



Abstract Volume 11th Swiss Geoscience Meeting

Lausanne, 15th – 16th November 2013

23. Symposium in Human Geography

sc | nat 

Swiss Academy of Sciences
Akademie der Naturwissenschaften
Accademia di scienze naturali
Académie des sciences naturelles

Unil

UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Faculté des géosciences
et de l'environnement

23. Symposium in Human Geography

Olivier Graefe & Martin Müller

Swiss Geography Association (ASG)

TALKS:

- 23.1 Berndt C.: Behavioral economics, experimentalism and the marketization of development
- 23.2 Forêt P.: Cycles and Events in Environmental History: The Return of Greenness in Victoria Harbour
- 23.3 Guelat J., Kaenzig R., Piguet E.: Environmental change and human migration: state of the art and new research results
- 23.4 Haisch, T.: Individual versus regional economic resilience: Perceptions of crises and resilience in resource-dependent communities
- 23.5 Kern A.: Manpower agencies in Nepal and their contested function of facilitation
- 23.6 Laketa S.: Youth and Affective Geopolitics of Everyday Life in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 23.7 Mayer H., Baumgartner D.: The federal strategy for rural and mountain areas in Switzerland: Finding ways to embed endogenous territorial development into a coherent national framework
- 23.8 Mayer H., Bürcher S., Habersetzer A.: Entrepreneurship in peripheral regions: Conceptual approaches to studying entrepreneurial heritage and embeddedness from an evolutionary perspective
- 23.9 Militz E.: Europe as identifier - empirical insights from Azerbaijan
- 23.10 Raeymaekers T., Vogel C.: The geography of property: a case study from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- 23.11 Rattu P.: Gouvernamentalité néolibérale de l'eau en Suisse: dynamiques en évolution, entre centralisation et renforcement des administrations locales
- 23.12 Sontowski S.: Biometric border control in the making
- 23.13 Sudmeier-Rieux K., Penna I., Jaquet S., Kaenzig R., Schwilch G., Jaboyedoff M., Liniger H.: Understanding migration impacts on sustainable land management. Case studies from Bolivian and Nepalese mountain populations.

23.1

Behavioral economics, experimentalism and the marketization of development

Berndt Christian

Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich (christian.berndt@geo.uzh.ch)

For quite some time now, the market has been considered as the panacea for development in the global south. A heterogeneous development community is actively implicated in the extension of capitalist market relations and/or the reconfiguration of the ways in which people and places in the global south are articulated with global commodity circuits (*marketization*). Aiming at the mobilization of the poorest segments of the population, policies travel under catchy slogans such as “markets for the poor” (M4P) and connect to established academic models such as the global value chain. What is promised in this context is the improvement of individual livelihoods by overcoming perceived obstacles to market-integration. In this paper I engage with the “marketization of development” from a perspective that draws inspiration from performativity and governmentality studies, developing my argument in three steps:

First, although the drive towards a marketization of development is already well documented in the academic literature, it is often overlooked that underlying this drive is a profound shift in the way the market is conceptualized. This is connected to the ongoing transformation of development economics and economics more generally and, as a result of this, economic policy intervention and formulation. Just as in other economic sub-disciplines the old neoclassical orthodoxy has been challenged by behavioral and experimental approaches. Development programs and policies are increasingly legitimated in opposition to the neoclassical market, the implementation of the GVC concept, for instance, rationalized with an apparently more realistic treatment of market integration. In sum, in this emergent new orthodoxy it seems that the rational market centered on the *homo economicus* ceases to be the model for human action.

Second, the emergence of this new orthodoxy is accompanied by a reorientation with regard to the target of market-oriented development policies. It is no longer the failing market as an institution to which policy interventions are directed but the failing market subject. Rather than focusing on institutions that may resolve problems between people, emphasis is put on problems “within a person” (Mullainathan 2005: 33). As a result of this, market-based development has turned to behavioral engineering, actively formulated to address the bounded rationality or “irrationality” of the subject of development (e.g. World Bank 2010). In the typical discourse of economic behavioralism attention is directed to “self-control problems”, “loss aversion”, and “hyperbolic discounting”, and concrete policies are formulated with the help of well-known prompts such as the ones provided by Richard Thaler (e.g. Thaler/Sunstein 2008). Not surprisingly given the self-proclaimed birth of “libertarian paternalism” as a new movement (Thaler/Sunstein 2008: 5), in its developmentalist cloth behavioral engineering comes with only thinly disguised paternalistic undertones, “short-termism” and “impatience” being blamed for suboptimal development outcomes and behavioral anomalies regarded as being particularly wide-spread in the global south (Anderson/Stamoulis 2006: 12, 17).

The third section of the paper turns to the question of how exactly the new orthodoxy works on the subject. In order to reconstruct the practical constitution of emerging market subjects I direct my attention to concrete market experiments designed to identify the best way to change suboptimal individual behavior in a development context. To this end a confusing array of technical tools and instruments is mobilized, so-called “commitment devices” designed to force individuals to voluntarily modify their behavior in the desired direction. To this end, peer pressure and competitive benchmarking play a crucial role, often actively utilizing and thereby (re)producing various registers of social difference (e.g. gender).

Heeding Mitchell’s (2007: 245) advice to focus on what economists do rather than on what they say, I conclude my paper with second thoughts on the apparent retreat of neoliberal market-thinking in the development context. For the explicit distancing from market fundamentalism notwithstanding, policy interventions at a second glance are in fact also a means to (re)stabilize the belief in the perfect, competitive market and the rational economic subject. This is for two reasons: First, there still is an unfettered belief in the inherently positive nature of the market. Applications of choice architecture and design economics to the “problem of development” are full of positive references to diversity, freedom and morality as integral parts of perfect markets. Second and relatedly, protagonists of behavioral developmentalism are at pains to stress that social engineering is only a means to achieve the perfect market as an ultimate goal. “Markets can be learnt” – this is the message. By reducing development to a technical problem of social engineering and paying little more than lip service to issues of redistribution and recognition, policy interventions designed in the name of marketization are unlikely to live up to the expectations raised by their protagonists.

