Dear GIGA doctoral students,

during the last month our Winter Term Course Programme on “Area and Comparative Area Studies” took place and we are currently evaluating the experiences with the offered courses. Until the season holidays there are two more workshops to come (STATA and Social Media) and then it is already Christmas (The Christmas party team is still looking for some support – contact details are to be found in the news section).

At the same time we are proceeding with planning the courses for 2015. Early that year there will be an introduction to Zotero and a master class on “Role Theory and Foreign Policy Analysis”. Please check our website for further details. Also the colloquium dates are filling up – please take a look and keep in mind the requirements for your doctoral board evaluations.

Besides this Medha will be the second of our new doctoral students to introduce herself in this newsletter and Janina Pawelz uses the section “I’m currently working on...” to keep us updated on her experiences during her current field stay in Timor-Leste.

And like always quite a lot of interesting calls for application can be found further down in the section “Jobs & Funding”.

Best wishes, Stephanie

P.S. Are you going on a conference trip or research stay? Did you come across an interesting job announcement or summer school? This newsletter lives on your input – therefore just send a short email to: garling@giga-hamburg.de

Index

November 2014 ........................................................................................................................................... 1
Index ................................................................................................................................................................ 1
News ............................................................................................................................................................. 2
Who is where? (field research, conferences...) ......................................................................................... 3
I’m currently working on...Medha ............................................................................................................... 3
I’m currently working on...Janina Pawelz ................................................................................................... 4
Jobs/Funding ................................................................................................................................................. 6
Upcoming events ........................................................................................................................................... 6
News

Astrid Bothmann defended

Astrid Bothmann defended her dissertation on “Drawing a Line Under the Past. Transitional Justice in Nicaragua 1990-2012”. Since some month she already has a position at the ZEIT-Stiftung in the team working on “Governance”. We wish her all the best and hope to stay in touch!

DP Travel Funds 2015

Please send an itemized estimation of your travel funds needed in 2015 until 10 December to Stephanie Garling. Please indicate the purpose (name/date of conference, workshop…) and list the single items (travel, registration fees…) together with the total sum. Please also shortly state where you are planning or have already secured funding besides the DP travel funds.

Master Class: Role Approach and Foreign Policy Analysis

On 22 January Leslie Wehner will offer a Master Class on “Role Approach and Foreign Policy – Theory, methodology and methods”. Up to 5 doctoral students have the opportunity to receive very intense training on this subject and to apply it to their own research. Please register with Ina Peters until 10 January.

Progress Reports

Some of you might have received a reminder by the WiSo Graduate School of the University of Hamburg to hand in your progress reports to them. Even if you received this email it does not apply to GIGA doctoral students as we have a cooperation agreement with the University of Hamburg. Please – like before – hand in your half-yearly progress reports to us in the format you find on P: > Doctoral Programme.

Change in secretary

Anna Vobis is now fully responsible for the DP and not sharing the position any longer with Gaby Tetzlaff who changed to support the new president.

Support the Christmas Party

The team organising this year’s GIGA Christmas Party is still looking for supporters. If you are interested to organise the seasonal getting together please contact Victor:

victor.mijares@giga-hamburg.de

Reimbursement of inpayments to the German pension system

As Non-EU nationals mostly do not have the possibility to receive money out of the pension system when they retire, it is possible to apply for a reimbursement of the inpayments made while having a contract in Gemany. This is a complex process with guidelines only in German - http://tinyurl.com/puo6tjl - therefore please feel free to ask our personnel officers for assistance if this applies to you.

Registration for ISA Career Courses open!

Take a look here:
http://www.isanet.org/Conferences/New-Orleans-2015/Program/Career-Courses
“Trust me, I’m a Doctor”: A PhD Survival Guide by Koen Deconinck

The guide contains some useful ideas on how to get started, how to deal with rejection, the golden rule of feedback (Get it early, get it often, get a lot of it!), a helpful bibliography and a copy of the article “The importance of stupidity in scientific research”.


Who is where? (field research, conferences…)

Franzisca Zanker is currently taking part in an exchange (as a Visiting Researcher) at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London as part of the ISP Network. The exchange is taking place from 13th October - 29th November.

Anne Hoffmann is currently on field research. Her first days she has spend in Rio de Janeiro from where she sets of to Quito (19-25 November) where she will visit the General Secretary of the UNASUR. Afterwards she will travel to Brasilia (26 Nov-17 December) where she will pay a research visit to the foreign office.

Martin Ostermeier was accepted for the ILO/J-PAL Executive Education Course on “Impact Evaluation of Labour Market Interventions” taking place in Sharjah (UAE) from November 16-20. Beginning of December he will also give a lecture on “The Land Matrix – Patterns and Challenges of Tracking Large-Scale Land Acquisitions” as part of a seminar series at the University of Venice.

I’m currently working on…Medha

Hello Everybody,

I am Medha and I have just joined the doctoral programme as a DAAD scholarship holder this October. As part of my PhD research, I aim to investigate the place of Muslims and Islam in India’s identity discourses and the ways in which this informs (or fails inform) its engagement with the world. This topic intrigues me because, although Islam has been a significant part of India’s history and India continues to have the world’s third largest Muslim population, much of the engagement with national identity in post-partition India tends to focus on the ‘Hindu National’ or ‘Secular’ identity. So the question I am looking to answer is: as India constructs a new self-image as a rising power in a global context where ‘Islam’ and ‘Muslims’ have become the most important Other in world politics, what is the place of Islam in India’s national identity discourses and to what extent (if any) does this inform its foreign policy?

