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Sommerschule Asian Food: History, Anthropology, Sociology

International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, 25–29, September 2017

Vom 25. bis 29. September 2017 lud das International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden siebzehn Jungwissenschaftler_innen zu einer Sommerschule mit dem Titel „Asian Food: History, Anthropology, Sociology“ ein. Die Master-Studenten_innen und Doktorand_innen bildeten eine große Breite sozio-kultureller, historischer und ernährungswissenschaftlicher Disziplinen ab und stammten aus Asien, Nord- sowie Südamerika und Europa. Veranstaltet wurde der Kurs von Anne Gerritsen, Katarzyna Cwiertka, Anne Murcott und Nir Avieli.

Der erste Abend diente dem Kennenlernen und schloss mit der Vorführung des Films „The Lunchbox“ (Ritesh Batra, Indien 2013).

Am zweiten Tag lag der Fokus auf den Methoden der Ernährungsforschung. Anne Murcott regte die Teilnehmer_innen an, die Idee „ethnischen“ Essens zu hinterfragen. Ethnizität als soziales Konstrukt zu begreifen, bedeutet Ethnien als Studienobjekt, aber nicht als analytische Kategorie zu betrachten.

Nir Aveli plädierte für die Rückbindung anthropologischer Forschung an den historischen Kontext. Ziel ist es, soziale Veränderungsprozesse zu untersuchen. Die Mischung verschiedener Untersuchungsmethoden (Interviews, teilnehmende Beobachtung) erlaubt dabei die Überprüfung der Ergebnisse. Insbesondere eigene Fremdheitsgefühle bieten die Chance, Besonderheiten von Kulturen zu erkennen.

Nachmittags führte Anne Gerritsen in die Ernährungsgeschichte ein. Während die Sozialwissenschaften nach sich wiederholenden Systemen suchen, so die These, betrachtet die Geschichtswissenschaft Spezifitäten bestimmter Epochen. Problematisiert wurde, ob sich sensorische Eindrücke in historischen Quellen fassen und in die heutige Zeit übertragen lassen. Essen stellt dabei durch seine Vergänglichkeit eine besondere Herausforderung für die Wissenschaft dar.

Katarzyna Cwiertka erläuterte anschließend die Geschichte von Lebensmittelverpackungen. In Japan entwickelten sich Verpackungen seit dem Kolonialismus von Objekten zur Vermarktung „fremder“ Lebensmittel hin zum auszeichnenden Element von Essenspräsenten. Regionale Präsentverpackungen sind mittlerweile derartig populär, dass sie häufig wichtiger als das Lebensmittel selbst sind.

Der dritte Tag begann mit dem Besuch des ethnologischen Museums Leiden. Die Teilnehmer_innen erschlossen, wie Ernährung im Museum als Marker von Ethnizität präsentiert wird, und diskutierten anschließend, auf welche Weise öffentliche Bildungseinrichtungen mit ihrer Darstellung Ethnizität konstruieren.

Der Nachmittag diente dem Besuch der Bibliothek der Universität Leiden. In kurzen Präsentationen stellten die Teilnehmer_innen ausgewählte Archivalien aus den Beständen vor. Neben dem ernährungsgeschichtlichen Kontext diskutierten die Student_innen Herangehensweisen zur Erschließung der Quellen. Zeitgleich konnten die Teilnehmer_innen Einzelgespräche über ihre Forschungsprojekte mit den Dozent_innen führen.

Am Abend lud die Sommerschule dann zu dem öffentlichen Vortrag „Soy Sauce – Taste and Beyond“ von Katarzyna Cwiertka. Darin zeichnete Cwiertka historische Entwicklungen sowie regionale Unterschiede in Herstellung und Standardisierung der fermentierten Sauce nach. Dass Forschung zum Themenfeld Essen kein reiner Selbstzweck ist, sondern sich zudem anbietet, um gesellschaftliche und politische Prozesse zu betrachten, bewies der