REFERENCES:

- Anderson, C.L. and Stamoulis, K. (2006): *Applying behavioural economics to international development policy*. United Nations University, World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER), Research Paper No. 2006/24.
- Mitchell, T. (2007): The properties of markets. In: MacKenzie D., Muniesa, F. and Siu, L. (eds), *Do Economists Make Markets? On the Performativity of Economics*, Princeton University Press, Princeton: 244-275.
- Mullainathan, S. (2005): Development economics through the lens of psychology. In: Bourguignon F. and Pleskovic, B. (eds), *Annual World Bank Conference in Development Economics 2005: Lessons of Experience*, The World Bank / Oxford University Press, New York: 45-70.
- Thaler, R.H. and Sunstein, C.R. (2008): *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, And Happiness*. Yale University Press, New Haven.
- World Bank (2010): *World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change*. Washington.

23.2

Cycles and Events in Environmental History: The Return of Greenness in Victoria Harbour

Forêt, Philippe,

Chair of Chinese culture and Society, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of St. Gallen, Girtannerstrasse 6, CH-9010 St. Gallen (pforet@bluewin.ch)

This paper will discuss circularity in the perception of the environment by using recurrence as a leading theme in the rewriting of the historical geography of Hong Kong. I will criticize the ‘artifice of good policy’ that has benefited the colonial and postcolonial administrations of Hong Kong (Ngo 1999). Impatient with the government’s uncritical approach toward history and with its heavy hand toward geography, scholars have reassessed positive clichés about Hong Kong (Tsang 2004). They have questioned why a ‘miraculous development model’ would have let the government decide alone ‘what kind of place Hong Kong had been and will be’ (Carroll 2006). They concur on the significance of place in any investigation of this terrain, where global dynamism, ruptures and connections have met the creativity of local cultures and a challenging physical environment.

Geographers may regret that the notion of ‘subjectivity in a space of disappearance’ (Abbas 1997) says little on the environmental history of that ‘space’ and on the many formulations of reality and representation allowed by the conflation of the local and global scales. As I review the research done on the politics of geographical disappearance, I will seek to answer several questions. How have official and alternative narratives of remembrance influenced public memory, urban planning, nature preservation, heritage policy, and debates about the city’s environment? How do we comprehend the environmental values and attitudes of a Chinese metropolis that experts and officials have repeatedly robbed of its past, culture, identity and sense of place?

My sources of information come mostly from fiction by writers like Dung Kai-Cheung and from the comparison of historical records to today’s advertising campaigns that promote environmental awareness.

REFERENCES

- Abbas, A. 1997. *Hong Kong. Culture and the Politics of Disappearance*. Minneapolis MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1997.
- Carroll, J.M. 2006. “Colonial Hong Kong as a Cultural-Historical Place.” *Modern Asian Studies*, 40-2, 517-543.
- Dung, K.C. 2012. *Atlas. The Archaeology of an Imaginary City [Ditujij]*. New York NY: Columbia University press.
- Forêt P. 2007. “Kartographie der Kontinuität: Vom vormodernen Ostasien zum postmodernen Hong Kong.” In Jürg Glauser and Christian Kiening, eds. *Text- Bild-Karte. Kartographien der Vormoderne*. Freiburg: Rombach, 131-145.
- Ngo, T.W. 1999. “Industrial History and the Artifice of Laissez-faire Colonialism.” In T.W. Ngo, ed. *Hong Kong's History: State and Society under Colonial Rule*. London: Routledge, 119-140.
- Tsang, S. 2004. *A Modern History of Hong Kong*. London: I.B. Tauris.

無論身處任何一個角落...
我們都希望
有好的環境



 綠色香港 我鍾意
I Love Hong Kong
I Love GREEN

香港特別行政區政府 環境局
Environment Bureau Hong Kong SAR Government

Figure 1. "I Love Hong Kong. I love GREEN" poster. Environment Bureau, Hong Kong SAR Government

23.3

Environmental change and human migration: state of the art and new research results

Jérémie Guélat¹, Raoul Kaenzig¹, Etienne Piguet¹

¹Institut de géographie, Université de Neuchâtel, FLSH, CH-2000 Neuchâtel
Jeremie.guelat@unine.ch, Raoul.kaenzig@unine.ch, Etienne.piguet@unine.ch.

The impact of environmental change on migration and the way migration can act as a response to environmental change are attracting an increasing attention from both policy-makers and researchers worldwide (Piguet 2012; Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences 2013). Yet, knowledge in this field remains limited and fragmented (Piguet and Laczko forthcoming 2013). This paper therefore provides an overview of the environmental change – migration nexus and investigates the key issues at stake. The concepts and methods most adequate to address these relationships will also be questioned (Warner et al. 2013; Piguet 2013).

In the second part of the paper, recent field research results from Bolivia and the Philippines will focus on the differentiate impact of glacial retreat (slow onset) and hurricanes (sudden onset) on population displacements including the social and political context in which the topic emerged, states' policy responses and the views of different institutional actors. Different types of human (im-)mobility linked to environmental degradation will be addressed, such as rural-urban migration and circular movements between Bolivian highlands and La Paz/El Alto, as well as urban forced displacements, immobility and flood-induced resettlement in Metro Manila's vulnerable riverways.

