

Workshop

“Tibetanness outside Tibet”

Date: January 30th and 31st, 2020
Venue: Brühler Str. 7 (2nd floor), 53119 Bonn

Due to its enormous expansion of and the networks established by the Tibetan Empire between the 7th and 9th century, Tibetan culture, language, and religion spread in a vast territory, reaching from Ladakh in the west to Dartsedo in the east, and covering parts of present-day Nepal (Mustang) and regions today administered by Pakistan (Gilgit-Baltistan). The area where Tibetic languages are still spoken, and where cultural traits which can be identified as being of Tibetan origin persist, therefore goes far beyond the actual Tibetan Autonomous Region and further Tibetan autonomous prefectures currently administered by the People’s Republic of China. Thus, scholars often use the term “ethnic Tibet” to define this entire zone to distinguish it from today’s geopolitical entity Tibet. But while the term “ethnic” implies a specific belonging to one group, in our workshop we will discuss in detail the various forms of assertion or rejection of belonging to a real or imagined wider Tibetan community among speakers of Tibetic languages outside of today’s geopolitical entity Tibet.

The speakers of this workshop are scholars of different disciplines studying diverse aspects of Tibetic speaking groups in present-day Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, focussing on various identity (trans)formation processes among these groups. Among others, the following questions will be addressed: Does the Tibetan past play a role and if so, to what extent for the identity (trans)formation processes among these Tibetic speaking groups? What kind of endeavours to preserve and/or revive Tibetan heritage can be observed? What role do global networks, social media, local and international NGOs, education institutions, and the respective states play? Are Tibetan Buddhism and symbols in general allocated to this integrative elements of the identity (trans)formation processes? What local and global factors contribute to the assertion or rejection of belonging to a wider Tibetan community? How do members of these groups define Tibetanness?

Organisers: *Jun.-Prof. Dr. Carmen Brandt (Department of South Asian Studies, IOA, University of Bonn), Dr. Salomé Deboos (SAGE CNRS UMR 7363, University of Strasbourg), Prof. Dr. Nicola Schneider (Department of Mongolian and Tibetan Studies, IOA, University of Bonn)*

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Programme

Thursday, January 30th 2020	
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome and introduction by Carmen Brandt and Nicola Schneider
9.15 – 10.45	Session 1
9.15 – 10.00	Some thoughts on identifying <i>bod pa</i> (Tibetan) and <i>bod rigs</i> (Tibetanness) Kalsang Norbu Gurung (University of Bonn)
10.00 – 10.45	‘Non-Tibetanness’ versus ‘Bhutaneseness’ inside Bhutan Mareike Wulff (Humboldt University Berlin)
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.45	Session 2
11.15 – 12.00	Being Muslim and Scheduled Tribe Boto (<i>bod</i>) in Zangskar Salomé Deboos (University of Strasbourg)
12.00 – 12.45	Tibetan immigrant economy in Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi (India) Jan-Christoph Schlenk (GIZ, Bonn)
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	Session 3
14.00 – 14:45	A “jewel box” of female Tibetan Buddhist role models: The wall paintings in the temple of Dongyu Gatsal Ling Nunnery Dolores Zoé Bertschinger (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich)
14:45 – 15:30	Tibetan hip-hop as a therapeutic unifier of the youth, ergo a “<i>bod pa’i ngo bo’i theg pa</i>” Martin Hanker (Charles University, Prague)
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	Session 4
16.00 – 16.45	“Forward to the past!” – Politics of musealising culture and identity in Ladakh Kati Illmann (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)
16.45 – 17:30	The ‘National Anthem’ of the Western Borderlands: Donor Inscriptions and Prefaces from Guge, Kinnaur, Spiti, Lahaul, Zaskar, and Ladakh Yannick Laurent (University of Oxford)
19:00	Common dinner
Friday, January 31st, 2020	
9.00 – 10:30	Session 5
9.00 – 09.45	The quest for Baltiness in a geopolitically contested region Carmen Brandt (University of Bonn)
9.45 – 10.30	Jellyfishing in the postcolonial nation-state: Baltistan through the Zomia lens Jan Magnusson (Lund University)
10:30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	Final discussion