Vortrag wiederholt. Einerseits erklärte Cwiertka, wie sich Sojasauce von einem urbanen Luxusprodukt für reiche Einkommensgruppen hin zur Massenware entwickelte. Andererseits zeigte der Vortrag Verbindungen zwischen der Verbreitung chemisch hergestellter Sojasauce und historischen Ereignissen in Asien wie dem japanischen Kolonialismus und dem Koreakrieg auf. Der Hinweis darauf, dass die japanische Sojasaucenindustrie nach einer staatlich verordneten Umstellung auf chemische Herstellung seit den 1970er Jahren wieder „natürliche“ Sojasauce braut, bildete zugleich die Brücke zum nächsten Programmpunkt. Im Anschluss an den Vortrag führte ein Sojasaucenspezialist und -vertreiber die Anwesenden durch eine Verkostung unterschiedlichster handwerklich hergestellter Sojasaucen.

Der kommende Tag stand ganz im Fokus der Feldforschung. In kleinen Gruppen erkundeten die Teilnehmer_innen der Sommerschule zwei sehr unterschiedliche Märkte im benachbarten Rotterdam. Zentral bei der teilnehmenden Beobachtung waren dabei Fragen nach sozialen Mechanismen, Mustern und Regeln sowie nach beobachtbaren Kategorien mit sozialer Relevanz wie Geschlecht, Ethnizität oder Klasse. Während es sich beim Visserijplein Markt in einem Wohnviertel Rotterdams um einen Wochenmarkt für hauptsächlich unverarbeitete Lebensmittel aus aller Welt handelte, ähnelte die im Stadtzentrum gelegene Markthal mit einem breiten Angebot an Essensständen und Spezialitäten eher einem riesigen Food Court, für den Menschen teils extra anreisen.

Alltagseinkäufe, Klappische und eine ethnisch diverse Kundschaft hier; Event-Charakter, ein architektonisch aufwändiger Glasbau sowie die Vermarktung „ethnischer“ Küchen dort.

Die kontrastreichen Märkte boten zahlreiche Möglichkeiten für diese Übung praktischer Feldforschung.

Die Beobachtungen aus der kleinen Feldforschung präsentierten die jeweiligen Teams am letzten Tag der Sommerschule der gesamten Gruppe. In der abschließenden Diskussion wurde die Sommerschule noch einmal Revue passiert. Besonders das Lernen zwischen den unterschiedlichen vertretenen Disziplinen wurde herausgestrichen: wenn eine Sommerschule es schafft, Studierenden fachfremde Methoden wie teilnehmende Beobachtung und Archivarbeit näher zu bringen, dann kann sie nur erfolgreich gewesen sein.

Anil Paralkar, Nora Katharina Faltmann

International Scientific Forum on Sustainable Development Goals

Surakarta, Indonesia, November 18–19, 2017

Exploring socio-ecological transitions/transformations towards sustainability in South-North-South context — this was the goal of a combined seminar (Nov. 18th) and workshop (Nov. 19th) hosted by the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of the Sebelas Maret University in Surakarta, Indonesia. Supported with funding from ASEA-UNINET, a network of universities consisting of European and South-East Asian universities, the activities were co-organized by the Working Group Development Studies and Sustainability Research of the Institute of Geography, University of Innsbruck (Austria), and the Faculty of Geography, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta (Indonesia). The activities brought together scholars from Austria, Indonesia and the Netherlands, discussing the local and regional implications of the Sustainable Development Goals 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and 15 (Life on Land) and putting them in a South–North–South (South America – Europe – Indonesia) comparison.