Whereas most empirical studies focus on the rural areas only, this paper also addresses the emerging issue of urban areas. In both case studies, migration flows are going towards major cities even if these areas are themselves characterized by a high environmental vulnerability and in some cases internal displacements of populations.

REFERENCES

- Piguet, E. 2012. Migration: The drivers of human migration. *Nature Clim. Change* 2 (6):400-401.
- . 2013. From "primitive migration" to "climate refugees" - The curious fate of the natural environment in migration studies. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 103 (1):148-162.
- Piguet, E., and F. Laczko eds. forthcoming 2013. *People on the move in a changing climate: Comparing the impact of environmental change in different regions of the world*: Springer.
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences. 2013. Environmental change and migration in developing countries. *FactSheet* - www.akademien-schweiz.ch/de/factsheets.
- Warner, K., T. Afifi, W. Kälin, S. Leckie, B. Ferris, S. F. Martin, and D. J. Wrathall. 2013. Changing climate, moving people: framing migration displacement and planned relocation. *UNU-EHS Policy Brief* (81).

23.4

Individual versus regional economic resilience: Perceptions of crises and resilience in resource-dependent communities

Tina Haisch¹

¹*Institute of Geography & Center for Regional Economic Development (CRED), University of Bern, Switzerland*

The current economic crisis not only challenges national economies across Europe but also stresses regional resilience, i.e. the adaptive capacity or shock resistance of regions, which at the moment is discussed in academic literature (Davies, 2011; Simmie & Martin, 2010).

From an evolutionary perspective it is argued, that recessionary shocks in the past strengthen a region's resistance and recovery to future economic shocks for example through restructuring processes from production oriented towards a more diversified economy (Martin, 2011), leading in the end to a more balanced regional incidence. This phenomenon can also be observed for the Swiss economy, which in times of the "Great Moderation" in the years after 1970, experienced a decline in volatility of growth rates compared to the period 1920-1950. Nevertheless, the resistance and recovery to economic shocks differs widely between different regions and is linked to the sectoral composition of a region's production activity (Martin 2011), trade linkages and institutions. While some studies deal with the overall economic reaction to or after economic shocks by making use of secondary data analysis across Europe (e.g. Davies 2012), only few studies investigate the interplay between different processes and perceptions of actors within a region in regard to economic resilience in detail.

In contrast to the 'adaptive cycle model' (Pendall, Foster, & Cowell, 2009; Simmie & Martin, 2010) of regional economies, in this paper it is argued that different actors (firms, organisations, associations, land owners etc.) have a very different perception and thus a different adaptive capacity with their own position within the "regional adaptive cycle". Consequently the argument, that a region as such can be classified according to the "adaptive cycle model", is challenged. Instead it is proposed that groups of similar actors (like companies in one specific industry) face the same problems and crises over time and thus have a similar adaptive capacity.

The aim of this paper is therefore to investigate the perception and the resulting behaviour and strategies of firms and other regional actors in a resource dependent community (Grindelwald, Jungfrauregion), which at the moment has to deal with several shocks and slow burns (Zweitwohninginitiative, strong Swiss Franc, sectoral change etc.)

For that purpose, a statistical analysis is conducted to answer the questions how have population and employment structure, GDP, number and structure of hotels, tourism infrastructure etc. changed in the last 10-20 years? Second, in-depth interviews with experts (e.g. from tourism associations or industry organisations) provide an understanding of the complex processes and different actor groups, which are coping with different problems in regard and other slow burns. Third, in a semi-structured inquiry, the different actor groups are asked directly to get insights into their actual strategies to overcome the crisis and the manifold slow burns, past problems and resulting learning processes, interaction patterns and support from public sector.

Preliminary results of the analyses are first, that indeed past 'shocks' and slow burns, lessons learned and established social and economic ties help the region now to deal with the actual insecurities. Second, different actors have a very different perception of the actual shock, in the sense that for some it is rather a chance, e.g. the "Zweitwohninginitiative" for the tourism industry and for others, e.g. the construction industry, it's a real shock with expected negative long-term effects. Thus, the effects of the shock are perceived very differently and the strategies developed on basis of the individual perceptions differ widely. Furthermore, the strategies are not only limited to overcome the actual disturbance but also to face on-going slow burns like e.g. the strong Swiss Franc.

REFERENCES

- Davies, S. (2011). Regional resilience in the 2008-2010 downturn: comparative evidence from European countries. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 4(3), 369–382. doi:10.1093/cjres/rsr019
- Martin, R. (2011). Regional economic resilience, hysteresis and recessionary shocks. *Journal of Economic Geography*, 12(1), 1–32. doi:10.1093/jeg/lbr019
- Pendall, R., Foster, K. a., & Cowell, M. (2009). Resilience and regions: building understanding of the metaphor. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 3(1), 71–84. doi:10.1093/cjres/rsp028
- Simmie, J., & Martin, R. (2010). The economic resilience of regions: towards an evolutionary approach. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 3(1), 27–43. doi:10.1093/cjres/rsp029

23.5

Manpower agencies in Nepal and their contested function of facilitation

Kern Alice¹

¹Human Geography, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstr. 190, CH-8057 Zürich (alice.kern@uzh.ch)

As the International Organization for Migration states, “facilitating migration for work can be a win-win proposition” (IOM 2013). However, Nepali manpower agents facilitating labour migration suffer from a very negative reputation. Recently, the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* published an article about the “fraudulent job agents” in Nepal who “shamelessly” exploit the poor population (Spalinger 2013). Also the Nepali newspapers enforce this negative image. For example, the *Kathmandu Post* (2013) regularly reports fraud cases, highlighting how “unscrupulous manpower agencies have long taken advantage of the desperation of Nepali citizens.” This research project looks behind the commonplace and explores the every day practice of labour brokerage in Nepal.

