

## 2014

# Global South Studies Center (GSSC)

CONTACT Global South Studies Center (GSSC) Universitätsstraße 22 D-50937 Köln

gssc.uni-koeln.de

2014 was the founding year of the Global South Studies Center (GSSC) Cologne. Accordingly, most activities were geared toward implementing the center as a new institution at the University of Cologne (UoC). This included the promotion of the center on the national as well as international level. The shaping of the GSSC's academic program comprised the organisation of a range of high-profile academic lectures and workshops. The four research areas channeled their discussion into regular meetings defining future activities and expected research output. In terms of administration, the setting up of the center required the building up of basic infrastructural and governance structures, the initiation and strengthening of cooperation within and beyond the UoC, and the employment of administrative and scientific staff. A sustainable data infrastructure was built up, and the corporate design and a new homepage for the center were developed and launched for the public.

#### Application, review and research agenda

The GSSC Cologne was officially established in early 2014 at the University of Cologne (UoC) as part of the German Excellence Initiative. It brings together research expertise on current and historical social, economic, political and cultural dynamics in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and promotes interdisciplinary cooperation with leading researchers in Germany and abroad.

A funding application for the center was drafted by the board of Principal Investigators (PI) in the course of 2013 and successfully reviewed on October 16, 2013 by an international board of reviewers, including: Peter Geschiere (Amsterdam), Michiel Baud (Amsterdam), Susan Walcott (Greensboro, NC, USA), Elmar Kulke (Berlin), Lukas Meyer (Graz), Paul Nugent (Edinburgh), Frank Pieke (Leiden), Utz Maas (Graz), and Stefan Rinke (Berlin). The funding application was handed in by 24 member scientists from disciplines as diverse as Geography, Social and Cultural Anthropology, History, Sociolinguistics, Media Studies, Latin American History, Romance Philology, Islamic Studies, Modern Chinese Studies, and African Studies.

The research agenda of the GSSC covers four separate yet interconnected fields of study that address salient dynamics in the Global South: (1) Citizenship and migration; (2) From slave to coolie: migrations, work and coolie culture; (3) Natural commodities and changing markets in the Global South; and (4) Communicative repertoires in the transforming Global South. Research areas 1 and 2 collaborate closely, and there are plans to fuse their research in the future. Additionally, a crosscutting but as-yet unfunded project focuses on urban green spaces as tangible manifestations of current processes of urban transformations both in the Global South and the Global North. Research areas 1–4 were each equipped with a Postdoctoral fellow, initially employed for two years, to support the PIs with research, dissemination, and grant proposal writing. Tobias Schwarz (Citizenship and Migration), Oliver Tappe (Migration and Labor), Tijo Salverda (Natural Commodities), and Andrea Wolvers (Communicative Repertoires) started working at the center in May 2014.

#### **Governance and administration**

In early 2014, the budget of the GSSC was approved by the rectorate of the University of Cologne. Barbara Potthast (Latin American History) and Michael Bollig (Social and Cultural Anthropology) were elected as speaker and vice speaker of the GSSC respectively, and Clemens Greiner was employed as scientific coordinator. Björn Ahl (Modern Chinese Studies), Boris Braun (Geography) and Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf (Islamic Studies) were elected as members of the center's Executive Board. Sandra Kurfürst (Southeast Asian Studies) succeeded Björn Ahl in the second half of 2014. In addition, Prof. Thomas Widlok (African Studies), speaker of UoC's Competence Area IV (Cultures and Societies in Transition; see below), is an ex-officio member of the GSSC Executive Board. Paul Nugent (Edinburgh), Randa Aboubakr (Cairo), Elmar Kulke (Berlin), and Mirta Lobato (Buenos Aires) agreed to join the center's external advisory board. There were five meetings of the Executive Board in 2014, in which strategic and budgetary issues were discussed and decided. Additionally, two general assemblies were held to approve the general strategy of the GSSC as well as the guidelines for the distribution of internal funds. Internal funds were distributed according to two principles: a) each of the thematic groups (except for Urban Green) received an annual budget at its own disposal; b) additional funds for workshops, conferences, etc. were granted on demand by the Executive Board. For this, a total of three deadlines for written internal funding applications were issued, after which the proposals were critically evaluated. A total of 33 applications for internal funding were received by the Executive Board, of which 28 were approved (often with co-funding from other institutions, and some with considerable revisions as to finance and content). Of these approved applications, most were for workshops and small conferences (12, some of them to be held in 2015), publication assistance (7), and visitors (5). In March 2014, the GSSC opened its new offices at Universitätsstraße 22. Here the administrative unit, the four postdocs of the GSSC, and guest scientists are all based. Three managing positions to support the center's coordination unit were filled in the first half of the year: Florian Willems (research data manager) started in February; Martina Gockel (administrative manager) and Dr. Christine Rath (public relations) started in May and July respectively.