As kick-off event, an international seminar on “sustainable development goals” was held where the participants together with Master and PhD students explored different perspectives towards an understanding of socio-ecological transformations towards sustainability. The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. rer. nat. Nurhadi Nurhadi, head of the study programme for sociology and anthropology education of the Sebelas Maret University. Afterwards, Univ.-Prof. Dr. Martin Coy opened the seminar with his keynote “Transformations towards sustainability: Conceptual considerations and Austrian experiences“. In his speech, he gave an overview on the latest debate on strategies for sustainable development. Drawing on examples from Austria (i.e. small-scale economic cycles, concrete approaches for the creation of regional products, farmer to consumer direct marketing and self-determined regional development) he focused on potential strategies for endogenous development. In the second session Robert Hafner PhD, Christian Obermayr and Sebastian Pihan (all University of Innsbruck), Lia S. Purnamasari, Yuhastina PhD (both Sebelas Maret University) as well as Rowdy Wesley Baan and Nigel Dierks (both University of Rotterdam) presented insights about their research. A wide variety of topics related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as public space, education, housing policies, land use change, urban poverty and ecological resilience was discussed. This session was followed by intensive discussions among the speakers and the audience (more than 100 participants) which exemplified the strong interest in the subject.

Based on the seminar, a project workshop was designed to deepen the conceptual, theoretical, methodological and thematic debate on possible research perspectives in the context of the SDGs. The ten participants consisted of scientists and practitioners – a constellation which proved to be very fruitful for the discussion. Focusing on the SDGs 11 and 15, it was discussed how far regional contexts and interpretational patterns of SDGs influence the (non-) reachability of global goals. Research perspectives and approaches on some central topics, such as land cover change related to the use of resources in urban and rural contexts, were compared and discussed. By exchanging and comparing research experiences and latest research activities in the different regional settings of Brazil, Argentina, Austria, and Indonesia, numerous promising perspectives for a future research agenda, joint projects and publications emerged. The results showed that particularly comparative research considering South (Brazil, Argentina) – North (Austria) – South (Indonesia) experiences is undertheorized and offers great potential for future research activities.

Christian Obermayr, Robert Hafner, Widiyanto Widiyanto and Martin Coy

Getting published in the Social Sciences for Indonesian Early Career Researchers

University of Warwick, August 15, 2017

On 15th August 2017 a workshop aimed at assisting Indonesian early career researchers in getting their work published took place at the University of Warwick. The workshop was funded by the British Council's Newton Fund as part of the current Newton Institutional Links Project between the Department of Politics and International Studies at Warwick and the Centre for Election and Political Party (CEPP) at Universitas Indonesia. It brought together established researchers from the UK and Indonesia, alongside early career scholars from Indonesia who are currently studying for PhDs in the social sciences in the UK.

The day-long event was structured into three parts. Part one involved presentations from UK-based academics currently serving as journal and book series editors in a session that focused on “demystifying the publication process”. The speakers in this session were Prof Shaun Breslin (editor of *The Pacific Review*), Dr Juanita Elias (editor of Rowman and Littlefield International’s *Global Political Economies of Gender and Sexuality* series) and Dr André Broome (editor of the Routledge series *Studies in Globalisation*, the Palgrave *Global Reordering* book series and the CSGR working paper series). The session highlighted some of the “dos” and “don’ts” of academic publishing. Topics covered included: how to pick journals to send work to and hints and tips on how best to present research in ways that will appeal to journals. Dres Broome and Elias also provided extensive commentary on how best to develop book proposals and manuscripts.

Part two of the workshop was dedicated to providing detailed and extensive feedback to Indonesian early career researchers – who had submitted a draft of their paper to the workshop organisers in advance of the event. The three speakers were given 20 minutes to provide an overview of their current research work – with discussants then commenting on how the paper might best be revised for publication. The commentary focused on issues such as: target journals, development of core claims/arguments, strategies for improving academic writing, and how best to develop the theoretical contribution of the work. The three authors presenting at the workshop came from very different academic backgrounds (cultural studies, business administration and public management, and education) and the research they presented ranged from a focus on participatory video making in West Papua, new forms of public management in Indonesia and women’s role and experience of higher education in Indonesia. The high-level of Indonesia expertise (especially from the Indonesian partners and speakers) made for a fascinating event and the PhD students received detailed feedback on their work and publication strategies alongside networking opportunities.

