



Social Mobilization, Migration and Citizenship

1st Workshop between the Research Networks Kompetenznetz Lateinamerika – Ethnicity, Citizenship, Belonging and Crossroads Asia

Date and Venue: Wednesday 17th July 2013; 9:30 am – 17:00 pm at ZEF in Bonn

Aim and Background of the Workshop

The main objective of this introductory and informal meeting between the two BMBF funded Sister Networks Kompetenznetz Lateinamerika (KLA) and Crossroads Asia (Xroads) was to identify crosscutting issues for further thematic exchange and a way forward with respect to immersed co-operation.

The meeting was co-organized by Eva Youkhana (KLA/ILZ) and Katja Mielke (Xroads) and attended by 21 network members and affiliated researchers from the University Bielefeld, the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC), the University of Bonn (ZEF and ILZ), the University of Cologne, the University of Hannover, the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich and the University Tübingen (see list of participants in annex for further information on participants).

Workshop Procedure

Following an introductory round, the scientific coordinators of KLA (Sarah Albiez-Wieck) and Xroads (Anna-Katharina Hornidge) presented on the regional and thematic alignment and on the structures both networks have established so far.

As KLA has recently been approved for a second funding phase, Albiez-Wieck gave a short input on experiences with the second phase application referring to thematic expansion and administrative issues, e.g. dialogue and knowledge transfer with local Latin-American research and educational institutes and media, co-operations with NGOs and the inclusion of further world regions into the research agenda of the KLA. By contrast, Xroads has the self-appointed mandate to reflect on conventional areas and challenge traditional thinking in fixed containers (e.g. the “region Central Asia”). Thus, Xroads aims to re-conceptualize the basis of Area Studies, e.g. by applying an agency-focus with (social) mobility of people, objects and ideas at its nub.

The first thematic presentation by Eva Youkhana and Lara Juessen scrutinized historical and recent socio-political neighborhood movements against the backdrop of 15-M, the mortgage crisis, and anti-

Franco movements in the seventies in Spain. The presenters concluded that neighborhood movements have acquired traditional status in Spain: On the one hand, they were able to mobilize people who then learned to claim their rights and thus “became citizens”. Leaders of the anti-Franco movement later on became political leaders in following elections. On the other hand the recent 15-M movements frame different kinds of actors as they are auto-organized. Katja Mielke’s presentation on social mobilization in low income areas in Lahore and Karachi (Pakistan) distinguished between protest – in which platforms emerge and which can result in movements – and quiet mobilization – defined by passive networks in normal times. Taking a different perspective from the first presentation, Mielke came to the conclusion that a movement is not in sight in Lahore and Karachi. No strategic collection is apparent; instead threats result in rather isolated ad-hoc incidences of mobilization. The ensuing discussion focused on the question whether larger mobilization movements might be inhibited by prevailing social orders, if this implies a culturally unique situation in Pakistan as compared to Spain, or whether the lack of strategic movements in Pakistan can be explained by adding context conditions.

The presentation on top-down mobilization along a case study of naturalizations in Venezuela by Tobias Schwarz focused on strategic deliberations of the Venezuelan government and the “Mission Identity” as well as prevailing national narratives, which explicitly include immigrants. The following discussion focused on the question, who is being mobilized by whom and to what ends as well as the inverse question; which migrants are excluded from naturalization and why. The discussions could not be concluded during the workshop given limited empirical data and the extent of politicization of this issue.

Thereafter Joe Hill presented on mobilization and citizenship along three case studies from his recent field trips to Tajikistan, India and Pakistan, where he is studying hill irrigation communities in high mountain valleys. Instances of social mobilization relating to irrigated agriculture are largely related to big and rapid changes in irrigation systems and political interventions are carried out on a macro level. On the other hand, notions of entitlements or citizenship are rather weak and the constitutions of water rights depend on authorities. The following discussion problematized whether and which external actors play a role in social mobilization on irrigation issues, whether allocation issues are prevailing and how the research results can be related to Area Studies.

The guest speaker Margit Fauser from Bielefeld University defined four elements of citizenship in her public lecture on ‘Migration and the multiple spaces of citizenship’ in the afternoon: 1. Status and membership, 2. rights and obligations, 3. practices and participation and 4. identification and solidarity, arguing that these are all different discourses on or elements of citizenship but not necessarily congruent on one single scale. While international migration is increasing, practice and theory around citizenship might not converge. The international migration or spatial mobility binds people to multiple places and this in turn makes rights and practices of the respective citizen more entangled. Fauser then applied her concept to two case studies, one Columbian migrant to Berlin, who severed all contacts to Columbia and now identifies as Berlin citizen. The other case study centered on a Turkish migrant in Bielefeld who also does not identify as citizen of Turkey but instead identifies with and engages himself politically for the village his parents came from.

Wrap up and Outlook

In the final discussion of the workshop on Social Mobilization, Migration and Citizenship between the ILZ / KLA and Xroads Asia, members of both networks highlighted that despite the ILZ does not work with the concept of mobilization and Xroads does not research the notion of citizenship, there is significant mutual ground to be explored further. Consequently, both networks expressed their wish to continue and profit from the initial co-operation. Several crosscutting themes were discussed for a next meeting in December 2013 and it was decided to then discuss the Crossroads Asia Working Paper on Area Studies, which was drafted by Katja Mielke and is currently being disseminated within Crossroads Asia for comments. The ILZ / KLA network will suggest a discussant from among their members to initiate a debate during the planned workshop.

Annex

| Participant | Network | Institution |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Bromand, Wagma | Xroads | ZEF Bonn |
| Cermeno, Helena | - | ZEF Bonn |
| Youkhana, Eva | ILZ/KLA | Uni Bonn |
| Juessen, Lara | ILZ/KLA | Uni Bonn |
| Volkner, Ruth | - | BICC Bonn |
| Franzen, Simon | - | - |
| Fauser, Margit | - | Uni Bielefeld |
| Grieser, Anna | Xroads | LMU Munich |
| Hornidge, Anna-Katharina | Xroads | ZEF Bonn |
| Schwarz, Tobias | ILZ/KLA | Uni Köln |
| Jüssen, Jana | Xroads | ZEF Bonn (minutes) |
| Mielke, Katja | Xroads | ZEF Bonn |
| Nadjmabadi, Shahnaz | Xroads | University Tuebingen |
| Nokkala, Nelli | Xroads | ZEF Bonn (minutes) |
| Albietz-Wieck, Sarah | ILZ/KLA | Uni Köln |
| Schetter, Conrad | Xroads | BICC Bonn |
| Wittger, Bea | ILZ/KLA | Uni Koeln |
| Manke, Albert | HILA | Uni Koeln |
| Celler, Danida | KLA | Uni Hannover |
| Hill, Joe | Xroads | ZEF Bonn |
| Schmidt, Emilia | KLA | Uni Bonn |