#### Institutional cooperation and partner universities

The GSSC began cooperating with a range of institutions within and beyond the UoC: The GSSC cooperates closely with UoC's Competence Area IV, Cultures and Societies in Transition (CA IV), whose goal is to foster research activities that link the work of the GSSC to the wider university, to provide a platform for joint activities and to carry research results beyond university settings. The GSSC shares office space as well as administrative infrastructure with Dr. Meike Meerpohl, coordinator of CA IV. This not only created synergies through everyday interaction, but also led to a range of jointly organized events, such as lectures, workshops and an exhibition.

The Internationale Kolleg Morphomata at UoC kindly hosts the public lecture series as well as some of the workshops. It also collaborates in the thematic research











focus on urban green spaces. Informal institutional collaboration comprised exchange with GESIS Cologne (Leibniz-Institut für Sozialwissenschaften) as well as with UoC's a.r.t.e.s. graduate school and the Thomas Institute with regard to the implementation of the GSSC's research data management unit, as well as with the UoC-Forum groups Ethnicity as a political resource and Cultural Heritage in Africa and Asia, both of which have co-organized joint events. Furthermore, the GSSC joined the newly founded CrossArea e.V. initiative (Verband für Transregionale Studien, Vergleichende Area Studies und Global Studies) as an institutional member.

Cooperation with the GSSC's Strategic Partner Universities has intensified toward the end of the year 2014, when the GSSC PIs, supported by the GSSC office, drafted and handed in an application for a Thematic Network Partnership with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Among the GSSC's Strategic Partners are: Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), Guangzhou, China; Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India; Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM), Buenos Aires, Argentina; and University of the Western Cape (UWC) and University of Cape Town, both Cape Town, South Africa.

#### **Research data management**

In the first year a fully functioning and long-term stored bitstream archive was deployed for general use by all PIs and the office. It runs as an OwnCloud instance on a Ubuntu 14.04 LTS Virtual Machine at the Regionales Rechenzentrum Köln (RRZK), complete with collaborative editing, file storage, calendar, and address book. All functions and files are fully sharable with collaborators, and links may be sent to external partners. The whole system, including all of the offices' computers and laptops, is automatically backed up by the TSM/Tivoli infrastructure of the RRZK. All servers and vital services are monitored using Nagios, an enterprise-strength monitoring suite. Full redundancy is ensured, and the system is integrated into the larger monitoring infrastructure of other faculty institutes.

As to the long-term data archive, the requirements of the center's PIs as well as the scope and formats of data to be archived were formulated. Against this background, different fully OAIS-compliant FOSS systems for long-term archival storage were evaluated, and Archivematica and AtoM are being tested for their deployment in the context of the GSSC in early 2015.

#### **Public relations**

The GSSC logo and corporate design were produced in late 2013 with the help of a professional graphic designer. In 2014, the advertising of events was professionalized and harmonized, building upon the GSSC corporate design. Various poster and flyer formats are now available to represent different types of events (see attachment). The various formats were initially developed partly







with the marketing team of the UoC and partly with a contracted graphic designer. In the course of the year, the GSSC team built up the competences to produce these autonomously.

