

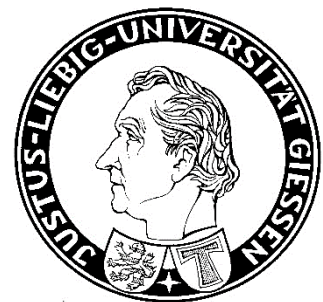
Teaching Assistantship Programme 2017

Lecture & Workshop Series

FACING GLOBAL CHALLENGES

ABSTRACTS

Facing Global Challenges · 5. GGS Teaching Assistantship Programme 2017 ·
Lecture & Workshop Series · Gießener Graduiertenzentrum für Sozial-, Rechts-
und Wirtschaftswissenschaften



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Lectures

No registration
required for
lectures

Postponed to 12th July

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Registration
required for
workshops*

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*Registration for workshops
via e-mail at Info@ggs.uni-giessen.de

Workshops

Hosnieh Mahoozi

Postponed to 12th July

Poverty and Inequality: An Introduction

July 12, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

The aim of this lecture is to open the discussion on the subject is poverty and economic Inequality. It starts with an introduction to the concept of poverty and inequality plus statistical evidences. Then we discuss the different methods to measure poverty and inequality. Finally, we introduce the way to interpret the poverty and inequality indicators.

Ahmet Görgen

Gramsci and Cultural Hegemony: The Sociology of Gramsci's Philosophy of Praxis

April 26, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

The lecture will present Gramsci's philosophy of Praxis, through dealing with the notions of hegemony and counter-hegemony, passive revolution, the historical bloc, the war of positions and the war of maneuver...etc., which have been the major conceptions of Gramsci, explaining the nature of domination as well as the emergence of resistance movements by basing on the interaction within the civil society. In the recent years, many countries in the world have been under the swift transformation process, which caused to break in the hegemony of old historical blocs through the emergence of the counter-hegemonic spheres. Therefore, this course will focus on Gramsci's theoretical framework by consisting of mentioned concepts and definitions since they will be important for the analysis of these transformations. Moreover, the course will also employ specific examples in the recent years from the increasing authoritarian practices as well as the resisting movements around the world as they provide the bases for the analysis in Gramscian conception.

During the first part of the lecture, the theoretical conceptions of Gramsci will be explored through dealing with the notions of hegemony and counter-hegemony, passive revolution, the historical bloc, the war of positions and the war of manoeuvre etc. The second part will focus on the specific cases of transformation processes that have been happening recently in many countries for practical explanations of the Gramsci's conceptions. As indicated above, the whole session will cover the Gramsci's conceptions in theoretical explanations as well as the practical cases in the world.

Immaculate Machasio

Remittance Inflows and Monetary Policy Transmission in Developing Countries

May 10, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

Remittances are transfers of money by migrant workers to their home countries. Monetary policy, on the other hand, consists of actions of a central bank that determine the size and growth of money supply, which in turn has an impact on other macroeconomic variables. This lecture analyses the effectiveness of monetary policy under two remittances regimes. In principle, literature explaining the cyclical nature of remittances is inconclusive. If remittances happen to be procyclical, they ought to pose a challenge to monetary policy because the contractionary measure will be less effective if at the same time remittances increase strongly. The same scenario holds in the case of an expansionary stance under exceptionally weak remittance inflows. The results of the research conducted have important implications for various policy measures in developing countries.

Nourhan A. Kassem

Islamic Political Thoughts: An Introduction

May 24, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

As noticed from the title, we have three main questions. The first goes to identify the meaning of “thought”, what is “political” and how we can categorize certain intellectual product as “Islamic”. Regarding the first point; “thought” we have a lot to say about the meaning of thought; how we can differentiate between it and other forms of ideas; such as philosophy, theory, ideology and the relationship among them. The other relationship we are going to investigate “thought” with its reality. Is it a double-faced coin; thought and reality?

The second element here is “political”. How can we read the “Islamic political”? Most of the scholars go directly to these heritage/traditional books that carry the word “political” or “kings” in these monographs’ titles. In a heritage like the Islamic one, it is hard, if not impossible to separate between political/intellectual (in general) and jurisprudence. Most of the Islamic intellectuals who theorized for political, power, state and authority were clergies/religious jurists in most cases as well. Consequently, where the sphere of “political” stopes and other spheres start? In fact, it is a very difficult issue. What we are going to do is to find the thread among all of the intellectuals’ works that could be located on the “political” scheme. It is that due to the plait being all other field intertwined with each other. The problematic sphere here is “Islamic”. Ask most people what does “Islamic” mean? Does it mean what Muslims have produced in different ages? Alternatively, what has been produced the Islamic civilization despite being presented by non-Muslims? On the other hand, these literature become known through different Islamic sects that can be contradicted largely despite sharing some fundamentals?

