

University Research Priority Program (URPP)

Asia and Europe



University of Zurich



Entangled By Multiple Tongues

The Role of Diaspora in the Transfer of Culture

International Workshop, 3–4 June 2010



Almost all long-distance transfer of conceptions, institutions and practices was, and still is, shaped by one very peculiar setting: it is done by individuals and groups living in diaspora networks. But this implies mediating between parallel reference frames, moving back and forth between a home and one or several host cultures, in short: "speaking multiple tongues".

This continuous merger of home and host conceptions, institutions and practices into hitherto unknown new ones made, and still makes, diaspora the one major place of intercultural mediation and transcultural negotiation. The question how this multilingualism (in its widest sense) peculiar of all diaspora shapes the transfer of culture will be the focus of our workshop on "Entangled By Multiple Tongues: The Role of Diaspora in the Transfer of Culture".

Conveners

Mareile Flitsch

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology/Ethnographic Museum/
URPP Asia and Europe

Andreas Kaplony

University of Zurich, Oriental Institute/URPP Asia and Europe

Venue

Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zürich
Pelikanstrasse 40
CH-8001 Zürich

This workshop is organized by the URPP's Research Field „Entangled Histories“. It has been made possible by the generous support of the Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Swiss-Asia Society, the Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich and the University Research Priority Program Asia and Europe.

You are kindly asked to register with cantele@vmz.uzh.ch.
There are no conference fees.

Image on cover page

Medieval Sicily, one of the meeting places of Greek, Arabic, and Latin scribes (Petrus de Ebulo, *Liber ad honorem Augusti*; Burgerbibliothek Bern, Cod. 120.II, f. 101r)

Program

Thursday, 3 June 2010

Panel A: Diasporas of the Wider Mediterranean

9:00–9:45

Jörg Lanckau (Zurich): 'The Highest': The Cultural Translation of Monotheism in the Hellenistic Period

9:45–10:30

Andreas Kaplony (Zurich) and **Raffaele Luiselli** (Florence): The Arabization and Islamization of the Administration of Syria and Egypt As Viewed by Bilingual Greek-Arabic Documents (550-750 CE)

Break

11:00–11:45

Hans-Lukas Kieser (Zurich): Transfer of Revolutionary Language in the Diaspora? The Case of the Russian Socialist Helphand Parvus in Switzerland, Germany and Istanbul

11.45–12:30

Leyla von Mende (Berlin): 'Mecque de la pédagogie': Two Ottoman Study Guides and Their Plea for Swiss Pedagogics

Lunch

14:00–14:45

Patrick Brozzo (Zurich): Legal Diaspora: Islamic and Jewish Marriage Laws in Europe

Panel B: Diaporas Along the Silk Road

14:45–15:30

Wolfgang Behr (Zurich): Diglossia and Alloglottographia in Late Pre-Imperial Siniform Writing from Southern China

Break

16:00–16:45

Jörg Plassen (Bochum): Some Tentative Musings on the Influence of Multilingual Settings on the Reception of Buddhism in East Asia

16:45–17:30

Erling von Mende (Princeton and Berlin): The Lantern Bearers. How the Qidan Saved Chinese Culture Through the Alien Dynasties of the Jurchen Jin and Mongol Yuan (1115-1368)

20:00: Evening Program

Program

Friday, 4 June 2010

Panel C: Diasporas of the Indian Ocean

9:00–9:45

Mareile Flitsch (Zurich): Hesitant Hands on Changing Tables: Negotiating Dining Patterns in Multilingual and Diaspora Contexts

9:45–10:30

Dhruv Raina (New Delhi and Heidelberg): Speaking in Many Tongues: Nineteenth Century Projects in the Cultural Translation of Science

Break

Panel D: The New Global Diasporas

11:00–11:45

Hamid Naficy (Evanston): Accented Cinema's Mode of Production and Multilinguality

11.45–12:30

Rohit Jain (Zurich): Biographicity, Cultural Translation and Translocality: Multiple Representations of 'Indianness' Among Second Generation Indians Socialized in Switzerland

Lunch

14:00–14:45

Nathalie Böhler (Zurich): Made in Thailand: The Role and Perception of Diasporic Filmmakers in Contemporary Thai Cinema

The University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe of Zurich University explores exchanges and encounters that have taken and continue to take place between Asia and Europe in the areas of culture, law, religion and society. It brings together various disciplines and faculties of the University of Zurich to create an expert and comprehensive interdisciplinary research structure, which consists of three thematically and methodologically differentiated research fields: (1) Concepts and Taxonomies, (2) Entangled Histories, and (3) Norms and Social Order(s). It promotes research by young graduate and post-graduate scholars within an interdisciplinary research environment and a structured PhD Program.

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