My interest in this topic stems from my background as a journalist analyzing political developments for news organisations in India, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada in a domestic and global context where questions of identity have become particularly salient—
even as Islam as an identity has become increasingly securitized. This interest was further strengthened during my time working for the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi where I was involved in researching India’s security and strategic scenarios. With the PhD I have just begun this exploration into the relationship between identity and foreign policy in the Indian context and am looking forward to engaging more deeply with the topic.

I have very much enjoyed my first month at GIGA and look forward to the opportunity of getting to know you and your work much better.

Best, Medha

I’m currently working on...Janina Pawelz

Hey Everybody,

and greetings from the other side of the world–Timor-Leste! While I am sitting early in the morning in a café near the beach, I watch a fisherman in his tiny boat reeling in his net in the sun. Broken yellow taxis, motorbikes, fancy “state cars”, and overloaded trucks and busses pass by on the road between the fisherman and me. Everything seems peaceful. If I hadn’t interviews with people telling me a different story, the image of peace and stability would remain.

I am a doctoral student at the GIGA and I am focusing on violence-prone groups and youth. Moreover I am interested in what factors contribute the transformation of violence-prone groups and why they sometimes politicize. Timor-Leste is home to a huge variety different kind of collectives among which are martial arts groups. Three of those biggest and most influential martial arts groups have been banned by the government in 2013 due to their frequent violent clashes. A more differentiated perspective on these groups offers deep insights into their origin and political history, a complex hierarchical structure, as well as an entanglement in current politics. My first interview was actually with the country’s former president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate HE José Ramos-Horta who had been at the GIGA in mid 2012. Additionally, interview partners ranged from official persons like the president of the commission for the regulation of martial arts, to members and former members of martial arts groups, and NGO workers.

Finding interview partners is sometimes very unconventional. For instance, during an interview somebody told me the name of the leader of the biggest martial art group here; and I was told that works as a lawyer. Since I don’t know any lawyers here I asked my infamous American friend who has been arrested for alleged drug smuggling at the Timorese-Indonesian border to ask her lawyers about the person I am looking for. On the same day I got the number of the leader and made an interview appointment for a few days later. Really great!
Another anecdotal story of my life as a doctoral student on field research is what began on a Monday morning a few weeks ago: During breakfast I sent a text message to two members of (different) martial arts groups. One replied instantly that we could meet. Since he lives in the neighboring district of Liquiça I packed my stuff (recorder, batteries, phone, money, chocolates, note book, sunscreen, mosquito spray), filled up the tank of my motorbike, told a friend about my plan, and headed to Liquiça. Unfortunately it’s dry season in Timor and the unpaved roads were full of dust. Visibility was close to zero when a truck passed and left a cloud of dust behind—my respiratory mask definitely saved me. Road constructions and countless speed bumps made the road trip even less pleasurable.

Well, half way down the road to Liquiça my motorbike broke down and I had to pull over. While inspecting the damage I heard my phone ringing, which was inside the little trunk underneath the seat of the motorbike. When I opened the trunk a huge spider that sat on my bag and was about to crawl into the pockets. I screamed hysterically but managed to throw my bag on the street to literally kick the spider out of my bag, which eventually worked. A group of young Timorese men watched the whole scene and laughed their heads off. At least they told me where I could get my motorbike fixed—for free.

When I arrived at the town of Liquiça after two hours of driving I found the school where my interview partner was supposed to be waiting. When I got there it turned out that I went to the wrong school. Yet helpful teachers put a little schoolboy on the back of my motorbike who directed me to the school I was looking for. The shy little man earned himself a bar of German marzipan chocolate. Eventually I found my interview partner and the interview went great. He also helped me to find my next interview partner and drew a map to the salt plantations where I had to go. Very nice, especially regarding the fact that the next interview partner was a member of the rival group of the one I just interviewed. Luckily they all know one another. I managed to find him and conducted my second interview in tetum that day.

In the evening I returned to the capital Dili and went to my Taekwando class which I joined a few weeks ago—since I am researching martial arts groups I could frame it as participant observation—but no, it’s just for fun. Let’s see what my comparative case Trinidad and Tobago holds for me next year.

Janina Pawelz
Jobs/Funding

Trainer, Berghof Foundation, Berlin
http://tinyurl.com/poc36pr

Project Manager, Berghof Foundation, Berlin
http://tinyurl.com/qc63lac

Research Fellow, International Studies, Ethics Research Group, Warwick
http://tinyurl.com/qfyo3rq

Pre- and Post-Doc and PhD positions, Bremen
https://www.bigsss-bremen.de/

PhD scholarships Cultural Studies
http://gcsc.uni-giessen.de

Tenure-track Assistant Professor, Comparative Politics South Asia, New Hampshire
https://jobs.usnh.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/Welcome_css.jsp

Research position, sustainable economics, Berlin
www.ioew.de

PhD “Governing Biodiversity”, Lausanne

PhD position climate change
www.academictransfer.com/25149

Upcoming events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Soft-Skills Seminar:</strong> Transcultural Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Colloquium:</strong> Ana Karen Negrete and Carolina Guerrero</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27-28, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> STATA programming</td>
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<td>December 2, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> Media and Social Media</td>
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<td>January 14, 2014</td>
<td><strong>Workshop:</strong> Introduction to Zotero</td>
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<td>January 22, 2015</td>
<td><strong>Master Class:</strong> Role Theory and Foreign Policy Analysis</td>
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<td>January 28, 2015</td>
<td><strong>Colloquium:</strong> Eduardo Velosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4, 2015</td>
<td><strong>Colloquium:</strong> Insa Ewert</td>
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