

SENIOR RESEARCHERS

- **Dr. Isa Blumi:** How Itinerant Ottomans Shaped the Modern World in a Transitional Era
- **Dr. Geert Castryck:** A History of Kigoma-Ujiji: Liminal Town and Portal of Globalization (c. 1850–2000)
- **Dr. Antje Dietze:** Paving the Way for Show Business: A Transnational History of Modern Cultural Entrepreneurs, 1880–1930
- **Dr. Martin Heckel:** Comparative Law in the 21st Century
- **Dr. Steffi Marung:** Area Studies in Eastern Europe: An Entangled History with a Specific Focus on Soviet African Studies
- **Dr. Frank Mattheis:** Overlapping and Fragmented Regionalisms: A Comparative Approach to Spatial Reconfigurations in South America and Africa
- **Dr. Md. Noor Un Nabi:** Firm-level Capability Development Under Global Value Chain Framework
- **Dr. Elisabetta Porcu:** Japanese Religions, Popular Culture and the Media in the Global Context
- **Dr. Ute Rietdorf:** 'Growing Up': The Role of Trust and Communication in E-based Transactions as Catalysts of Economic Development
- **Dr. Kristin Seffer:** Processes of Decision-Making in the International Financial Institutions: Embedding IO Actors in the Political Regime
- **Dr. Nadine Sieveking:** Contemporary Dance in West Africa as a Resource for Social Transformation: Gendered Perspectives
- **Dr. Sarah Ruth Sippel:** TNCs, NGOs and Consumers: New Power Structures and Solidarities within Global Commodity Chains

JUNIOR RESEARCHERS

- **Richard Adu-Gyamfi:** Special Economic Zones as Portals of Globalization: The Case of Ghana (Supervisor: Utz Dornberger)
- **Tayyibe Zeynep Armagan:** The 'Turkish Model' and the Arab Spring (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)
- **Claudia Baumann:** Universities as Portals of Globalization: Places of Global Entanglements and Transcultural Encounter (Supervisors: Ulf Engel & Matthias Middell)
- **Megan Campbell:** Bombay as a Portal of Globalization: A Study of Infrastructure Projects from the East India Company to the Special Economic Zones of Today (1650–Present) (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)
- **Anne Dietrich:** Tropical Fruits, Cane Sugar and Coffee from Overseas: The GDR's Import Trade with the Developing Countries Cuba and Ethiopia between Consumer Assurance and Ideological Requirements (Supervisor: Hannes Siegrist)
- **Nicholas Dietrich:** Territorializing International Police Cooperation: The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) and the Regionalization of Policing in Southern Africa (Supervisor: Ulf Engel)
- **Micha Fiedlschuster:** Concepts of Democracy and their Spatial References from the Perspective of Transnational Organizations, Sovereign States and the Critical Response by Alternative Globalization Movements (Supervisor: Helena Flam)

- **Johannes Frische:** Home as a Critical Juncture? Urban Youth in the MENA-Region as Forces of Resistance and Local Transformation (Supervisor: Jörg Gertel)
- **Anita Janassary:** Diaspora Members: Transnational Actors in International Peace Operations (Supervisor: Heidrun Zinecker)
- **Ulrike Kaden:** Transnationalization in German Border Regions (Supervisor: Helena Flam)
- **Janine Kläge:** Changing Stateness in Africa: Practices and Imaginations from Cameroon and Ghana (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)
- **Johannes Knierzinger:** Access to Raw Materials and Development Cooperation: Between Contradiction and Symbiosis – On the Example of Aluminium Commodity Chains between West Africa and Europe from 1957–2000 (Supervisors: Ulf Engel & Matthias Middell)
- **Wenke Krestin:** Development Discourses in the Context of New Regimes of Territorialization in North Africa (Supervisor: Jörg Gertel)
- **Nils Christian Kumkar:** Geography of Unsatisfaction (Supervisor: Helena Flam)
- **Jochen Lingelbach:** Polish Refugees in Colonial Africa (1942–ca 1950) (Supervisor: Adam Jones)
- **Felix Müller:** Changing Stateness in Africa: Cameroon, Ethiopia and Ghana Compared (Supervisor: Ulf Engel)
- **Julia Oheim:** Changing Stateness in Africa: Practices and Imaginations from Cameroon and Ghana (Supervisor: Ulf Engel)
- **Thomas Plötze:** Spatialization through Securitization? New Regionalism in Central America (Supervisor: Heidrun Zinecker)
- **Ana Ribeiro:** Shifts in Wealth, Power and Cooperation Patterns in the Lusophone World within Evolving Global Patterns (Supervisor: Matthias Middell)