The dimension of international labour migration in Nepal has become immense. Every day, almost 1500 Nepalese leave their country in order to work abroad. Currently, the number of Nepali labour migrants has reached 3 million, not including the Nepali workers in India. The number of registered recruitment companies in Nepal has reached almost 800 today. The remittances represent almost a quarter of Nepal’s GDP, presenting an integral part of the national economy. International labour migration has also significant social and political impacts on Nepal’s development. Furthermore, the destination countries, especially the Gulf States, experience diverse consequences of migration, and benefit from the availability of cheap labour. Thus, migration has become big business.

While the motivation for, as well as the consequences of, migration has been topics of intensive research, many aspects of the migration industry (Gammeltoft-Hansen & Nyberg Sorensen 2013) have remained a black box. This research project aims at opening the black box of brokering migration (Lindquist et al 2012) and analyses the important role of migrant brokers and manpower agencies. Taking Nepal as a case study, we aim at answering the following research questions: Who facilitates international labour migration in Nepal? How do migrant brokers and manpower agencies function? What role do agents and agencies play in the emerging migration industry? Considering the tension between the negative reputation and the important practice of labour brokerage in Nepal, this project is also an example of doing research in a contested field.



Figure 1. People waiting for the approval of their emigration documents at the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE), Kathmandu, August 2013. Source: Photograph by Alice Kern.

REFERENCES

- Gammeltoft-Hansen, T. & Nyberg Sorensen, N. (Eds.) 2013: *The Migration Industry and the Commercialization of International Migration*. Oxon: Routledge.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2013: *Nepal - Facilitating Migration*. <http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/asia-and-the-pacific/nepal.default.html?displayTab=latest-news> (25.8.2013)
- Kathmandu Post 2013: *Troubled travellers*. <http://www.ekantipur.com/the-kathmandu-post/2013/08/25/editorial/troubled-travellers/252823.html> (26.08.2013)
- Lindquist, J., Xiang, B., & Yeoh, B.S.A. 2012: *Opening the Black Box of Migration: Brokers, the Organization of Transnational Mobility and the Changing Political Economy in Asia*. *Pacific Affairs* 85 (1), 7-19.
- Spalinger, A. 2013: *Exodus junger Männer aus Nepal*. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* 187, International, 9, 15.08.2013.

23.6

Youth and Affective Geopolitics of Everyday Life in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Sunčana Laketa

School of Geography and Development, University of Arizona, Harvill Bldg, PO Box 210076, Tucson, AZ 85721, slaketa@email.arizona.edu

Recent years have seen a proliferation of work concerning emotions and affect throughout social sciences, and geographers as well seem to follow the trend on bringing emotions back at the focus of research. This paper is a response to the emerging literature on emotion in politics (Ó Tuathail 2003; Pain 2009; Smith 2011; Thrift 2004) and an acknowledgment of their central relevance to critical and feminist geopolitics.

Drawing from my work in the ethnically-divided country of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I investigate the mundane practices of what has been called the “geopolitics of everyday life” (Smith 2011) in order to learn how ethnic identity is embodied through a diverse range of affective and emotional socio-spatial practices. Specifically, this study is an examination of the relationship between emotions, space and identity in Mostar, a city divided between two ethnic groups – Bosniaks and Croats. I focus in particular on Mostar’s high school students where effects of the volatile political climate are most acutely felt. Namely, the specific circumstances of young people in Mostar have made them one of the most vulnerable, yet highly politically charged, citizens. Being brought up in an extremely poignant post-war atmosphere has had significant influence on this generation’s perception of the city and its spaces, as well as their different notions of identity, belonging, difference and equality. In many ways, youth in Mostar have become significant geopolitical subjects where struggles over identity, territory and domination are being waged.

The findings point to the ways the human body, with its rich sensual and sensing world, is deeply implicated in geopolitical tensions and conflicts. In this paper I open a discussion on the role of visceral experiences of identity, belonging and exclusion in geopolitics, and on the ways we need to rethink and deepen our understanding of the body in order to account for these often automatic and unconscious “gut feelings”. Specifically, this research points to a complex and intertwined relationship among the psychic, sensual and social dimensions of identity, as well as between the discourses and materialities of the body and social space. In Mostar, geopolitical subjectivities emerge through an intricate process where the social and psychic intertwine in ways that make the inside and the outside overlap.

REFERENCES

- Ó Tuathail, G. 2003. “Just out looking for a fight”: American affect and the invasion of Iraq. *Antipode*, 35(5), 856-870.
- Pain, R. 2009. Globalized fear? Towards an emotional geopolitics. *Progress in Human Geography*, 33 (4), 466–486.
- Smith, S. 2011. ‘She says herself, “I have no future”’: love, fate and territory in Leh District, India. *Gender, Place and Culture*, 18 (4), 455–476.
- Thrift, N. 2004. Intensities of feeling: towards a spatial politics of affect. *Geografiska Annaler*, 86, 57–78.

23.7

The federal strategy for rural and mountain areas in Switzerland: Finding ways to embed endogenous territorial development into a coherent national framework

Heike Mayer¹ & Daniel Baumgartner²

¹*Institute of Geography, Economic Geography Group, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, 3012 Bern*

²*Ernst Basler & Partner, Zurich*

Switzerland is a country with a long-standing tradition of balanced territorial development and strategies aimed at reducing disparities between urban and rural areas. However, federal strategies have shifted away from such a balanced perspective towards fostering regional economic growth. Such a shift towards a growth-oriented model of regional policy is in line with general trends in Europe (Pike et al. 2006). As a consequence, there is a need for strategies in support of economic growth in urban centres, while at the same time fostering sustainable, endogenous development in mountain and rural regions.