The final part of the workshop involved presentations and commentaries from three Indonesia-based scholars. The discussion reflected on the changing pressures that Indonesia-based scholars are facing. Particular attention focused on how changing academic cultures and funding rules in Indonesia had led to a greater emphasis on academic publishing – with scholars increasingly expected to publish their work in Scopus listed journals. It was felt that activities such as this workshop could play an important role in assisting Indonesian scholars seeking to publish in such journals. At the same time, concerns were raised about the very real difficulties that Indonesian scholars faced in publishing in what are predominantly English-language outlets. It was suggested that more funding needs to be made available to scholars to attend publication training-type events and to assist with English language editing. One concern raised was that the privileging of English-language publishing as the mark of “quality” academic research had the potential to generate significant inequalities within Indonesian academia – with those who had been unable to access international programmes of study as part of their training significantly disadvantaged in terms of their career prospects. Nevertheless, all workshop participants welcomed the emphasis on international engagement and research publication within Indonesian academia not least because it created greater opportunities for academic partnership and collaborative research. Indeed, in light of the changing academic environment in Indonesia and the increased prioritization given to research-leadership, it was felt that workshops such as this could provide important opportunities to develop research capacity.

The workshop was part of the capacity building activities of the British Council Newton Institutional Links project: The Gendered Everyday Political Economy of Kampung Eviction & Resettlement in Jakarta (project ID 271195589). Building on the success of the workshop, the organisers are keen to expand it to other universities in Indonesia. Members of CEPP's network of 45 Indonesian universities have expressed great enthusiasm for capacity building activities around publication strategies and sharing knowledge.

Juanita Elias (PI), Chusnul Mari'yah, Lena Rethel, Reni Suwarso and Lisa Tilley

The South China Sea Conflict after the Arbitration of July 12, 2016: Analyses and Perspectives

University of Hamburg, November 24–25, 2017

The colloquium took place on Friday, November 24, 2017 from 10.00 until 19.00 in Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (Hauptgebäude, Senatssaal) and on Saturday, November 25, 2017 from 9.00 until 17.00 in Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1 (Ostflügel). There were 16 participants from five European countries: Germany, Norway, France, Great Britain and Russia. This colloquium united European experts on China and Southeast Asia, who are political scientists, historians and specialists of international law. This multi- and interdisciplinary approach to the conflict contributed to new perspectives in the discussion of this burning issue.

Most of the presentations were recorded and appeared on the university's website "Lecture to Go" (<https://lecture2go.uni-hamburg.de/12go/-/get/v/22379>).

The aim of the broadcasting is to reach a broader public within Germany and abroad.

As important guests who were listening to individual presentations we could welcome members of the diplomatic corps in Hamburg and Germany (e.g. the consul of Japan in Hamburg, consular staff from ASEAN consulates and embassies in Hamburg, Berlin and The Hague) and the President of the International Court of the Law of the Sea who all came in their private capacities.

We would like to use this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the sponsors for their generous support, in particular the Hamburger Wissenschaftliche Stiftung.

On July 12, 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled on the case Philippines versus China concerning the South China Sea (SCS). The PCA ruled in favour of seven of the Philippine submissions, especially the invalidity of the so-called Nine Dash Line of China's maritime borders and the historical rights on which this line is based. China had refused to participate in the arbitration and declared the result as "null and void". In particular, China announced its policy of the Four No: "Not accept the jurisdiction of the PCA, not take part in the proceedings, not acknowledge the results and not implement them."

Even with this outright rejection of the verdict by one of the conflicting parties, the rule can be considered as a legal milestone in history of the SCS conflict. China's claims have been proven inconsistent with international law. This fact alone, however, does not yet lead to a conflict settlement.

The international community was following this event and its possible consequences with attention, anxiety and expectations. Like other centres of world power, e.g. the US, Japan, Russia or India, Europe and the European Union have to formulate a common policy as an international actor. Europe and the SCS are more than 9,000 kilometers apart. However,

there is a strong economic, political and security interdependence between these two regions. A widening conflict in the SCS will not only hurt European interests but also endanger international stability and prosperity by weakening an international order based on principles deeply rooted in European and Western history. A European response seems to be even more important now after the change of the US administration.

The colloquium comprised two parts: the analysis of the current conflict constellation and possible future directions, which could lead to a settlement.