Eric Che Muma

The Impact of Anti-Terrorism Laws on Religious Freedom: Cameroon's Approach in Combating Terrorism and the Role of the Church

June 7, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

Recent developments in the international human rights law have shown that humanity is at great risk of instability and a likely effect of III World War, which may result from religious hatred. One of such causes is Terrorism the biggest threat to international Peace and security. Terrorism can be described as the worst form of threat to the long lasting peace mankind has suffered for since the aftermath of World War I and II. Since 2013, the world at large and Cameroon, in particular, has suffered from great atrocities caused by different terrorist groups. One of such groups is Boko Haram, Alshabab just to name a few. In a similar vein, Nigeria, Kenya, Germany, France, UK, U.S.A, Belgium, Turkey and others have also been affected. This may have resulted from religious diversity, the desire for continuous stay in power and economic interest. Consequently, attempts have so far been made by states in general and Cameroon in particular in countering terrorism through the enactment of anti-Terrorism legislation, border control and restrictions. Whether these measures are in line with their human rights obligations and respect for other fundamental human rights and freedoms cognizant of Globalization, Universality, interdependency and indivisibility of human rights is a matter of great attention.

The Lecture will take into consideration the background of religious freedom in Cameroon and other related forms of freedoms closely linked to Religion, the meaning of Religious Radicalism and Terrorism, Scholarly approaches towards Terrorism, the relationship between Terrorism, People, church and politics. The lecture also aims at examining the legal Framework for the universal recognition of fundamental human rights and freedoms, Cameroon's approach in combating Terrorism, Obligations of states to ensure human rights protection, the character of the Cameroon anti-terror law, the impact of the anti-Terror Law on the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, association, assembly etc. Cameroon's approach towards Terrorism compared to the Case of Germany, France and UK are also an important point of contention.

The outcome of the Anti-Terror Law and the observation of Non-governmental institutions, the role of the church in Combating terrorism, their challenges and way forward will also be taken into consideration. Only when this has been done that one can further argue and appreciate that anti-terror laws enacted by most states in general and Cameroon, in particular, are applied for the purpose for which they are intended and not to crack down on civilians for the sole aim of public order and national security.

Emmanuel Ametepah

Forest Transition Deficiency Syndrome: The Case of Forest Communities in the High Forest Zone of Ghana

June 28, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

Managing and conserving the world's remaining forests sustainably is vital for a continual supply of forest-related products and provision of ecosystem services particularly forest-based climate change mitigation services. Due to its exceptional role in performing these functions, tropical forests sustainability is especially crucial; and the role of Africa is particularly key given that the continent has a substantial amount of tropical forests and yet largely lacks the capacity for sustainable management.

This shall be presented in four main levels. The first level shall briefly introduce the thematic and lay out the "Forest Transition Theory" as the core theoretical framework for analysis. The second level shall elaborate on national and global policy frameworks, which influence maladaptive behavioral patterns of local forest-dependent people. The third then shall present the results of the field data, and the fourth (the concluding part) shall discuss and present a solution proposals followed by final recommendations.

Enough time would be devoted to the question and answer sections, particularly to questions related to the climate change debate and its human right component in relation to Africa – a continent which has contributed less to the climate change problematic and yet poised to suffer the worse consequences.

Baba Iddrisu Musah

Witches' Camps in Northern Ghana: A Reflection of unfulfilled and unfinished Mission of Modernization?

July 5, 2017 / 16.00 – 18.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

African societies have different ways of viewing and interpreting the world. These worldviews and interpretations, which are informed and indeed expressed as part of their beliefs and practices, and reinforced through socialization, include, among others, beliefs in and the practices of witchcraft. With the onset of modernization on the continent, with its prescriptions of logical and scientific interpretations of events, traditional ways of acting and doing receding, modernization tenets assumed those beliefs in and the practices of witchcraft will easily fade away. Witchcraft is still embedded in the every-day lives of many African societies. The penchant to adopt witchcraft to offer solutions to every-day problems is alive; this is succinctly demonstrated in the existence of witches' camps in Ghana. This article, which is part of my ongoing PhD work, positions the existence of the witches' camps in Ghana within the framework of existing modernization and witchcraft literature. Among other perplexing issues, the article offers readers to ponder on whether or not the existence of the witches' camps in Ghana is a reflection of the unfulfilled and unfinished mission of modernization.

Pavla Samoylova

Interdisciplinary Approach for creative and capturing Lectures

May 3, 2017 / 16.00 – 20.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

Many young academics at the beginning of their teaching carrier need to cope with a challenge how to make their lectures comprehensible even for demotivated and uninterested students.

The situation could be complicated with a big amount of theoretical material and its unclear relation to practical experiences. Students may start to lose their interest and lectures become less enjoyable not only for them but for teachers.

During my studies, I have received a lot of information and seen many approaches how to captivate listeners keeping their constant attention. I also attended workshops dedicated not only for teaching skills but also for the presenting image.

After I participated in GGS Teaching Assistantship Program, I decided to design my own approach.

I will present my models of lecture structuring, based on the experience not only from the academic background but also from artistic and musical performances.

During the workshop, students will learn how to give a pre-lecture introduction and how to organize the lecture in a most approachable way. The workshop will also include training exercises how to deal with different types of students, how to give a critical feedback and how to present your academic and non-academic personality to the students.