In this paper, we present the current state of development of a coherent federal framework for an endogenous development strategy for mountain and rural areas in Switzerland. In recent years, these regions were exposed to substantial economic and demographic challenges. At the same time, there has been a reappraisal of the economic relevance of some of the natural resources these regions offer. These developments have been framed by changing policy paradigms, in which policy shifted from a centralized, top-down donor-recipient model to a decentralized, bottom-up growth-oriented model (Ward & Brown 2009).

In order to cope with these challenges and changes, the Swiss parliament called for a strategy for mountain and rural areas at the federal level, which aims at fostering endogenous economic development within one single coherent framework. Yet, mountain and rural areas have heterogeneous characteristics, ranging from peri-urban towns to remote villages in the Alps. This makes the design of a coherent framework at the federal level a substantial challenge for policymakers. The paper focusses on questions about the integration of endogenous development theory into a coherent strategic governance framework at the national scale and examines the ways in which the new strategy aims at finding new solutions to managing territorial inequalities in Switzerland.

REFERENCES

- Pike, A., Rodriguez-Pose, A. & Thomaney, J., 2006. *Local and regional development* 1st edition., New York: Routledge.
Ward, N., & Brown, D. L. (2009). Placing the rural in regional development. *Regional Studies*, 43(10), pp. 1237–1244.

23.8

Entrepreneurship in peripheral regions: Conceptual approaches to studying entrepreneurial heritage and embeddedness from an evolutionary perspective

Heike Mayer¹, Sandra Bürcher² & Antoine Habersetzer³

¹Institute of Geography, Economic Geography Group, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, CH-3012 Bern

²Institute of Geography, Economic Geography Group, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, CH-3012 Bern

³Institute of Geography, Economic Geography Group, University of Bern, Hallerstrasse 12, CH-3012 Bern

Regions outside the main metropolitan areas of a nation are often characterized as periphery not only in a geographical sense: lower labor productivity, higher factor cost not only for labor, but also for capital and knowledge, lower shares of innovative activities, fragmented or 'thin' institutions and dense networks of mutual social control make them to 'entrepreneurial laggards' compared to urban growth centers (Tödtling & Trippel 2005; Karlsen et al. 2011; Lagendijk & Lorenzen 2007). Yet, some non-metropolitan areas can be very dynamic and entrepreneurial. Some areas in the periphery even host highly entrepreneurial firms, often referred to as hidden champions (Domhardt et al. 2009), which substantially contribute to a region's successful economic evolution despite its peripheral location. Such dynamic examples are of high relevance for regional policy in most Western countries including Switzerland (OECD 2009, 2011) which favor growth-oriented approaches and aim to tap endogenous entrepreneurial potential.

Yet, research in economic geography is unclear about the factors that contribute to long-term growth of a peripheral region. Is it the entrepreneur who makes the periphery successful? Or is it the particular social and economic environment, which fosters the growth of entrepreneurship? To answer these questions, the paper will conceptualize two approaches: the embeddedness and the heritage approach. Under the former, entrepreneurship is seen as an outcome (*effect*) of economic vitality of a region (Porter 1990, 1998). Thus, entrepreneurship may be a consequence of a social environment which favored entrepreneurial initiatives over time and eventually created a conducive climate for new firm creation and entrepreneurial business activity in the present. Under the heritage approach, in contrast, entrepreneurship is conceptualized as a direct driver (*cause*) of economic evolution over time. Sources of entrepreneurship are rooted in the professional and biographical traits of particular entrepreneurs and their organizations (Klepper 2001; Klepper & Buenstorf 2010). In considering a mixed methods approach to studying peripheral regions in Switzerland, the paper provides a basis for a study that is currently underway.

REFERENCES

- Domhardt, H.-J., Hemesath, A., Kaltenegger, C., Scheck, C., & Troeger-Weiß, G., 2009. Erfolgsbedingungen von Wachstumsmotoren außerhalb der Metropolen. In G. Troeger-Weiß & H.-J. Domhardt (Eds.), *Arbeitspapiere zur Regionalentwicklung, Elektronische Schriftenreihe des Lehrstuhls Regionalentwicklung und Raumordnung* (Vol. 3). Kaiserslautern: Technische Universität Kaiserslautern.
- Karlsen, J., Isaksen, A., & Spilling, O. R., 2011. The challenge of constructing regional advantages in peripheral areas: The case of marine biotechnology in Tromsø, Norway. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 23(3-4), pp. 235–257.
- Klepper, S., & Buenstorf, G., 2010. Why does entry cluster geographically? Evidence from the US tire industry. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 68(2), pp. 103-114.
- Klepper, S., 2001. Employee startups in high-tech industries. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 10(3), pp. 639-673.
- Lagendijk, A., & Lorenzen, A. 2007. Proximity, knowledge and innovation in peripheral regions. On the intersection between geographical and organizational proximity. *European Planning Studies*, 15(4), pp. 457-466.
- Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), 2011. *OECD Territorial Reviews: Switzerland 2011*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 2009. *Regions matter. Economic recovery, innovation and sustainable growth*, Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development.
- Tödtling, F. & Trippel, M., 2005: One size fits all? Towards a differentiated regional innovation policy approach. *Research Policy*, 34(8), pp. 1203-1219.