In the first part, the participants analysed the current conflict constellation and especially the drivers of the conflict. Undoubtedly the China conundrum and the question of China–ASEAN interaction will remain in the center of debate for years to come. However, are there parallels with similar conflicts in Europe? How far did ideas which originated in Europe, like nationalism, national sovereignty and territorial integrity or *mare clausum/mare liberum*, shape the perceptions of the claimants in the SCS? China and Vietnam, e.g., base their claims on history, thus directly or indirectly questioning the competence of international law. In recent years, however, Vietnam, Malaysia and several other Southeast Asian countries have found pragmatic bilateral solutions for their maritime border limitations based on the principles of international law.

Is the perspective of a “China peril” close to the multi-faceted realities or is it a misinterpretation of the PRC actions? As far as this point was concerned, there were interesting views exchanged. The first view asserted that “the Chinese tiger is ready to jump”, which was made extremely clear in the demonstration of the ongoing arms’ build-up. However, there was also the heatedly debated view that this big country was in reality a “colossus on clay feet”. This point of view was based on China’s many economic, political and social problems, which have remained unsolved.

In the second part of the colloquium, the participants discussed ways and experiences, which may offer avenues out of that conflict.

The questions were: What can we learn from historical border settlements, like the Tonkin Gulf Agreement of 2000 or the China-Vietnam land border treaty of 1999? How much is the long history of bi- and multilateral relations of the concerned countries useful for that purpose? Will a combination of bilateral and multilateral approaches lead to a peaceful settlement? Does international law provide solutions which will be acceptable to all parties involved? Are European ideas like the joint management of resources, the construction of a common security architecture or preventive diplomacy helpful? In which way European and Asian, especially ASEAN, experiences may contribute to the debate about a new international order and legal system?

The debate was vivid, based on carefully prepared presentations. All in all, there seems to be no clear picture at the moment, as diverging tendencies compete with each other. However, it is necessary to look closely into the external and internal perspectives of the individual countries like China, the Philippines and Vietnam. This includes, e.g., internal political struggles, economic constraints and the sober realities of asymmetric power relations.

This refers also to the importance of the July 12, 2016 PCA ruling. Some participants described it as a legal milestone and a basis for the next rulings of the International Court on the Law of the Sea regarding the legal claims concerning the continental shelf. However, other participants went even so far to declare the PCA ruling a dead letter.

We know that this colloquium was only one step of many activities which are currently undertaken to get a better understanding of the conflicts in and around the SCS. The debate

will go on, partially based on new developments within the region. After the colloquium, the presentations of the individual participants will be updated and enriched, so that they can appear in a conference-volume scheduled for mid-2018.

Thomas Engelbert

ASC conference 2017

Köln, December 1–2, 2017

The 2017 conference of the Association for Social Science Research on China (Arbeitskreises Sozialwissenschaftliche Chinaforschung, ASC) was held in Cologne on December 1st and 2nd, 2017. An international array of scholars gathered to share their current interests and present their most recent findings. The conference was opened with a keynote address from Vivienne Shue (Oxford University); presented by Anna Ahlers (University of Oslo). Shue situated nuanced detail of the Party's governance project within a macro-historical context of empire, and identified a number of implications that may impact social and economic developments initiated in the Xi era.

In response, the first panel discussed current and emerging dynamics of governance in China which characterize Xi's leadership. Chen Xuelian (China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics) addressed cadre evaluation and management, and its implications for institutional changes under Xi's innovative approaches to governance. Gunter Schubert and Sascha Zhivkov (University of Tübingen) explored the development of the Fujian Pilot Free Trade Zone within the context of China's traditional policy approach for experimentation. Their findings provide an understanding of how economic innovation and experimentation are being played out under a framework of top-level design. Shen Yongdong and Anna Ahlers (University of Oslo) focused on the policy development of campaign-style negotiations in international forums; centering on the dynamics surrounding discussions on air-pollution controls at the G20 Hangzhou Summit. They identified positive residual policy effects emanating from these campaign-style dynamics.