Ksenia Maksimovtsova

Language Policy, Minority Rights, and Democratization:

Case Studies of Contemporary Estonia, Latvia, and Ukraine

May 17, 2017 / 16.00 – 20.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

The disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the fall of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe have profoundly changed the political outlook of the world. The ambiguous national policy of the Soviet authorities and the turbulent political transformations caused several ethnic- and language-related conflicts (Nagorny Karabakh, the status of Russian speakers in the Baltics etc.) and highlighted the issue of language management and ethnic minorities' protection that are closely intertwined. The first part of the workshop includes the current tendencies in language policy development and encompass the interplay between language policy, nation building, and minority protection is formulated as follows: What are the characteristics of the language situation in former post-Soviet republics? How are minority rights and language policy connected with nation building and democratization in Eastern Europe?

The second part of the workshop deals with the case study of contemporary Estonia, Latvia, and Ukraine where language policy has radically shifted from the previous domination of the Russian language that had been „the language of intercultural communication" in the Soviet times to the promotion of the state languages that caused an ambiguous public reaction of some Russians and Russian speakers. The controversial language policy and the strict citizenship rules in the Baltics attracted some criticism from many international organizations and the European Union in general and raised the problem of Estonia, Latvia and Ukraine's democratic development that is the focus of the workshop.

Workshops

Stella Basinyi

World Heritage Communities: Values for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

May 31, 2017 / 16.00 – 20.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

This workshop discusses the World Heritage Phenomena with emphasis on two premises 1. Intangible vs. Tangible heritage. Intangible heritage; practices, representations, rituals expressions, knowledge, skills that communities and individuals recognise, as part of their “Living cultural heritage”, per definition is not fixable. They are susceptible to accelerated change due to global interactions and movements. Tangible heritage, on the other hand, includes; objects, environments, Monuments, Groups of Buildings, Sites are fixed. They get their cultural value since they are thought to be infused by the intangible. 2. Different groups and their ways of understanding, interpreting and valuing the heritage based on a group-specific logic of valorisation.

The user groups/local communities valorise heritage based on the idea of; nostalgia of the past, home, sacred, traditional, logics, governmental agents; political, public, national logics, site-management practitioners; economic, conservation and preservation logic tourists; Aesthetic, exotic logics. Hence there we have a divergence in the understandings of the value of heritage materials, hence diverging ideas of how to safeguard the heritage according to own logic. Due to these two premises, the questions arise; how can intangible heritage be safeguarded? By making, it tangible and represented in a site means to transform it in order to make it graspable to the wider audience. According to cultural sociologists, every fixation does inevitably follow a certain logic of valorisation. This then certainly opens up a realm of conflict between impacted groups and their perspectives of what determines the cultural value of a heritage resource. This leads to the second question; what are the underlying logics of valorisation and in how far are they in conflict with each other and what are the possible ways to communicate between these different perspectives and ways of valorisation? Examples will be taken from World heritage sites and landscapes of cultural value in Southern Africa.

Dr Tusharika Mukherjee

Work-Life Balance in Academic Life

June 7, 2017 / 16.00 – 20.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

The workshop focuses on the work-life interface as a global reality that demands both deliberation and action. The workshop addresses the need to recognize work-life integration as a personal/ organizational goal as a step towards a meaningful life and sustainability.

Dr Ana Ivasiuc

Doing Ethnographic Research in Practice: Challenges, Dilemmas and Conflicts

June 21, 2017 / 16.00 – 20.00 h / Campus Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Licher Str. 68, 35390 Giessen, Room 024 (HS 024)

The workshop is intended to discuss concrete challenges and dilemmas of ethnographic research, which doctoral students have encountered during their fieldwork, and which pose ethical, methodological or conceptual problems in their current research. The content of the workshop will be highly influenced by the issues the participants wish to address, spanning diverse topics. Some of the issues, which are expected to pose certain problems during ethnographic research, are:

- First contact: where and how to start research? How to foster acceptance in your research community? How to communicate about your research in ethically responsible ways?
- Rapport with research participants: what is acceptable and what is not acceptable in ethical fieldwork relationships? How do your gender, age, class, ethnic/racial background shape your rapport and how to mitigate related difficulties? How to solve conflicts? How to deal with gatekeepers?
- Anonymity and confidentiality in research: what do ethical guidelines say and how to adapt them to specific situations? How to solve ethical issues related to sensitive topics, like crime and illegality?
- Depth versus breadth of research: how to calibrate your fieldwork to match your research questions?

Upon registration, the participants will be requested to describe the issues, which they found problematic in their fieldwork, as well relevant questions they wish to address. In accordance with the topics, which will emerge, a list of relevant readings will be used. The literature will guide the discussions during the workshop, pointing towards fruitful ways in which the challenges and dilemmas might be addressed. The workshop will be tailored to the participants' specific questions, which will be addressed during group discussions. As a result, concrete solutions will be formulated to help participants deal in appropriate ways with the challenges encountered, while effectively incorporating them into the research results and theorization process.

Impressum

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