23.9

“Europe” as identifier – empirical insights from AzerbaijanMilitz Elisabeth¹¹*Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich (elisabeth.militz@geo.uzh.ch)*

Since 1996 Azerbaijan and the European Union (EU) maintain growing institutional relations under the framework of the EU-Azerbaijani Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), as well as the Council of Europe and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative. Agreements are signed between the government and the EU and most of the measures implied in them are established on institutional levels in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres. Furthermore Azerbaijan is member of a variety of “European” organisations which supposedly aim to increase cooperation on a people-to-people level by producing a defined territorial container of “Europe” within which the integrated sovereign states participate in events like the Football European Championship or the Eurovision Song Contest. For certain groups of people “Europe” seems to be a core element of identification and includes the affiliation with certain perspectives, social groups and values and a strong and distinguished differentiation from others at the same time. The “European” part of individual identification is often described as desirable and superior to identification as the national cultural Self (cf. Ismayilov 2012). But why is it so desirable to identify with “Europe” and oneself as “European”? Which meanings ascribed to this “Europe” is it that people refer to within their everyday identification? What are people’s understandings and imaginations of “Europe” and “European” values?

Regional studies literature explaining the “South Caucasus” and its “European way” often follow macro-economic and macro-political approaches to interpret state building and identity formation. By focusing on elite perspectives, models of linear development and interpreting “realities” as being mainly driven by external, political and economic forces they lack critical discussion of hegemonic power relations and often miss a reflection of the evident influences on and impacts of their research and interpretation. This paper aims to let the people in Azerbaijan talk and suggests an ethnography-based methodological procedure in order to alternatively analyse and view identification processes. The empirical material presented in this paper helps to exemplarily discuss and criticize ways of explaining the production of identity markers like “Europe” and the process of identification with those markers. Based on qualitative empirical material gathered during a field research in May 2013, I would like to point out two aspects. On the one hand I am analysing people’s understanding of “Europe” and “European” values. Local politicians and civil society activists for instance often perceive “Europe” as role model for a democratic society. Other citizens equalise “Europe” with supposedly positive connotations like “open-mindedness” and a society integrating all classes. On the other hand I am interested in the mechanisms of identification with “Europe”. By referring to the interdependency of “lack and desire” in the process of identification (cf. Lacan 1977, Stavrakakis 2008), I intend to discuss why people to some extent identify very strong with what they define as “Europe”. This question seems to be especially interesting to discuss since Stavrakakis (2007: 212) remarks that “[...] [the construction of a] European identity as a collectively appealing object of identification [...]” is not self-evident at all.

Therewith the process of identification with “Europe” is twofold. On the material side that is to discuss, “Europe” can be perceived as constituted by social practices. This materiality of “Europe” appears in the lifestyle of people, the way they dress, their choice of haircuts and clothes and the books they read. It comes to the fore when youth groups celebrate the “European Day” on May 9th or civil society initiatives include a “European” in their self-description and/or their social movement’s name as a standard procedure. The social practices, which express affiliation and differentiation as well as unification and separation, are rather embedded, influenced and shaped by social discourse and the semiotic markers of everyday life. The symbolism of “Europe”, “European” values, democracy and liberty on the one side and its opposing equivalent Other - the “Azerbaijan” produced via differentiation with its national values, conservatism and isolation - on the other side are inscribed in discursively constituted subject positions, which are in return the driving force for materially expressed everyday identification.

Based on the empirical material and the suggested theoretical perspective the paper intends to stimulate critical discussions on interpretations of identity and identification processes, which could also be enriching for a broader discussion of methods and concepts in Political Geography and regional studies. Questions of who identifies with what, how and why, who is mirroring and producing whom and how and where does this alleged identification with “Europe” come from have not been finally answered yet and the analytical approach I propose provides an opportunity to discuss possible answers.

REFERENCES

- Ismayilov, M. 2012: State, identity, and the politics of music: Eurovision and nation-building in Azerbaijan, *Nationalities Papers*, 40 (6), 833-851.
- Lacan, J. 1977: *Écrits: A selection*. London: Tavistock.
- Stavrakakis, Y. 2007: *The Lacanian left. Psychoanalysis, theory, politics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Stavrakakis, Y. 2008: Subjectivity and the Organized Other: Between Symbolic Authority and Fantasmatic Enjoyment, *Organization Studies*, 29(07), 1037-1059.

23.10

The geography of property: a case study from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Raeymaekers Timothy and Vogel Christoph¹

¹*Political Geography Unit, Department of Geography, University of Zurich*

The project presented here aims to test the validity of the ‘resource curse’ paradigm through a comparative geography of transnational mineral governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Concentrating on the transformation of the rights of use and access to natural resources in selected mining enclaves in Katanga and South Kivu (Eastern DRC), it seeks to understand how different participants in the mining economy react to formalization incentives and how these reactions influence the regulation of the mining economy as a whole. Through this study we seek to reveal the stratified integration of Congolese minerals into the global resource industry, i.e.: how different regimes of (global) access to natural resources generate a stratified, or multi-levelled, system of production, distribution and exchange, rather than running simply “from mine to market”. To do this, we start from a more networked and interconnected understanding of the DRC’s mining economy, contrarily to the global commodity chain analysis, which dominates the current drive towards formalization (Bair 2005).

In the context of DRC’s post-war reconstruction, a range of transnational organizations currently promote radical property rights reforms in the natural resources sector. These reforms are based on the assumption that private property, or “full legal and transferable mining titles”, will ultimately benefit both user and government rights (Barry 1995:2, Geenen 2012). A constellation of (trans) national agencies promotes the full-scale privatization of property rights, particularly in artisan and small scale mining, through a three-step process of (1) *classification* (the categorization of access regimes into typologies of ‘formal’ and ‘informal’, conflict-sensitive and conflict-free frameworks), (2) *standardization* (the transformation of multiple access regimes into standardized instruments of exchange); and (3) *formalization* (the integration of these access regimes into legal categories).

