CROSS-CURRENTS OF INTERNATIONAL THOUGHT: NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GEOGRAPHY OF KNOWLEDGE

17th-19th November 2016
University of Bayreuth
Geographical Institute

As the geopolitics of knowledge-production has been subject to critical analysis over the past 15 years (e.g. Minca 2000; Aalbers 2004; Kitchin 2005; Paasi 2005; Rodríguez-Pose 2006; Simonsen 2004; Social Geography 2009-2010), editors, publishers and other scholars have actively sought to diversify the range of voices to be heard in globe-spanning scholarly discussions. One result of such developments is a growing awareness of how complex and multi-directional transcultural or international flows of ideas have become. The workshop is intended to explore some aspects of this growing complexity.

Questions guiding presentations and discussions will include (but not be limited to) the following:

Return-flows: How have theoretical approaches and concepts 'internationalised' through English-language publications and conferences been received and perceived among scholars in the original contexts from which they emerged? What politics of translation and re-translation accompany such return flows?

Idea-laundering: How do compromising political and biographical contexts shape ideas (Barnes and Abrahamsson 2015, Korf 2014)? How are concepts and theories developed by thinkers with dark pasts (such as Heidegger, Schmitt or, in geography, Walter Christaller) cleansed of some of their negative associations through international circulation?

Geographical specification: How is the increasing diversity of participants in international debates rendered via “space-talk” (Schlottmann 2005) into shorthand (often national) categories (see Fall and Rosière 2008, Strohmayer 2013)?

How are what Ludwik Fleck called 'styles of thought' transformed, combined or rendered more complex by increasingly multi-directional cross-currents of ideas (Schlottmann and Hannah 2016)?

How are the above issues related to neoliberal regimes of 'internationalised' knowledge-production at all scales (Best 2016)?

The workshop is aimed primarily at scholars in the social and cultural sciences, and in particular at advanced (doctoral or Habilitations-) students whose research obligates them to understand the complex contextual positions of such internationally circulating ideas and thinkers.

In the first part of the workshop (Friday, 18th November) an international lineup of accomplished scholars will present on these and related topics. This
segment is free of charge and open to the public.

Presenters include (see below)

Dr. Christian Abrahamsson, University of Oslo
Prof. Dr. Benedikt Korf, University of Zürich
Prof. Dr. Claudio Minca, University of Wageningen, the Netherlands
Dr. Rory Rowan, University of Zürich
Prof. Dr. Antje Schlottmann, University of Frankfurt
Prof. Dr. Ulf Strohmayer, National University of Ireland – Galway
Prof. Dr. Julia Verne, University of Bonn

In the second part of the workshop (Saturday morning 19th November), the invited scholars will meet in a more informal setting with advanced students to discuss specific problems or questions that have arisen in their research. Participation in this phase of the workshop will be limited to 25 registered students working on their PhDs or Habilitationsschriften. This segment, too, is free of charge.

At the end (Saturday late morning) a panel of participants will engage in a public conversation about issues, insights and questions emerging from the workshop process.

Please register by sending an e-mail to both of the following addresses: 
matthew.hannah@uni-bayreuth.de, ute.meyer@uni-bayreuth.de.

Please note: While participation is free of charge, travel and accommodation must be booked independently. Affordable accommodations in Bayreuth can be found under the following website: http://www.bayreuth.de/tourismus-kultur-freizeit/uebernachten/. Follow the link “Hotelverzeichnis” from this webpage to a more complete list of hotel offers. Contingents of standard hotel rooms will also be reserved in advance.

References:


**Program for Friday 18th November (GEOII, Hörsaal H6):**

9:00-9:15  
- GREETINGS  
(Prof. Dr. Matthew G. Hannah, University of Bayreuth)

9:15-10:00  
- "Ludwik Fleck and geographical epistemologies"  
(Prof. Dr. Antje Schlottmann, University of Frankfurt)

10:00-10:45  
- "Italian re-turns: Italian political philosophy and the biopolitical turn"  
(Prof. Dr. Claudio Minca, Wageningen University)

10:45-11:15  
- COFFEE BREAK  
(GEOII, Raum S21)

11:15-12:00  
- "Travelling knowledge, crossing currents: some reflections on pernicious myths attaching to theoretical journeymen and the merchandise they peddle"  
(Prof. Dr. Ulf Strohmayer, National University of Ireland - Galway)

12:00-13:30  
- LUNCH  
(GEOII, Raum S21)

13:30-14:15  
- "The neglected ‘gift’ of Ratzel for/from the Indian Ocean: thoughts on mobilities, materialities and relational spaces"  
(Prof. Dr. Julia Verne, University of Bonn)

14:15-15:00  
- "A poisonous gift? On Heidegger and Schmitt"  
(Prof. Dr. Benedikt Korf, Dr. Rory Rowan, University of Zürich)

15:00-15:30  
- COMMENTARY  
(Prof. Dr. Matthew G. Hannah, University of Bayreuth)
15:30-16:00 - GENERAL DISCUSSION

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC