



June 2019

Newsletter

Events

3 June 10:30 – 12:00 (HFW12)

Monday Seminar RDD

Angie Heo (University of Chicago):

"Missionary, Hostage, Ransom, Spy"

6 June 11:00 – 13:00 (HFW12)

SCD Team Meeting (w-i-p presentation)

Shahd Wari:

"The Social Life of Refugee Accommodations: Similarities and Differences in transformed structures"

13-14 June 8:00 – 18:00 (Alte Mensa)

Workshop RDD

"Transnational giving: Evolving paths of religion, community and citizenship in globally connected Asia".

(co-hosted by **CeMIS**)

14 June 9:00 – 17:00 (Alte Mensa)

Conference ELP

"SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT IN THE DOMAIN OF EUROPEAN UNION CITIZENSHIP"

17 June 11:00 – 19:00 (HFW 12)

ATM Inter-group meeting

Inter-group meeting on transnational ageing.

By invitation only

18 June 10:30 – 12:00 (HFW12)

Seminar RDD

Ward Keeler (The University of Texas at Austin):
"Comparative Queer Southeast Asian Studies"

19 June 16:00 – (HFW 12)

Summer Party

20 June 11:00 – 13:00 (HFW12)

SCD Team Meeting (w-i-p presentation)

Departments

Ethic, Law and Politics

Elena Prats is a guest at the Department from 5 June until end of August.

Elena is a PhD candidate in Legal Philosophy at the Philosophy Department of the Uppsala University and at the Law Faculty at the University Pompeu Fabra. Her research lies in the field of migration, particularly on élite mobility. Her dissertation aims to assess the legitimacy of the programs granting citizenship in exchange for economic transactions in the European Union. At the Uppsala University, she teaches the curses on Legal Philosophy, Migration Ethics and Bioethics and Biolaw.



Prats holds three bachelor degrees (Philosophy, Asian Studies, and Law), and a master degree in Internationalization. Before her journey in Sweden, she lived in Tokyo (Japan), where she lectured at the Waseda and Sophia Universities. As a teenager, Prats was élite sportswoman in Taekwondo.

Jacob Webster is a guest at the Department from 23 June until 3 August.

Jacob studies Law at the University of Toronto and works on topics surrounding law and political science.

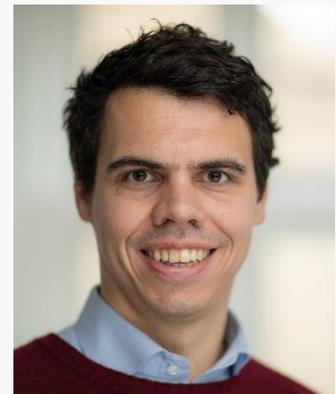
Anju Xing is a guest at the Department from 23 June until 3 August.

Anju is a current J.D. Candidate at the University of Toronto. She conducts research for Professors Ayelet Shachar and Ran Hirschl on topics of citizenship and immigration, law and religion, and comparative constitutionalism.



Religious Diversity

Dr Arndt Emmerich will join the Department of Religious Diversity as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in June 2019. As part of his new project, he will analyse the role of local mosque activism during the German refugee crisis through a comparative neighbourhood perspective. Prior to this, Dr Emmerich was a Postdoctoral Research Officer at the Oxford Department International Development, working for the Changing Structures of Islamic Authority project. He carried out an ethnographic study in various cities in Germany and the UK, in order to understand how Muslim youths learn about Islam, decide which Islamic tradition they follow and how mosque-based authorities ensure to stay relevant for the second and third generation of European Muslims. Dr Emmerich holds a DPhil and MPhil from the Oxford Department International Development and a BA in Sociology from the University of Essex. In his forthcoming monograph "Islamic Movements in India - Moderation and its Discontents", Dr Emmerich conducted long-term participatory research within an assertive Islamic movement in the Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and New Delhi. He drew on insights from political sociology, post-colonial studies and social movement theory to analyse the ways Islamic movements participate in the democratic process, negotiate with the secular state and align with other Muslim and non-Muslim groups.



Dr **Mona Oraby** will be a fellow at the department during June and July.

Mona Oraby is Assistant Professor of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought at Amherst College. Her research sits at the intersection of law, religion, and politics with a focus on the legal regulation of religious difference in contemporary states. She has ongoing interests in secularism and secularity, the relationship between conversion and modern governance, as well as the legal processes through which religious majorities and minorities are constructed over time. Before joining Amherst, she was the Jerome Hall Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Law, Society, and Culture at Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She earned her PhD in Political Science from Northwestern University, where she also completed graduate certificates in Religion & Global Politics and Middle East & North African Studies as well as held affiliations in the Center for Legal Studies, the International Studies Program, and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs. Since 2017 she has served as Managing Editor of *The Immanent Frame*, the Social Science Research Council's digital publication dedicated to interdisciplinary questions of religion, secularism, and the public sphere.



Prof Dr **Hui Wang** is a guest of the department from 10 June until end of August. From 2018-2023 Prof. Hui Wang is working at the East Asian Department of the University of Göttingen based on an Anneliese Maier Research Award granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Wang Hui, who in the past served as the coeditor of the influential Chinese journal *Dushu*, is not only a highly influential figure in the academic and sociopolitical debates in China. Also in many other parts of the world, his works – for instance his critical reflections on Chinese and global modernity – have been widely received. In 2008, the magazine *Foreign Policy* listed him among the top 100 most influential intellectuals worldwide. In Germany, he has already contributed to public debates through substantially published dialogues with politicians like Helmut Schmidt or Sigmar Gabriel.



Dr **Thien-Huong Ninh** is a guest from 23 June until 7 August. Thien-Huong is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Consumnes River College, USA (CRC). Her research expertise includes Race, Gender, Religion, and Immigration (particularly forced displacement as in the case of refugees).



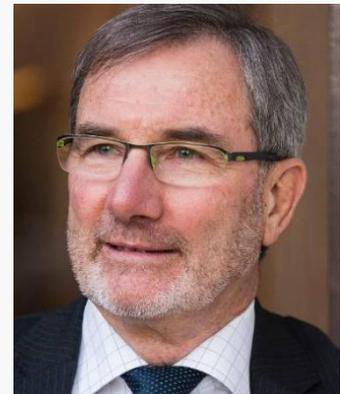
As a refugee and first-generation college student, she is familiar with the challenges that confront students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds and is passionate about helping them succeed in college and achieve their life goals.

Before coming to CRC, she taught at Williams College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, the University of the West, and several California State University campuses.

Socio-cultural Diversity

Paul Spoonley is a guest at the department from 30 June until 17 August.

Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University. He is also a Principal Investigator on the MBIE-funded programme, Capturing the Diversity Dividend of Aotearoa New Zealand (2014-2020). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, and a Research Fellow of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of California Berkeley. He was a Board member of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and is the current Chair of the TEC PBRF Panel for Social Sciences and Other Cultural/Social Studies.



Paul is the editor or author of 27 books, which include a biography of Ranginui Walker (*Mata Toa. The Life and Times of Ranginui Walker*, 2009), a number of books on ethnic identity and immigration (*Welcome to Our World? Immigration and the Reshaping of New Zealand*, 2012) and

demographic and economic change (*Rebooting the Regions*, 2016) as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

List of Guests

Name	Research	Home Institution	Stay
Corey-Levi Cloyd	Integration versus assimilation: Ausländerfeindlichkeit, Flüchtlingskrise and the future of German culture	-	07.09.2017 – 31.08.2019
Dr. Ashitha Mandakathingal	Hinduisation of Performance Art and its Gender Implications	-	17.07.2018 – 30.06.2020
Sara Ryu	Christian evangelical missionary organization from South Korea to German	University of Toronto	08.10.2018 – 31.07.2019
Dr. Gün Güley	Denizenship and its Discontents. Immigration, Citizenship, and Voting Rights in an Era of Cosmopolitan Nationalism	Hamburg University	02.03.2019 – 02.06.2019
Thomas Meaney	GOOD REFUGEE, BAD REFUGEE: The Politics of Migration in Today's Europe	Journalist in residence	21.03.2019 – 21.06.2019
Steffi Unsleber	Wie verändert rechte Gewalt Kleinstädte und Dörfer?	Journalist in residence	15.04.2019 – 12.07.2019
Thoby King	Law and literature	University of Toronto	05.05.2019 – 22.06.2019
Michael Lutsky	Law and psychology	University of Toronto	05.05.2019 – 22.06.2019
Prof. Janet Bauer	Research and writing of a comparative monograph on migration / refugees	Trinity College Hartford, CT	20.05.2019 – 22.07.2019
Dr. Mona Oraby	Book project: "Administering Religious Difference: Secularism, Minorities, and the Rule of Law".	Department of Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought, Amherst College	01.06.2019 – 31.07.2019