The main problem with such reform programmes is that they generally misread the high degree of institutional pluralism, which typically characterizes the regulation of mineral trade and exploitation in such post-war environments (Hilson and Potter 2005, Mazalto 2009). International agencies do not usually jump into an institutional void when proposing their reforms of privatization and enhancement of formal property rights, but they typically formulate in *competition* with other systems of regulation, be they defined as ‘traditional’, ‘informal’ or ‘military’ rules of the game (Esselbein 2007, Garrett et al. 2009, see also Blomley 2003, 2010). How and in what specific institutional constellations such alternative systems of ‘power, profit and protection’ (Ballentine and Sherman 2003) currently take shape will be the particular interest of this study.

The focus of the project will be on one specific set of minerals (tantalite, tin ore and tungsten – „the three T’s“ in reform jargon) and their regulation through the ITRI Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi). In doing so the project assesses the way this reform process impacts on the performance of mineral markets in both mining areas, and which wider ramifications this reform process has for the institutional choice patterns of mine workers. In sum the study aims to provide more insights into the political ecology of natural resource markets in countries emerging from protracted armed conflict, specifically detailing (1) the transnational dimension of economic regulation and (2) its impact on the institutional choice patterns of direct natural users of natural resources in the specific case of the DRC.

REFERENCES

- Bair, J. (2005) Global capitalism and commodity chains: looking back, going forward, in: *Competition and Change*, 9/2 (June), pp. 153-180.
- Ballentine, K. and Sherman, J. eds. (2003) *The political economy of armed conflict. Beyond greed and grievance*, Boulder & London, Lynne Rienner.
- Barry, M., ed. (1995) Regularizing informal mining: a summary of the proceedings of the international roundtable on artisanal mining organized by the World Bank, The World Bank, Industry and Energy Department, Washington, DC.
- Blomley (2003) Law, property, and the geography of violence: The frontier, the survey, and the grid, in: *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 93/1, pp. 121-141.
- Blomley, N. (2010) Cuts, Flows, and the Geographies of Property, in: *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, 7/2, pp. 203–216.
- Esselbein, G. (2007) *The rise and decline of the Congolese state: an analytical narrative of state-making*, Crisis States Research Centre Working Paper, London: LSE.
- Garrett, N., Sergiou, S. and Vlassenroot, K. (2009) Negotiated peace for extortion: the case of Walikale territory in eastern DR Congo, in: *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, 3/1, pp. 1-21.

- Geenen, S. (2012) A dangerous bet: The challenges of formalizing artisanal mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in: *Resources Policy*, 37/3 (September), pp. 322–330.
- Hilson, G., Potter, C. (2005) Structural adjustment and subsistence industry: artisanal gold mining in Ghana, in: *Development and Change*, 36 (1), 103–131.
- Mazalto, M. (2009) Governance, human rights and mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in: Campbell, B. (ed.), *Mining in Africa. Regulation and Development*, Pluto Press, London and New York, pp. 187–242.

23.11

Gouvernementalité néolibérale de l'eau en Suisse: dynamiques en évolution, entre centralisation et renforcement des administrations locales

Rattu Paola¹

¹*Institut de Géographie et Durabilité, Université de Lausanne, Bâtiment Géopolis, Quartier Mouline, CH-1015 Lausanne (paola.rattu@unil.ch)*

L'eau en réseau peut être considérée comme une marchandise non coopérative (Bakker, 2005) insérée dans des cycles hydro-sociaux (Swyngedouw, 2009).

En Suisse, l'eau a historiquement été gérée à travers une forme particulière de gouvernementalité néolibérale (Foucault, 1991): les actions socialement les plus désirables apparaissent comme les seules à être rationnelles et moralement acceptables, et ainsi les individus sont encouragés à les accomplir.

Cette contribution est centrée sur un des défis auxquels cette forme de gouvernementalité a fait face au cours des dernières années, à savoir une certaine concentration (et polarisation) de la production discursive auprès de la Société Suisse de l'Industrie du Gaz et de l'Eau (SSIGE). En particulier, l'objectif de cette contribution est de comprendre les dynamiques de cette production discursive centralisée et polarisée, et comment elles interagissent avec la forme de gouvernementalité préexistante et décentralisée.

Les résultats montrent que cette production discursive concentrée et polarisée ne met pas en danger la gouvernementalité néolibérale décentralisée caractéristique de la gestion de l'eau en Suisse. Au contraire, la SSIGE semble fournir des économies d'échelle et des mécanismes de redistribution, permettant la production de campagnes de communication plus efficaces qui sont ensuite adaptées au niveau local. Ainsi, la SSIGE apparaît comme un acteur rendant possible la continuité et le renforcement d'une gouvernementalité néolibérale et de technologies de pouvoir ayant des bases locales.

Les résultats confirment aussi que la néolibéralisation est un phénomène varié et présentant une path dependence (Brenner and Theodore, 2002).

REFERENCES

- Bakker, K. 2005: Neoliberalizing Nature? Market Environmentalism in Water Supply in England and Wales. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 95(3), 542–565.
- Brenner, N., & Theodore, N. 2002: Cities and the Geographies of "Actually Existing Neoliberalism." *Antipode*, 34(3), 349–379. doi:10.1111/1467-8330.00246
- Foucault, M. 1991: Governmentality. In G. Burchell, C. Gordon, & P. Miller (Eds.), *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality* (pp. 87–104). Harvester Wheatsheaf: Hemenl Hempstead.
- Swyngedouw, E. 2009: The Political Economy and Political Ecology of Hydro-Social cycle. *Journal of Contemporary Water Research and Education*, 142(1), 56–60.

23.12

Biometric border control in the making.