The following panel focused on population policy and the Chinese family. Björn Alpermann (University of Würzburg) provided a survey and interpretive analyses of Chinese policy documents for population governance. He argued that, despite the abolition of the one child policy, governmental policies directed to population control are still very much in evidence and are being purposefully pursued. Luo Baozhen (Western Washington University) presented a macro picture of China's care-economy from the perspective of feminist economics, and appealed for the construction of a social-investment state in terms of long term social care. Birgit Hermann (University of Würzburg) offered qualitative evidence on the phenomenon of voluntary childlessness in urban China; an unanticipated and sensitive outcome that emerged as a collateral result of China's modernization project.

The third panel treated aspects of Chinese politics. Christian Göbel (University of Vienna) and Chen Xuelian delved into e-governance in China; specifically, electronic petitioning. Their research addressed the question as to why petitions are put online, and documented how narratives regarding good and bad citizens are being constructed through this governance mode. The growing influence of advocacy groups as effective actors in policy making was observed by Emina Popovic (Free University of Berlin). She investigated the role that associations play in influencing environmental policy making and outcome, and identified the technical nature of their impact on policy outcomes. Christoph Steinhardt (Chinese

University of Hong Kong) identified a newly emerging pattern of claims-making within China's contentious politics, i.e. Environmental Public Interest Campaigns, basing this claim on the comparative effectiveness of their public protest incidents for environment concerns vis-à-vis other interest-groups.

The fourth panel centered on the creation of the welfare state in China. Tobias ten Brink (Jacobs University Bremen) and Liu Tao (University of Duisburg-Essen) discussed the social security program (dibao) and its formation through a synthesis of both domestic factors and international influences. Armin Müller (University of Göttingen) provided a wealth of empirical observations on village doctors, elucidating the institutional impediments and difficulties that challenge them and their work. He concluded that even in reform, the resulting chain of authority remains weak and leaves policies largely unenforceable; providing a research opportunity to identify the causes. Mark Frazier (New School for Social Research) reflected on urbanization and social policies and how they symbiotically contribute to a hierarchical system of social citizenship adversely impacting migrant workers in China. He pointed out paradoxes even in well intentioned social programs that subsequently worsen the status and protection of migrant workers in cities. Neil Munro (University of Glasgow) researched the interpretation of the concept of "market justice" in his comparative study of China and Russia. Through focus groups and interviews, he teased out the difficulty of meaningfully applying that concept in either country.

The fifth and final panel addressed Chinese economic development patterns and modes. Maximilian Dullo and Doris Fischer (University of Würzburg) explored a cutting-edge sector: drone tech firms in China. They found that it was the user community that was of primary strategic importance for firms' developmental sustainability. Marcus Conlé (University of Duisburg-Essen) presented research on the biopharmaceutical industry in China; designated as a strategic emerging industry for the nation. Turning to less developed industries and economic zones, Carsten Holz (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) investigated economic development in West Sichuan. He examined whether and how economic development in a depressed region can come about, and used a government economic development program for the promotion of tourism as a case study.

Each presentation was followed by a discussant's comments and lively debate. ASC 2017 concluded with remarks from the conference organizer, Felix Wemheuer (University of Cologne).

Yan Zhe

Gender, Migration and Food: Women in Japanese Foodscapes in Berlin and Düsseldorf

Freie Universität Berlin, June 23, 2017

On 23 June 2017, the workshop "Gender, Migration, and Food: Women in Japanese Foodscapes in Berlin and Düsseldorf" was held at Freie Universität Berlin (FU). The workshop was organized by Cornelia Reiher (FU) in collaboration with Nora Kottmann (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, HHU), bringing together Japan and China scholars with students from both universities.

The event was rooted in a method course initiated by C. Reiher at FU Berlin. Against the backdrop of the emergence of new "Japanese" food trends in Berlin in recent years, she saw an opportunity to teach students ethnographic methods by asking them to conduct interviews

with members of the Japanese diaspora working in the food industry and produce short movies. In collaboration with N. Kottmann, the project grew to include Düsseldorf, a city with a large number of Japanese nationals. As the courses concluded, the workshop was held with the aim of discussing and comparing the results that emerged from the teachings and students' projects in both cities.