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CENTRE FOR AREA STUDIES



WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR AREA STUDIES

The Centre for Area Studies (CAS), founded in 2009, is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental research institute at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Philosophy of the University of Leipzig. Placing a special emphasis on the academic collaboration between Area Studies and other disciplines in social sciences and humanities, the Centre facilitates transregional and global approaches in both research and collaboration. The current research programme for the study period 2009–2014 promotes projects under the theme “Cultural Encounters and Political Orders in a Global Age”, which is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the initiative “Strengthening Area Studies in Germany”, with additional funding from the German Research Council (DFG).

The Centre benefits from the academic structure of the University of Leipzig, which belongs to one of the few German universities that owing to a rich tradition of institutes dedicated to regional studies possesses the necessary framework to develop a broad and comprehensive scholarly programme. The Centre for Area Studies is currently based upon a network of 19 university institutes and non-university research centres that cover both a wide range of investigated world regions as well as disciplines. Extra-university research institutes, such as the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) and the Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East-Central Europe (GWZO), actively contribute to the CAS activities and programme. The Centre is directly affiliated with the Graduate School Global and Area Studies at the Research Academy of the University of Leipzig where currently more than 120 PhD students receive interdisciplinary training. Furthermore, being a cross-faculty institution provides opportunities for inter-institutional research and associations with universities both throughout Europe and the world.

Among the numerous hosted events, including a dozen of workshops per year, the Centre for Area Studies holds its annual CAS lecture and annual CAS conference as well as its weekly CAS public colloquium during the academic semesters. Research activities at the Centre are organized at the crossroads of contributions from the institutes forming the basis of the Centre and the work undertaken by a dozen of postdoctoral researchers and more than 20 junior researchers on third-party funded contracts directly with CAS.

CAS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS AND POLITICAL ORDERS IN A GLOBAL AGE

The Centre’s research programme aims at analysing in greater detail the relationship between increasing economic, technological, social, and cultural entanglements on the one hand, and the emergence of new forms of political orders on the other hand.

During the next funding period 2014–2016, the Centre aims at a systematic combination of results from individual research achieved during the first period 2009–2014 and further development of categories central to a historically informed understanding of globalization. A multivolume Handbook of Area Studies is envisioned to provide a critical self-reflection of the current transformation Area Studies are undergoing. Of interest here on the one hand is the opening of single area-focussed regional studies towards trans-regional studies addressing commodity chains, the circulation of knowledge and cultural patterns, and the impact of international organizations, as well as on the other the combination of area-based knowledge and theories of global transformations with impact on methodologies, theory building, and a new relationship between Area Studies and societies.

DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP (GK 1261)

CRITICAL JUNCTURES OF GLOBALIZATION

Focussing on the description, explanation, and classification of “critical junctures of globalization”, the postgraduate programme adopts innovations in the fields of global historiography and new political geography. Critical junctures of globalization are understood to be the social arenas and historical moments in which, through globalization processes, spatial orders – or “regimes of territorialization” – are being negotiated, transformed, or created anew through deterritorialization and reterritorialization. In this way, it is possible to better comprehend how under conditions of globalization, throughout preceding eras and up until today, control has been achieved and power has been exercised over accelerated flows of people, goods, capital, and ideas.

While renegotiations of spatial orders can give rise to local or regional consequences, resulting crisis can also be synchronized into a sort of global crises. The programme, accordingly, intends to focus during its second research phase (2011–2015) particularly on these interdependencies between regionally limited critical junctures. The period under investigation stretches from the end of the 18th century to the present, while including world regions throughout Western and Eastern Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, South and East Asia, as well as sub-Saharan Africa.

