DAAD Fieldschool Follow-up

Workshop "Africa-China/China-Africa mobilities"

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Michaela Pelican (Dept. of Anthropology, University of Cologne), Dr. Oliver Tappe (Global South Studies Center, University of Cologne)

Location: Internationales Kolleg Morphomata, Weyertal 59, 50937 Köln (rear building, left entrance, 3rd floor)

Programme

Thursday, 1.2.18		
10-10.30h	Michaela Pelican, Oliver Tappe	Workshop opening
10.30-12h	Tian Chen	Vacation in the Third Space: Chinese tourists travelling on European cruise to African islands
	Manon Diederich	'Struggling to Become an Autonomous Wife': Conflicting Notions of Womanhood Among Senegalese Migrants in Guangzhou
12-13.30h	Lunch break	
13.30-15h	Lai Pik Chan	Changing Laws and the Governance of Foreigners in Shenzhen
	Linessa Dan	A Problematized Phenomenon and Its Consequences: The Presence of Africans in Guangzhou and Chinese Management towards them at State and Local Level
15-15.30h	Coffee break	
15.30-17h	Sarah Hanisch	Social class from the perspective of Chinese migrant children in Lesotho
	Severin Kaji	University Regulations in China: Cameroonian students' perceptions and soft power
17-17.15h	Coffee break	
17.15-18h		Discussion
18h	Michaela Pelican, Oliver Tappe	Workshop closing
19h	Dinner	Hellers Brauhaus, Roonstraße 33, 50674 Köln
Friday, 2.2.18		
optional		Excursion to: - Japanese Quarter in Düsseldorf - or Chinese Wholesale Market (Haus Milano) in Neuss

Workshop Report

The workshop opened with an introduction in the overarching themes of Africa-China/ China-Africa mobilities and the coming about of the workshop by Professor Michaela Pelican and Dr Oliver Tappe. In his talk "Vacation in the Third Space: Chinese tourists travelling on European cruise to African islands", Tian Chen pondered on the issue of cross-cultural communication and understanding, drawing on the concept of 'Third Space' (Bhabha 1994). The next presentation by Manon Diederich "'Struggling to Become an Autonomous Wife': Conflicting Notions of Womanhood Among Senegalese Migrants in Guangzhou" opened the discussion on African experiences in China, paying attention to gendered perspectives. Perspectives on governance and regulatory issues were discussed by Lai Pik Chan in her presentation "Changing Laws and the Governance of Foreigners in Shenzhen" and by Linessa Dan, who spoke about "A Problematized Phenomenon and Its Consequences: The Presence of Africans in Guangzhou and Chinese Management towards them at State and Local Level". The educational as well as the regulatory context were integrated by Severin Kaji in his presentation on "University Regulations in China: Cameroonian students' perceptions and soft power" while Sarah Hanisch focused on educational aspects and decision making of Chinese migrant children in her talk on "Social class from the perspective of Chinese migrant children in Lesotho".

The **major points of discussion** can be summarized as the following:

1. **Third Space (after Bhabha 1994)**
   Achieving cross-cultural communication is a frail objective. In the case presented by Chen, Chinese tourists, the Asian staff on the cruise ship, and residents of the visited islands (Mauritius, La Réunion) were able to create a 'Third Space' and engage in genuine conversations. Conversely, in the case presented by Chan, the efforts of the police in Shenzhen to reach out to foreign residents missed its goal and resulted in misunderstandings on both sides.
2. **Interlinkages between social mobility and gender**
   Social pressure is a significant factor in migrants' experiences as shown by Diederich and Hanisch. The pressure on women and on children creates tension on both sides and engenders conflicts between social expectations and personal goals.
3. **Similar experiences across China-Africa and Africa-China mobilities**
   The experiences of Chinese migrants in Africa and of African migrants/students in China show surprising parallels. In particular, everyday uncertainty seems a constant factor in the lives of both migrant groups, often coupled with legal insecurity and social pressure.