

SUMMARY REPORT

of the kick-off workshop of the research cluster

“Mobility and Immobility in Mongolia“

at Georg August University Göttingen, State and University Library,

April 7th-8th 2016

Report by: Ulrike Gonzales

May 2nd 2016

Attendees:

- Prof. Dr. Jav Davaasambuu (Head of the Department of Science Policy and Coordination, Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science)
- Prof. Urgamaltsetseg Bandikhuu (Consultant of the Mongolian Prime minister, Member of of the Mongolian Studies National Council)
- Prof. Tsegmed Lkhamsuren (Department of Policy and Coordination, Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia)
- Dr. Pioner Tserenbazar (project coordinator, MUIS, Ulaanbaatar)
- PD Dr. Johannes Reckel (Georg August University Göttingen, State and University Library)
- Dr. Hans Nugteren (Georg August University Göttingen)
- Dr. Choimaa Dulamsüren (Georg August University Göttingen)
- Ganzorig Gonchigsumlaa (Georg August University Göttingen)
- Prof. Dr. Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz (University of Bern)
- Dr. Dorothea Heuschert-Laage (University of Bern)
- Raya Schifferle-Stoyanova (University of Bern)
- Prof. Dr. Ines Stolpe (University of Bonn)
- Carsten Friede (University of Bonn)
- Ulrike Gonzales (University of Bonn)
- Elisa Kohl-Garrity (MPI Halle)

Thursday, April 7th

Morning session:

- Opening speech: Dr. Armin Müller-Dreier, Vice-Director of the State and University Library Göttingen
- Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Ines Stolpe
- Welcome address: Prof. Urgamaltsetseg Bandikhuu
- Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Jav Davaasambuu
- Presentation: Dr. Tserenbazar on „Lifestyle Changes in Contemporary Mongolia“
- Presentation: Prof. Dr. Kollmar-Paulenz on „Travelling Ideas, travelling People: Pilgrimage in Mongolia in Times of Global Connectedness“

Afternoon session:

- Presentation: Ulrike Gonzales on “Nutigijn zövlöl: a Mongolian Interpretation of Civil Society Organisations”
- Presentation: Dr. Heuschert-Laage: “Education and Knowledge Production in the Works of the Ordos Poet Kesigbatu (1849-1917)”
- Presentation: Elisa Kohl-Garrity on “The Weight of Respect: Khundlekh Yos – Forms of Respect and Disregard in Mongolia”
- Presentation: Prof. Dr. Stolpe on “Mongolizing Ideas of Development: Potentials of Rural-Urban Relations in Contemporary Mongolia”
- Presentation: Dr. Nugteren on “The Mongolian speaking Yugur in Gansu. Survival of a small Language in a changing Society”

Discussion on future work

- **Participation in upcoming conferences:**

Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT) (September 18th-22nd 2017 in Jena):

The research cluster will apply for an extra panel; the members consider proposing a possible **honorary guest** for the Central Asian section of the DOT. The proposal (including explanatory statement, brief description of her/his professional career, title of her/his presentation, detailed list of travel expenses) is to be handed in at the Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft in **June 2016**.

Next steps:

- Proposals for a possible honorary guest should be communicated among the members of the research cluster **as soon as possible**.

European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) 2017 (date and place yet to be announced):

The research cluster will apply for an extra panel, if date and place allow a participation.

Permanent International Altaistic Conference (PIAC) (date and place yet to be announced):

Members of the research cluster won't take part in 2016; the research cluster will apply for an extra panel on the conference in 2017, if date and place allow a participation.

- **Research cluster website:**

Carsten Friede presented the current stage of the research cluster website; it is hosted by the University of Bonn. In the first step, the website will contain a description of the research cluster and its single projects, information on its members, their contact details and external links to their institutions. Later on, news and publications related to the research cluster, in both English and Mongolian, will be posted.

Next steps:

- All members send their **revised abstracts** on their research projects and one significant **photo** related to their research to Ulrike Gonzales until **May 1st 2016**.
- Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz and Elisa Kohl-Garrity send a revised and shortened version of the original research cluster proposal to Carsten Friede until **May 8th 2016**.
- Please send the **texts unformatted** (rtf-file) and the pictures as jpg-files.

Friday, April 8th

Morning session:

- Presentation: Raya Schifferle-Stoyanova on “Mapping Mongolia Buddhist discourses of social (Im)mobilities: Isidanzanvangiil, a Mongolian Buddhist intellectual and his ‘Golden Teaching’ (altan suryal) on the Eve of the Collapse of the Qing Empire”
- Presentation: Dr. Choimaa Dulamsüren on “Climate Change in Mongolia and its Implications for forest health and the Mongolian Society”
- Presentation: Ganzorig Gonchigsumlaa on “Profitability of Nomadic Pastoralists’ Households in Western Mongolia”
- Presentation: PD Dr. Johannes Reckel on “The Oirat in Sinkiang: Are we Oirat, Mongol or Chinese? – Oirat Identity between Assimilation and Self-Finding”
- Presentation: Carsten Friede on “Regaining more Degrees of Mobility? The Harnessing of IT Technology in 21st Century Mongolia”

Afternoon session: Discussion on future work

- **Participation in the 11th International Congress of Mongolists (August 15th-18th 2016)**

The research cluster will apply for a panel which should take place before August 18th.

Next steps:

- All members send their **revised abstracts** on their research projects (same as for the website, see above) to Ulrike Gonzales until **May 1st 2016**.
- Please send proposals for a chair person and honorary guests for the panel to Ines Stolpe until **May 20th 2016**.
- A joint press release after the congress both in Mongolian and English.

During the 11th International Congress of Mongolists the members of the research cluster will use the opportunity to meet Mongolian scholars interested in participating; Dr. Tserenbazar will inform her colleagues from MUIS and organise a meeting.

- **Opening the research cluster to potential new members/affiliates**

Scholars interested in participating in the research cluster may apply by handing in an outline for a research project. Members of the research cluster may actively invite and propose scholars for cooperation and participation. Decisions on coopting new members will be made consensually by all present members of the research cluster.

- **Web archive for contemporary internet and text message language**

The members of the research cluster support the idea of Dr. Reckel and Dr. Nugteren to establish a web archive for internet and text messages in contemporary Mongolian/Central Asian languages.

Next steps:

- Finding possibilities to fund this project.
- Finding possibilities to host the web archive (State and University Library of Göttingen?).
- Considering possible cooperations with international scientific institutions.
- Considering ethical and security matters.

- **Proceedings**

The members of the research cluster agree on publishing a joint volume on their research results in 2017, printed by the publishing house of the State and University Library of Göttingen as proposed by Dr. Reckel.

Next steps:

- Dr. Reckel sends the style sheet of the publishing house to the members of the research cluster.
- By December 2016 all members hand in their articles; the articles are peer reviewed among each other.

- **Next research cluster workshop in 2017 and conference in 2018**

The next workshop of the research cluster should possibly take place in the first half of 2017 (but *not* in February); a suitable place is yet to be proposed.

In 2018, the conference of the research cluster will be hosted by the University of Bern.

Next steps:

- Considering a suitable place for the next research cluster workshop in 2017.
- All members consider proposals for visiting scholars to be invited.

- **Joint expedition to Chovd**

The members of the research cluster approve the idea of a joint research expedition to Chovd, possibly in summer 2017.

Next steps:

- Considering fundings.
- Considering possible research fields.
- Contacting local scholars in Chovd in order to explore cooperation opportunities.