Altogether with four other postgraduate programmes, the Research Training Group is at the centre of the Graduate School Global and Area Studies founded in early 2013, which is embedded in a network of international cooperation, provides a modularized study programme and an international guest researcher programme, as well as interdisciplinary co-supervision for PhD candidates from all over the world. The highly interdisciplinary programme offers exceptional opportunities for excellent PhD students to compose an innovative dissertation in an extremely dynamic research field of increasing social relevance.



DFG PRIORITY PROGRAMME (SPP 1448)

ADAPTATION AND CREATIVITY IN AFRICA – TECHNOLOGIES AND SIGNIFICATIONS IN THE PRODUCTION OF ORDER AND DISORDER

Africa is witnessing one of the most precarious periods in its postcolonial time as new distributions of sovereignty and forms of ordering are being negotiated at various levels. The capacities of African societies to navigate these changes are crucial, yet the determinants of these capacities are heavily underresearched. The DFG Priority Programme (SPP 1448) addresses the key question of how actors in postcolonial Africa deal with the multiple challenges they are facing by mobilizing and transforming their institutional capacities of adaptation and creativity. Particular attention is being paid to the role of technologies and systems of signification in the produc-

CAS PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Centre for the Study of Religion (CSR) at the University of Leipzig
- Department of History
- Francophone Research Centre at the University of Leipzig (FFSL)
- Global and European Studies Institute (GESI)
- Ibero-American Research Centre at the University of Leipzig (IARCUL)
- Institute of African Studies
- Institute for American Studies
- Institute of East Asian Studies
- Institute of Anthropology
- Institute for Geography
- Institute of Oriental Studies
- Institute of Philosophy
- Institute of Political Science
- Institute for Public International Law, European Law and Foreign Public Law
- Institute of Romance Studies
- Institute for the Study of Culture
- Institute for the Study of Religions
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL)
- Leipzig Centre for the History and Culture of East-Central Europe (GWZO)

tion of order and disorder. The research programme aims at utilizing the collaborative potential of African studies throughout Germany and increasing the discipline’s international visibility. It does so by facilitating innovative, interdisciplinary research and by promoting research approaches that promise to take African agency seriously. The implementation of the SPP 1448 is shared together between the universities of Halle and Leipzig, with the second of three two-year periods of funding having begun on 1 January 2013.

CHANGING STATENESS IN AFRICA – PRACTICES AND IMAGINATIONS FROM CAMEROON AND GHANA

This project, which is a common initiative of Ulf Engel (Institute of African Studies), Matthias Middell (Global and European Studies Institute) at the University of Leipzig, and David Simo from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon, within the framework of the DFG Priority Programme (SPP 1448): “Adaptation and Creativity in Africa – Technologies and Significations in the Production of Order and Disorder” aims at contributing to the debate on the nature of the state in Africa by focussing on the subjective experiences of changing stateness in Africa. The debate in the humanities and social sciences on the state in Africa is often highly normative. The state in Africa then is measured in terms of deviations from an assumed European or Western model. Unsurprisingly the state in Africa is then seen as deficient, where “juridical” trumps “empirical” statehood and the conventional narrative is one of “state decay” or “state failure”. In contrast, the project asks how Africans perceive their states and what they expect from statehood.

SMWK RESEARCH PROGRAMME

NEW REGIONALISMS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER: MAPPING LATIN AMERICA AND AFRICA

Regionalisms are a key feature of the changing global order. Since the end of the Cold War an increasing diversity of actors with different ideas and concepts has emerged. In addition to conventional regional organizations driven by nation states, private actors are pursuing their own and often contradictory ideas of “region”. This complexity manifests itself in a dynamic production and negotiation of regions today. The project investigates these dynamics from various angles and brings them together in the form of a conceptualized mapping. Special emphasis is placed on Africa and Latin America, where formal and informal processes of regional building are increasingly perceived as part of a changing global order. In this context, normative categories derived from the European model of integration are often misleading. Therefore, the understanding of regionalism is conceptualized from a reciprocal perspective grounded in empirical field work. From January 2013 to December 2014, the project is funded by the “Research in Humanities” programme of the State Ministry of Science and the Arts (SMWK) of Saxony.