Elena Prats	Citizenship by investment programs: theories and practices	Uppsala University	05.06.2019 – 31.08.2019
Prof. Hui Wang	Global Historical Perspectives on 20th-Century Chinese History	Tsinghua University, China	10.06.2019 – 31.08.2019
Dr. Thien-Huong Ninh	-	Consumnes River College, USA	23.06.2019 – 07.08.2019
Anju Xing	citizenship and immigration, law and religion, and comparative constitutionalism	University of Toronto	23.06.2019 – 03.08.2019
Jacob Webster	law and political science	University of Toronto	23.06.2019 – 03.08.2019
Prof. Paul Spoonley	1) Social, economic and demographic changes in New Zealand, 2000-2020, 2) Visualising superdiversity - refinement and publications	Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand	30.06.2019 – 17.08.2019

Interview of the Month

In order to get to know our colleagues and guests better, we'd like to introduce them to you in short interviews. This month, **Vanessa Rau** answers some questions.



Where are you from?

After many years living in Berlin, I often say I am from Berlin. That is not entirely true, but might be due to the fact that many places have

influenced me but I feel most at home in Berlin. I was actually born and raised in Frankfurt and went to school there as well as in Rhode Island, USA. After that, I lived and worked in Chile, before

commencing my studies in the UK and then moved to Berlin. Later, I also spent time in Israel-Palestine.

About you and your family?

I am from a family, which was not rooted in one specific place. My grandparents left Poland to live in Western Germany and I think spatial movement and change is not only part of my family but also of my own biography. Before I was born, my parents lived in Rwanda where my brother, one of my two siblings, was born. The relations and connections to Rwanda and abroad played a big role in my family and might have stimulated my interest and fascination for the social sciences and curiosity and passion for culture, religion as well as the field of migration but also discrimination. Perhaps this background has also fueled my recurring 'Fernweh' (one of the untranslatable terms, sometimes referred to as 'itchy feet' or 'wanderlust'), my interest in social constructions of difference and my discomfort with strong national attachments and emotions.

Academic background

I am part of the research project civil society organizations and the challenges of Migration and Diversity (ZOMiDi) where I am responsible for the qualitative study of the "Lebenshilfe e.V." an

organization for people with mental disabilities and deal with the topic of migration and disability. I am very interested in the politics of difference. This was also part of my recently finished dissertation in Sociology at the University of Cambridge which dealt with the recent phenomenon of Israeli Migration to Berlin and a newly emerging Hebrew-Jewish Scene in Berlin, which is characterized by processes of migration and conversion. In this ethnography, I particularly worked with biographical-narrative interviews and is based on extensive participative fieldwork in different communities.

Already in my BA studies at the University of Cambridge in social and political science, a very broad course which included anthropology and psychology, I lay a focus on secularism and secularity, migration as well as religious cultural and religious diversity. During my MA (Humboldt and Free University Berlin) I continued these themes in combination with international politics and cultural and religious studies and became very interested in post-colonial theory. During my PhD in Cambridge, I was part of the Cluster 'Race' and 'Gender' and part of the working group 'Decolonise Cambridge', which greatly inspired and influenced me. I am generally interested in

qualitative methods and thinking intersectionally especially in the realms of migration, gender and sexuality, class and race as well as the politics of identity, religion and secularity and the politics of difference.

What do you think about Göttingen?

Since I continue living in Berlin, I must admit that I don't yet know Göttingen so well. Before coming

here, I already knew of its strong left-wing tradition and well-established left political scene. I particularly like how the University and student life influences the city's relaxed and friendly atmosphere and appreciate the relatively large cultural scene and the fact that you can find bars and cafes where different generations meet and come together.

Library

The list of new acquisitions of the library is attached as a separate document.

Miscellaneous

Here you might find all published newsletters.
<http://intranet.mmg.mpg.de/>