In autumn 2014 the GSSC started a full site relaunch. For the new website, Drupal was used as a content-management system. Old design and content were adapted and transferred to the new system, and new content was added. A German version of the homepage was set up. A photoshoot was coordinated in order to produce professional portraits of all GSSC PIs for the new homepage and to generate stock material for future public relations work. An information flyer was produced in English and German, as well as representative and advertising materials featuring the GSSC logo, such as business cards, stickers, bags, and writing pads for representative issues (e.g. conferences and workshops).

Cooperation with UoC's press department was established and intensified during the course of the year, and journalists working in GSSC's thematic fields were identified and contacted.

#### Activities

The GSSC's range of activities covers a public lecture series as well as workshops and conferences. The GSSC public lecture series, which is usually hosted by the Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, has developed into a wellattended event. In total, 20 public lectures were hosted in 2014, with an average audience of 25 persons. Subsequent to each lecture, which takes place in the early evening hours, the GSSC hosts a social gathering in the Morphomata lounge, which serves as an important occasion for meetings and discussions between the PIs of the GSSC and external visitors. A total of 9 workshops and conferences were hosted by the GSSC, three of them together with CA IV. These workshops brought together national and international experts on various topics, and in the case of the workshops on Forms of Bonded Labour this resulted in a manuscript for an edited volume, which will be published in 2015.

Toward the end of 2014, a new lecture-format was developed and successfully tested: the GSSC Focus Global South lecture. Focus Global South mainly addresses a non-academic audience, and as such serves as an interface between the university and the wider public. The events, which are not restricted to lectures or plenary discussions, are preferably organized in locations outside the university (e.g. the Stadtbibliothek). Three Focus-events were hosted in 2014: one on the background of Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria, one on current conflicts in the South China Sea, and a poetry lecture and discussion with the Egyptian author and theatre director Nora Amin.





## **Appendix: GSSC Events 2014**

#### **Public Lectures**

08.04.2014	Javier Revilla Diez, University of Cologne/GSSC Economic Theory and Development – A Critical Perspective		15.10.2014	Rodrigo Gutiérrez-Bravo, The Linguistic Situation of of Yucatan	
14.04.2014	Andrea Wolvers, GSSC Transnational Repertoires and Local Perspectives: Multilingual Set- tings and Strategies in the Global South		23.10.2014	Andreas Wimmer, Princeto Ethnic Boundary-Making In cooperation with CA IV	
22.04.2014	Tobias Schwarz, GSSC Materializing Citizenship in Naturalization Ceremonies		29.10.2014	Colin McFarlane, Durham	
29.04.2014	Wolfgang Reinhard Wie aus Opfern Täter werden. Wandel des Wissens von der			Fragmentary urbanism: a informality	
	Weltgeschichte		05.11.2014	Boike Rehbein, Humboldt- Erkenntnistheorie nach de	
06.05.2014	Pankaj Mishra Asia Remade: Perils and Opportunities		19.11.2014	Shamita Kumar, BVIEER,	
13.05.2014	Tijo Salverda, GSSC Elites, Ethics and Investors in Global Investment Chains in			<i>Conserving Urban Greens</i> <i>Challenges</i>	
27.25.224	Agricultural Assets		26.11.2014	Mirta Zaida Lobato, Unive Politics, Poetics and Cultur	
27.05.2014	Jessica Stites, University of British Columbia Argentine Political Filmmaking as Transnational Solidarity Network		10.12.2014	Community: The "Museun Andreas Eckert, Humbold	
03.06.2014	Pauline Peters, Harvard University		1011212011	Connecting Histories of W Africa	
	Land Appropriation and Threats to Customary Landholders in Africa		17.12.2014	Peter Lindner, Goethe-Uni	
17.06.2014	George Paul Meiu, Concordia University Ritual Politics and Ethno-Erotic Economies in Postcolonial Kenya		Development by Adapt		
01.08.2014	James Ferguson, Stanford University		Conferences		
	A Rightful Share: Beyond Gift and Market in the Politics of Distribution		3031.01.201	4 <i>América Latina y la Li</i> Organized by Gesine	
08.07.2014	Martin Sökefeld, LMU München The Atabat-Landslide in Northern Pakistan. Translocal Connections of a Local Disaster		2021.11.201	4 Between Politics and I Conflicts and Recent V a Comparative Perspe- In cooperation with C	
15.07.2014	Oliver Tappe, GSSC Coolies, Revolutionaries, Migrants: Towards a Historical Anthropology of Labour Migration in Upland Southeast Asia			Organized by Fabian	









