



## The Demographic Turn in the Junction of Cultures

Similarly to Iran and the Middle East, the Muslims of Central Asia have entered the demographic transition. This demographic turn is accompanied by an increase in population maintained by the young age structure of society (youth bulge) that sets free manpower. Therefore these populations enter a world-wide trend that juxtaposes countries of the south to the north.

Since the beginning of the 20th century violent conflicts and radical political changes have been key events in shaping populations and territorial demarcation in Central Asia. Conflicts such as the Soviet-Afghan war in the 1980s, the civil war in Tajikistan in the 1990s, or 2000s independence from the Soviet Union were leading to mass-migration eventually. The political changes affected Central Asian populations not only in their demographic size and structure but, more profoundly, societies engaged in cultural negotiations with new regimes, economic conditions and family politics.

This research group examines the interdependencies of cultural and demographic changes through the concept of family.

**Dr. Sophie Roche** is a social anthropologist working on demographic and religious dynamics with a special focus on Central Asia. Before joining the Cluster of Excellence in 2013, she was at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany (2005 - 2010) with a project on youth bulge and conflict and subsequently joined the Zentrum Moderner Orient for a project on Islam among youth in Tajikistan and Russia (2010 - 2013).

## ABOUT

The Junior Research Groups (JRG) provide an academic environment for young scholars to further develop the transcultural and transdisciplinary research potential of the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context". Each group consists of three to four members and is led by a Group Leader supervising and designing the group's project.

The JRG Leaders are the organizers of the Cluster's interdisciplinary Summer School 2014: "Politics of Near Futures: Possibilities, Prophecies, Prognoses."

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Cover picture: JRG Leaders (from left):  
Kerstin v. Lingen, Sophie Roche, Daniel Münster, Katja Rakow  
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## Junior Research Groups at the Cluster of Excellence



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### Transcultural Justice: Legal Flows and the Emergence of International Justice within the East Asian War Crimes Trials, 1945-1954

War Crimes Trials in East Asia contributed to the formation of transcultural norms of legality and legitimacy, as well as transnationally accepted notions of “justice.”

The central research focus of this Junior Research Group is to analyse the interaction of concepts of legality and justice between Asia and Europe during the War Crimes Trials program in various countries in East Asia between 1945 and 1954, taking into account the legal proceedings as well as the political implications emanating from Decolonization and Cold War considerations.

By focusing on the assignments of judges and staff first during the trials and secondly after the War Crimes Trials in UN commissions and at academic positions at European universities, one hypothesis of the research group is to detect the interaction and possible “flow-back” of this Asian experience to the West. Western debates on the rule of law can not be seen in geographic isolation, but emerged within a broader transcultural space of discourse and related movement of people and ideas between Asia and Europe.

**Dr. Kerstin von Lingen** is a historian focussing her research on war, memory and reconciliation measures after conflict, as well as national narratives and identity construction. She is currently supervising four doctoral projects on the Soviet, Chinese, Dutch, and French war crimes trial policies in Asia. Kerstin’s many publications include monographs on War Crimes Trials in Europe, the global use of slave labour and intelligence history.

### Agrarian Alternatives: Agrarian Crisis, Global Concerns and the Contested Agro-ecological Futures in South Asia

Agriculture has gained a new level of importance particularly in light of the debates and diagnoses regarding the contemporary global predicament of human society. Scholars of world agriculture tend to describe the environmental future in ever more pessimistic and sometimes apocalyptic terms.

This research project investigates emerging alternative agricultures in the context of rural uncertainty and crisis. The research group focuses on practices, ideas, institutions and bio-technologies that claim to contribute to a more socially just and ecologically sustainable framework for South Asian agriculture. The group comprising two doctoral dissertations compares case studies of certified organic farming in Pakistan, alternative seed networks in Central India and permaculture revivals in tropical South India.

The aim of the project is to make both an empirical and theoretical contribution to the investigation of agro-environmental transformation in a transcultural framework, by highlighting agriculture as one of the most important “fields” of experimentation, knowledge transfer (appropriations), and the literal “cultivation” of practical alternative modernities.

**Dr. Daniel Münster** is a social anthropologist working on South Asia with interests in agrarian environments, political economy, global food regimes, science and technology, and social theory. Before joining the Cluster of Excellence in 2013, he taught social anthropology at Bielefeld University and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. Daniel’s current research focuses on the South Indian district of Wayanad (Kerala), where he has been conducting fieldwork since 2008.

### Transcultural Dynamics of Pentecostalism: Pentecostal Christianity between Globalisation and Localised Spheres in Singapore and the Straits

Over the last decades, Pentecostal Christianity has increasingly developed into a global phenomenon that has shown a strong ability to adapt to different cultural contexts.

The two doctoral students in this project investigate those transformations in the multi-religious but secular state of Singapore. Mega-churches in Singapore are part of and shaped by larger transnational networks of Pentecostal and evangelical Christians.

However, state control and the separation of the political and the religious sphere require Pentecostal Christians to continuously negotiate and reinterpret religious discourses and practices in public spheres according to local demands and necessities.

The research group focuses on the transformation of late-modern Pentecostal moral codes and modes of subjectivation, questions of identity, and the negotiation of boundaries (e.g. public/ private, national/ transnational, secular/ religious) in the nexus of globalising processes and localised public spheres in contemporary Singapore.

**Dr. Katja Rakow** is a researcher in Religious Studies with a major interest in religion in contemporary societies. Before joining the Cluster of Excellence, she conducted a research project on „Megachurches in the US“ which was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Katja has been lecturing at the Institutes for Religious Studies at Heidelberg University, Free University Berlin and University of Lucerne, Switzerland.