement published in 2015 and discussed differently in various media. Here the goal is to reflect critically on the question of racialization/racism in China.

The third and last regional focal point of this day is Africa: This block focuses on Chinese businesses in South Africa, their products, target groups, and economic impact on the country. Besides that, media and art in Sino-African relations will be another aspect and how art reflects on socio-political movements.



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Workshop 2: Thursday 5.10.17, UWC

Student research ideas

On this day students (of UoC, UWC, UCT) have the opportunity to present their current research ideas or discuss controversial current issues. Students of the University of Cologne propose to discuss potential topics for their MA theses. These include, for example, the relationship between social welfare and society and translocal migration; also human environment relations will be discussed with regards to eco-tourism, community-based conservation and sustainable tourism. Further topics open for discussion include the global refugee situation with examples from Germany in comparison with further African countries. Artivism will also be discussed relating to a responsibility of artists and examples given from South Africa and Burkina Faso.

We look forward to international exchanges of ideas and opinions and to meeting you soon.

For those who are interested to participate in the workshop sessions, **please contact Carola Jacobs (djacobs4@uni-koeln.de).**