Colegio de México f Yucatec Maya, the Mayan Language

on University

University Ibstraction, everyday life and

-Universität Berlin em Aufstieg des Globalen Südens

Pune in Indian Cities: Opportunities and

ersidad de Buenos Aires ural Heritage in a Deindustrialized m 1871" in Berisso (Argentina)

t-Universität Berlin /ork and Non-Work in 20th Century

iversität Frankfurt a.M. ion? 'Climate Change is Real' They Say

*iteratura Mundial* Müller

Healing: Understanding Trauma in Violent Transformation Processes from ective CA IV Heerbaart





#### Workshops

09.04.2014	On African Entrepreneurship, Migration and Law in China Organized by Björn Ahl, Michaela Pelican
04.06.2014	Challenges in Land Tenure, Agrarian Change and the Future of Small-Scale Farming in Sub-Saharan Africa Organized by Michael Bollig
2324.06.2014	Forms of Bonded Labour Organized by Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf, Ulrike Lindner, Gesine Müller, Michael Zeuske
2526.06.2014	<i>Kick-off Workshop Urban Green</i> In cooperation with CA IV & Internationales Kolleg Morphomata Organized by Peter Dannenberg
67.11.2014	<i>Consensus and Dissent: Negotiating Emotion in the Public Space</i> Organized by Anne Storch
405.12.2014	Public Places: Challenges and Methods Organized by Sandra Kurfürst, Thomas Widlok
910.12.2014	<i>Language Ideologies</i> In cooperation with CA IV Organized by Anne Storch, Andrea Wolvers

#### **Focus Global South**

26.09.2014	Boko Haram: Linguistic Violence and religious conflict in Nigeria Organized by Anne Storch
07.11.2014	<i>Troubled Waters: Streit um Rohstoffe und Prestige im Südchinesischen Meer</i> In cooperation with CA IV and Asienhaus Organized by Sandra Kurfürst, Oliver Tappe
21.11.2014	A Song Waiting to be Sung: Lyriklesung und Gespräch mit der Ägyptischen Autorin und Regisseurin Nora Amin. In cooperation with CA IV and Stadtbibliothek Köln Organized by Meike Meerpohl



#### EXCELLENT Funded through the German Excellence initiative



## Other

15.1015.11.2014	Photo Exhibition: B
	Guangzhou (China)
	In cooperation with
	Organized by Micha

### **Meetings of the GSSC Executive Committee**

April 14, 2014	
······································	
June 16, 2014	
September 1, 2014	
December 15, 2014	

