

'The history of all cultures is the history of cultural borrowing' (Edward W. Said)

The concept of 'cultural transfer' has boomed in recent decades, to the point where it has become established as a comprehensive paradigm. Today cultures are no longer understood as isolated units, but as hybrid formations involved in permanent exchange, themselves always strongly influenced by other cultures and in turn influencing others. Transfer between cultures has come to be regarded as the rule rather than the exception.

Yet cultural transfer phenomena are not something researchers simply find. Instead the production of knowledge about cultural transfer is always itself subject to cultural, political and ideological conditions that affect whether particular transfer phenomena are noticed at all, regarded positively or negatively, held to be more or less probable, or even completely denied (or conversely invented from scratch). Nor are the consequences of the findings neutral: they can be used to glorify or debase cultures, to accuse or exonerate, to mediate between different cultures or to divide them. Thus statements on transfer can be described as 'representations', as human ideas that both describe and shape the cultural world.

Representations of transfer are important forums of negotiation for the constitution of cultures. They can blur boundaries, but they can equally serve to separate and divide. This is best observed in those cases where representations are negotiated through open conflict.

The conference 'Transfer in Dispute' will compare concrete examples of controversial representations of transfer in and between three major regions of the world: Asia, the Arab World, and Europe. In all three regions representations of cultural transfer play an important role in the definition of 'own' and 'other' culture, whereby the patterns of representations are certainly varied and complex. The objective of the conference is to conduct a comparative, critical self-reflection of scholarly and intellectual representation practices of 'transfer' in these regions by placing them within and between the respective cultural frameworks.

'Transfer in Dispute' is a conference of the Working Group 'Knowledge and Transfer' at the SFB (Sonderforschungsbereich/ Collaborative Research Centre) 640: 'Repräsentationen sozialer Ordnungen im Wandel' (Changing Representations of Social Order), Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**in cooperation with:
Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin**

Concept and organization:

Jörg Feuchter, Medieval Studies
(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin/SFB 640)
Friedhelm Hoffmann, Middle Eastern Studies
(Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin/SFB 640)
Bee Yun, Political Science
(Seoul National University/SFB 640)

For further information please contact:

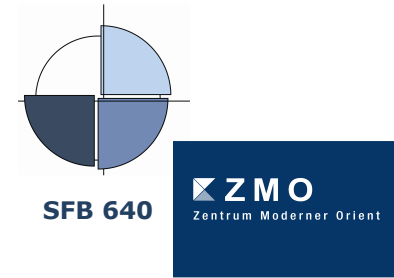
Dr. Jörg Feuchter
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Sonderforschungsbereich 640
Mohrenstr. 40/41
D-10099 Berlin
Phone: ++49 30 2093 4759/-4722
Fax: ++49 30 2093 4893
Email: feuchterj@geschichte.hu-berlin.de
www.sfb-repraesentationen.de

The conference is open to the public. No registration is required.

Both venues are accessible to people with disabilities.

Gefördert durch die:
Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

DFG



Transfer in Dispute
Controversial Representations of
Cultural Borrowings in Asia, the
Arab World, and Europe

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
November 26-28, 2009

**International conference of
Sonderforschungsbereich 640**

**in cooperation with
Zentrum Moderner Orient (Berlin)**

Thursday, November 26, 2009

Humboldt-Universität, Senatssaal*

Opening Session

18.15 Addresses: Jörg Baberowski (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Dean of the Dept. of Philosophy I and Head of Sonderforschungsbereich 640)

Benjamin Zachariah (Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin)

18.30 Keynote Lecture:

Heiner Roetz (Ruhr-Universität Bochum):

Transfer in Dispute. China and the West

19.30 Reception

Friday, November 27, 2009

Humboldt-Universität, Raum 3119**

09.30 Transfer in Dispute. Introduction (Jörg Feuchter, Friedhelm Hoffmann, Bee Yun)

10.00 **Panel I: The Transfer of Violence and Fascism. The Colony and the Colonial Power**

Benjamin Zachariah (ZMO/University of Sheffield): Rethinking (the Absence of) Fascism in India, 1922-1945

Joseph-Simon Görlach (University College London): Islamofascism. Western Representations of Fascist Influences on Islamic Thought

Andreas Weiß (Humboldt-Universität/SFB 640): Kolonialismus und Gewalt. Postulierte Transfers und politische Instrumentalisierung (with English translation)

14.30 **Panel II: An Unbalanced Triangle? Transfers between East Asia, the Arab World, and Europe in the 19th and 20th Century**

Young Sun Ha (Seoul National University): The Conceptual History of 'Civilization' in the 19th Century Korea

Jung Woon Choi (Seoul National University): The Importation of Love from Modern Europe to Korea

Mohammad El-Sayed Selim (Kuwait University): Arab Representations of Transfers

Yi-Kai Chen (Cheng Kung University, Tainan/Taiwan): Der Transfer der westlichen Demokratie in den chinesischen Kulturraum (with English translation)

19.00 End of Day I

** Room 3119 is located at the end of the east wing of Humboldt University. It is best accessible from Dorotheenstrasse/Hegelplatz, via the back court of the building. Please enter the court through the left iron gate, then take the first entrance on the left. Take the elevator to the second floor.

Saturday, November 28, 2009

Humboldt-Universität, Raum 3119**

09.30 **Panel III: The Transfer of Legal and Political Systems and Ideas**

Friedhelm Hoffmann (ZMO/SFB 640):

Legal Authenticity, Cultural Insulation and Undemocratic Rule. Abd-al-Razzâq al-Sanhûrî's (1895-1971) Sharia Project and Its Misrepresentation in Egypt

Naseef Naeem (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen): Parliamentarism in the New Iraqi Constitution: Integration or Disintegration through Transfer?

Bee Yun (Seoul National University/SFB 640): Aristotle between the Levant and Longthorpe: Circulation and Localization of Political Ideas in the Later Middle Ages

14.00 **Panel IV: Islam and Christianity in the Middle Ages. Historiographies of Cultural Transfer and Insulation**

Kristin Skottki (Universität Rostock): Medieval Western Perceptions of Islam and the Scholars: What Went Wrong?

Dorothea Weltecke (Universität Konstanz): The Sultan of Lucera: Emperor Frederick II (1194-1250) and His Relations to Muslims in Modern Perspectives

Wolfram Drews (Univ. Köln/Dölger-Institut, Bonn): Jewish or Islamic Influence? The Iconoclastic Controversy in Dispute

Tim Geelhaar (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt): Did the Medieval West Receive a 'Complete Model' of Education from Classical Islam? George Makdisi (1920-2002) and His Thesis Reconsidered

Jörg Feuchter (Humboldt-Universität/SFB 640): Transcultural Histories of Violence. The Transfer of Religious Violence from Islam as an Explanatory Stereotype in Medieval Studies

18.00 Hartmut Kaelble (Humboldt-Universität/SFB 640): Résumé of the Conference

18.30-19.15 Final Discussion

* Senate Hall is located right above the main entry of Humboldt University (Unter den Linden 6, Berlin-Mitte, S+U Friedrichstrasse). There is an elevator to the first floor in the west wing of the building.