Sontowski Simon¹

¹*Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich (simon.sontowski@geo.uzh.ch)*

Biometric recognition technology has become an outstanding signifier of current changes in the governing of people on the move. Against the background of recent attempts to frame border control as a problem of management, government agencies and private manufacturers alike promote biometrics as a promising technological tool to facilitate and accelerate desirable cross-border travel while impeding movements deemed risky, illegitimate or undesirable. These actors portray biometrics as being able to reconcile security and speed, to transform borders into intelligent and semipermeable filters, and hence to make the international circulation of people possible.

But despite their apparent sophistication, biometric applications are by no means ready-made systems that function by default once they are implemented. Quite to the contrary, they are perpetually in the making and depend on constant socio-material practices of assembling, aligning, and adjustment. Taking their functioning for granted from the outset would overstate their coherence and reify their power. Thus, would it not make sense to turn the take on biometrics upside down and start with assuming its malfunction in order to reveal how it is set into motion? In my talk I argue that biometric technologies should not be understood as omnipotent instruments of control, but as unstable attempts to order a diffuse world in motion. Seen from this perspective, biometric innovations no longer appear as self-evident solutions, but as precarious and always contested accomplishments that remain fragile and prone to failure and need constant technological work in order to be realized, stabilized and maintained.

Against this background, in my talk I will give an insight in my current research on the European Union's border management, taking the development and intended deployment of biometric e-gates at the Schengen borders as an example. These fully automated sorting machines shall accelerate the border crossing process for pre-screened and trustworthy third-country nationals and will be part of the EU's proposed Registered Traveler Program. By tracing the emergence and preparation of this new biometric border control system, I will illustrate four main aspects: first, the geoeconomic rationality that underlies recent attempts to manage borders more efficiently; second, the role corporate actors play in providing the technological infrastructure necessary to this end; third, the interplay of technical devices and mobile bodies that e-gates perform; and fourth, the socio-material practices of assembling and aligning heterogeneous elements that make biometric border control possible in the first place.

23.13

Understanding migration impacts on sustainable land management. Case studies from Bolivian and Nepalese mountain populations.

Sudmeier-Rieux, Karen¹, Penna, Ivanna¹, Jaquet, Stéphanie², Kaenzig, Raoul³, Schwilch, Gudrun², Jaboyedoff, Michel¹, Liniger, Hanspeter²

¹University of Lausanne, Centre for Research on Terrestrial Environment. Geopolis 3156. karen.sudmeier@unil.ch

²University of Berne, Centre for Development and Environment.

³ University of Neuchatel, Institute of Geography.

Disaster risk management, climate change and development are central current themes in understanding human-nature interactions. The 2012 IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events highlights how extreme hazard events and chronic everyday hazards (i.e. water shortages and shallow landslides) hinder sustainable development goals. A majority of disasters are thus caused by poor development and governance: people living in dangerous places, lack of disaster preparedness, unsustainable land management practices, poorly constructed roads, lack of sustainable economic activities (UNISDR 2011; IPCC 2012). Populations living in harsh environmental conditions have always adapted their living conditions through both short term coping and long term adaptation strategies. This includes choices about housing, cropping and grazing practices, economic activities as well as migration, which has been intensifying in many areas of the world in recent years (Piguet 2010).

The aim of this contribution is to analyse the complex human-environmental dynamics using the Cochabamba region of Bolivia and Panchase region of Western Nepal as examples within on-going trans-disciplinary study about out-migration of mountain populations. Bolivia and Nepal are home to some of the world's largest and poorest mountain populations, with low food and water security, where high rural-urban and foreign out-migration at time is leaving behind women and elderly to manage daily life tasks such as maintaining terraces, irrigation canals, roads, and stabilizing slopes. Although many studies have focused on the consequences of migration on destination areas, few studies have analyzed the consequences of changing demographics on land and risk management in the area of origin. By combining qualitative and quantitative methods from both physical and social sciences, this study intends to contribute to the knowledge about changes on land management in mountains being affected by changing on human and natural dynamics. The hypothesis is that both changing factors are leading to more vulnerable mountain populations, by adding stress on the adaptation capacity of agricultural practices, and the management of water, landslides, fluvial erosion and flooding.

Preliminary results point to loss of labor capacity, family and community fragmentation, impacts on education, and specially in the case of Nepal a widespread land abandonment. Income sources are also changing. In Nepal, remittance revenues are replacing traditional sources of income, whereas in Bolivia seasonal migration of mountain populations toward cash crop areas is more dominant. In Nepal, traditional caste relations are changing as lower social status groups are able to rent abandoned lands, to which they would not have had access to in the past. Likewise, the increase in road construction, closely linked to migration is a major conditioning factor for landslide occurrence, which at the same time is increasing the sediment charge in rivers. In Bolivia, mobility exacerbates the loss of knowledge transfer between generations. This loss of traditional knowledge about weather predictability and agricultural practices, and the decrease of labor force is weakening the sustainable management of the lands and leading to potential degradation. The processes of erosion may be accelerated by the change of management of lands, an issue which is still being explored by this study.

While exploring key human-nature dynamics, the findings from this study will have broad policy and practical relevance for policies and decisions related to climate change adaptation funds, disaster risk, water management, migration policies and practices of mountain populations.

REFERENCES

- IPCC. 2012: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change eds. C. B. Field, V. Barros, T. F. Stocker, D. Qin, D. J. Dokken, K. L. Ebi, M. D. Mastrandrea, K. J. Mach, G.-K. Plattner, S. K. Allen, M. Tignor & M. P.M., 582 pp. Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA.
- Piguet, E. 2010: Linking Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration: a Methodological Overview. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Change*, 1, 517-524.
- UNISDR. 2011: Global Assessment Report. 178. Geneva: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.