



CfA Autumn School Asia and Europe. Discourse, Circulation and Representation

Date: 30.09.-04.10.2019

Zurich University

Organized by the Doctoral Program Asia & Europe

The Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program Asia & Europe at Zurich University invites all interested doctoral students and early postdocs to a one-week intensive seminar program "Asia & Europe". The program offers a stimulating and interactive learning experience, establishing an optimal framework for a discipline-specific yet interdisciplinary cross-cultural research dialogue. The intensive seminar program is funded by swissuniversities (www.swissuniversities.ch) and is designed to especially promote national and international scholarly exchange. The seminar aims to contribute to strengthening academic cooperation especially among Swiss universities, focusing on cross-cultural exchanges and transhistorical entanglements between Asia and Europe from a comparative perspective. Doctoral students and early postdocs from universities outside of Switzerland are also welcome to apply. The intensive seminar week will offer an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary program organized into two workshops with renowned national and international experts in their respective fields.

Workshop I Museology and Museography

Confirmed speakers: Elisa Ambrosio (Vitrocentre Romont), Jeanne Fichtner-Egloff (Historical and Ethnological Museum, Sankt-Gallen), Susanne Pollack (Graphic Collection, ETH Zurich); Alban von Stockhausen (Bern Historical Museum), Maria Khayutina (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), Adam Smith (Penn Museum, University of Philadelphia), Hans Bjarne Thomsen (Zurich University)

In our globalized world, art curators and researchers collaborating with museums have to work in and with diverse and multifaceted geographical, cultural and socio-political contexts. Universities worldwide are progressively introducing elements of curatorial practice as part of their study curricula, with the aim to offer their students the necessary skills not only to collaborate in international frameworks and address multicultural audiences effectively. They also want to ensure that students pay attention to decolonization processes and post-colonial realities, and complex inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, as well as develop an awareness of adequate representations of minorities, gender, or cultural and religious communities.

Curatorship is a powerful instrument to communicate understanding of transformation processes or knowledge production and preservation. It represents an attractive opportunity and an alternative career beyond or beside the traditional tracks of academia that can appeal to both junior scholars who have acquired a specific expertise in Art History and Conservation and to those who have a training in Ethnography, Anthropology, and Area Studies among other disciplines.

The workshop combines both a theoretical and a practical approach. It aims at providing a detailed overview of the different aspects involved in the organization of a successful art exhibition, from the identification of an attractive concept to the actual thematic display of objects, problematizing the process of representation and preservation in exhibitions and art collections. The workshop addresses issues such as the evolution from collectors and private collections to the Renaissance concept of the "public museum;" the landscape of contemporary museums; different aspects of curatorial practice, and in particular the handling, transportation, storage, and display of art works; the restoration and conservation of works of art; different display methods and techniques; opportunities, challenges and career prospects of curatorship as a profession. Scholars will provide an extensive theoretical

introduction to museology as a discipline, while curators from national and international museums and institutions managing different kinds of collections will contribute their expertise and personal experience, giving insights, practical training, and advice on how to design exhibitions and manage museums. The seminar also includes active training through guided tours and visits to the Riedberg Museum, Graphische Sammlung ETH Zurich and Johann Jacobs Museum.

Workshop II: Energy and Health Politics. Approaches to discourse and knowledge circulation

Confirmed speakers: Matthieu Gillabert (Fribourg University), Monika Gisler (ETH Zurich), Martin Lengwiler (Basel University), Yitang Lin (Geneva University), Jeronim Perovic (Zurich University), Andrea Riemenschnitter (Zurich University), Tobias Schmidt (ETH), Alice Pinheiro Walla (Bayreuth University)

The complex and intertwining socio-political, economic, and cultural issues of globalization brought along new challenges for the Humanities. To grasp the phenomena of global transfers, circulation, and entanglements of knowledge, as well as to understand and analyze complex flows and formulation of public opinion, knowledge, and ensuing policies scholars often have to move outside their comfort zone. This workshop aims to bridge Global Studies and Area Studies by offering an opportunity to transcend disciplinary boundaries and encouraging academic dialogue between researchers studying similar topics from different perspectives and with different disciplinary methods.

Our Workshop II aims to bring together doctoral students and early postdocs from various disciplines working on Asia and Europe in a global context. It will focus on methods and theoretical approaches used to study forms of representation and political discourses. Students will be offered lectures and introductions to various research methods for analyzing texts and other forms of representation by established scholars. We are aiming to analyze the formation of public opinion and knowledge concerning issues such as environment & energy (climate change), social justice, and public health from a global perspective. In this workshop, we will address the challenges of choosing appropriate sources, analyzing them and bringing them into conversation with other research and theoretical concepts. Our goal is to bring together multiple approaches in the study of societies – both historical and contemporary – and to extract lessons valid for researchers with diverse disciplinary backgrounds.

Mentoring program: Career opportunities for young researchers (Zurich University Graduate Campus Grant). Financed by the Graduate Campus of Zurich University, the seminar will also offer several scheduled networking opportunities during the week and a focused career coaching program at the end of the workshop. The aim is to introduce young scholars to researchers at Zurich University and to curators of renowned museums in Switzerland in order to establish lasting professional networks.

Application: with short CV and statement (each max. 1 page) how your research corresponds to one of the workshops via e-mail to Milena Guthörl: asiaeurope2019@aoi.uzh.ch

Organizing Committee:

Wolfgang Behr, Milena Guthörl, Lisa Indraccolo