The workshop centered around one keynote speech delivered by James Farrer (Sophia University, Japan), three presentations by Christian Tagsold (HHU), N. Kottmann and C. Reiher respectively, focusing on Japanese cuisine and diaspora in Germany. In addition, the short movies made by students as part of the coursework were also screened. This was then followed by an exchange on challenges encountered during fieldwork, and finally, by way of conclusion, an overarching discussion concerning teaching methods.

The keynote speech by J. Farrer shed light on Japanese food in China. Examining the data through the perspective of gender, he underscored two main features of the Japanese food-scape. First, food consumption seems to be gendered: urban restaurants are seen as a place for female customers, with foreign food in particular conveying gendered messages tailored for a feminine clientele. The second striking aspect is the existence of a form of neo-orientalism. As most restaurants are being run by Chinese (or Taiwanese) owners for Chinese customers, Japan is often portrayed as an alternative version of Asian modernity: the merging of modernity and traditions, the encounter between modern families and traditional gender roles, as well as the coexistence of status consumption (upper-class gastro-tourism) and environmentalist virtue (environmental friendly approach to food).

After this introductory presentation that emphasized theoretical perspectives from which phenomena of culinary globalization can be studied, the next panel dealt with Japanese cuisine and diaspora in the German context. After a historical and theoretical overview of the Japanese diaspora in Germany drawn by C. Tagsold, N. Kottmann and C. Reiher gave examples of Japanese women's trajectories in Berlin and Düsseldorf, underlining the existence of diverse motivations and strategies, embedded in heterogeneous narratives. Their preliminary findings highlighted a stratified food industry, where male respondents could focus on establishing their careers while female interviewees faced more precarious working conditions. Nevertheless, selected narratives also underscored the possibilities for women to realize their dreams in an environment characterized by a level of freedom they did not experience in Japan. Even though gendered dynamics cannot be overlooked, with men often occupying stable and socially valorized positions, Japanese women could indeed also exercise agency in this new environment. Although these insights seem to be true for both cities, there exist great differences with regard to nationalities and demographics of the people involved in "Japanese" food businesses and the foodscapes itself.

The third part of the workshop revolved around the screening of the short movies produced by the students during their method seminars. The videos featured Japanese restaurants, bistros, cafés, as well as bakeries in the two cities. While conducting research, the students from Düsseldorf found out that many of their interviewees often tried to distance themselves from the "Japanese community", underlying the existence of heterogeneous trajectories described during the previous presentations. Subsequently, the students discussed their experiences, the issues encountered during fieldwork, and what they learnt from it. They expressed a heightened interest in doing field research and were thankful for having had the opportunity to try out various methods before writing their theses. They agreed that more such seminars would be needed, even as early as in their B.A. courses.

A roundtable discussion among Japanese Studies professors from both universities (Verena Blechinger-Talcott, Cosima Wagner and Matthias Zachmann from FUB; N. Kottmann and C. Tagsold from HHU) about teaching methods concluded the workshop. Three main points were discussed. The first one dealt with the issue of teaching research methods. Participants underlined the importance of teaching quantitative as well as qualitative methods, which requires that more time in the seminars is reserved for methods texts, including new types of challenges, such as data management. Also, they highlighted the benefits of applying them to concrete cases, even if that means that quantity has to be limited. The second point addressed the feasibility of such projects. Although incentives are an important motivation for the students, such hands-on projects would not be feasible every semester. Therefore, an alternative could be to improve the link between the major and the minor subjects, which often include methods. The third point was related to the necessity to balance flexibility and material limitations: the professors underlined the importance of designing the seminars in a flexible way and trying to transfer the knowledge to the society within the existing financial and time constraints.

At the end of the workshop C. Reiher summarized the findings and concluded that more flexibility was necessary in order to teach methods in a more comprehensive way.

Marie Weishaupt, Chaline Timmerarens