### Meetings of the GSSC General Assembly

April 30, 2014

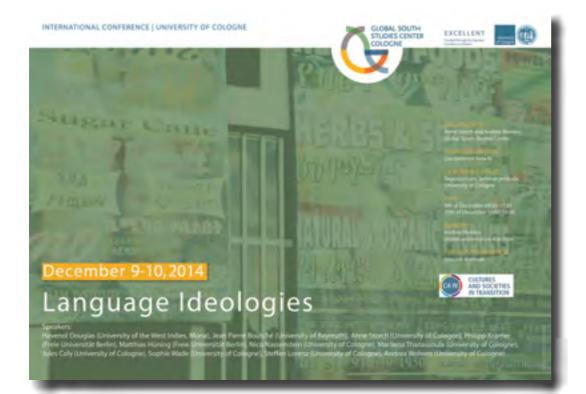
October 10, 2014



Baohan Street: An African Community in h CA IV naela Pelican















































#### **Appendix: List of Principal Investigators (December 2014)**

Name	Affiliation /	Research Area	Telephone	E-mail	
	Status		+49-221-470-		Carsten Butsch
Tobias Schwarz	Research Fellow	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	8894	t.schwarz@ uni-koeln.de	Peter Dannenberg
Michaela Pelican	Anthropology	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	3515	mpelican@ uni-koeln.de	Javier Revilla Diez
Barbara Potthast	History	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	2446	barbara.potthast@ uni-koeln.de	Michael Bollig
Björn Ahl	Chinese Studies	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	5421	bjoern.ahl@ uni-koeln.de	Clemens Greiner
Martin Zillinger	a.r.t.e.s	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	1236	martin.zillinger@ uni-koeln.de	Stefanie Gänger
Markus A. Gamper	Sociology	Ia: Citizenship and Migration	4739	m.gamper@ uni-koeln.de	Felix Wemheuer
Oliver Tappe	Research Fellow	Ib: Migration and Labour	8894	tappe@eth.mpg.de	Martina Fuchs
Ulrike Lindner	History	Ib: Migration and Labour	3810	ulrike.lindner@ uni-koeln.de	Andrea Wolvers
Michael Zeuske	History	Ib: Migration and Labour	4320	michael.zeuske@ uni-koeln.de	Anne Storch
Gesine Müller	Romance Philology	Ib: Migration and Labour	2834	gesine.mueller@ uni-koeln.de	Gerrit J. Dimmendaal
Sabine Damir- Geilsdorf	Islamic Studies	Ib: Migration and Labour	2363 or 3762	s.damir-geilsdorf@ uni-koeln.de	Thomas Widlok
Tijo Salverda	Research Fellow	II: Commodities and Markets	8895	tijo.salverda@ uni-koeln.de	Nikolaus P. Himmelmann
Kirk Junker	US-American Law	II: Commodities and Markets	0049-221- 1682-1594	kwjunker@ yahoo.com	Sandra Kurfürst
Frauke Kraas	Institute for Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	7050	f.kraas@ uni-koeln.de	Martin Rössler









Boris Braun

Institute for Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	4141	boris.braun@ uni-koeln.de
Institute for Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	4142	butschc@ uni-koeln.de
Institute for Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	1542	p.dannenberg@ uni-koeln.de
Institute for Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	7251	diez@wigeo.uni- hannover.de
Anthropology	II: Commodities and Markets	3501	michael.bollig@ uni-koeln.de
Anthropology	II: Commodities and Markets	8899	clemens.greiner@ uni-koeln.de
History	II: Commodities and Markets	7393	sgaenger@ uni-koeln.de
Chinese Studies	II: Commodities and Markets	5401	felix.wemheuer@ uni-koeln.de
Economic Geography	II: Commodities and Markets	7729	fuchs@wiso.uni- koeln.de
Research Fellow	III: Communicative Repertoires	8895	andrea.wolvers@ yahoo.de
African Studies	III: Communicative Repertoires	2708	anne.storch@ uni-koeln.de
African Studies	III: Communicative Repertoires	5762 or 3504	gerrit. dimmendaal@ uni-koeln.de
African Studies	III: Communicative Repertoires	4700	thomas.widlok@ uni-koeln.de
Linguistics	III: Communicative Repertoires	2323	n.himmelmann@ uni-koeln.de
Southeast Asian Studies	III: Communicative Repertoires	7412	s.kurfuerst@ uni-koeln.de
Anthropology		2278	martin.roessler@ uni-koeln.de



