

Course Announcement IGS North-South

Spring Semester 2013

Disciplinary and thematic modules

University of Basel

swisspeace - [Doctoral Programme North-South \(DONOS\)](#)

Seminar: The Right Disposition of Things? Foucauldian Views on the State, Development and War

The break between sovereign power and government is one of the key distinctions that Michel Foucault elaborated in his writings. Drawing on de La Perrière, Foucault argues that modern government is «not a matter of imposing a law on men, but of the disposition of things, that is to say, of employing tactics rather than laws (...); arranging things so that this or that end may be achieved through a certain number of means. (...) Whereas the end of sovereignty is internal to itself and gets its instruments from itself in the form of law, the end of government is internal to the things it directs; it is to be sought in the perfection, maximization, or intensification of the processes it directs» (STP, 137). Government is thus the right disposition of things. Hence, modern power has to gauge different means to achieve certain ends. These thoughts are the point of departure for the class: its main aim is to scrutinize to which extent Foucault's ideas are pertinent for rethinking «development» and the role states and development agencies play in it.

Wednesday 08.15-10.00, Starting date: 27.02.2013

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Seminar: Islam, Staat und Gesellschaft im post-sowjetischen Zentralasien

Siebzig Jahre sowjetischer Herrschaft sowie der tiefgreifende politische, soziale und kulturelle Transformationsprozess nach 1991 haben in den fünf zentralasiatischen Sowjetrepubliken Kasachstan, Kirgisien, Tadschikistan, Turkmenistan und Usbekistan zu höchst unterschiedlichen Ausformungen von ?Islam? geführt. ?Islam? zeichnet sich im heutigen Zentralasien durch multiple historische Traditionen, eine Vielzahl religiöser Praktiken, Vorstellungen, sozialer Realitäten sowie formaler wie informeller Strukturen aus. Im Rahmen des Seminars sollen vor allem folgende Themenkomplexe erörtert werden: (a) Islam, Identität und die Konstruktion von Nationalgeschichte, (b) religiöse Praxis und Normativität, (c) staatliche Religionspolitik und (d) die Rolle religiöser Eliten im Kontext autoritärer politischer Systeme.

Course language: German

Tuesday 14.15-17.00, Starting date: 26.02.2013

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Seminar: Business actors in peace processes: supporter or spoiler?

Violent conflicts often adversely affect the business activities of private companies, most notably through the destruction of production facilities, an instable political environment and reputational damages. At the same time, private companies are key social actors with significant influence on economic, political and social developments.

The seminar addresses the possible role that private actors can have in violent conflicts and peace processes. After the discussion of the literature on war economies, an actors-centered approach is chosen and discussed with a changing focus on different actors and industries, as well as different multi-stakeholder and company specific initiatives.

Wednesday 10.15-12.00, Starting date: 27.02.2013

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Seminar: The Politics of Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective

Transitional justice is a relatively new field of practice and academia, emerging in the 1980s in response to transitions from authoritarian rule to democracy in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Following the end of the Cold War we have seen an increase in intra-state conflicts and transitional justice measures are increasingly applied in such contexts. Understood by some as a narrow legal response to human rights abuses and by others as a thicker concept which includes forgiveness, reconciliation and memorialisation, transitional justice has come to be accepted as an important part of peacebuilding and dealing with the past.

Recent scholarship on transitional justice highlights its nature as an inherently contested process over which actors will disagree and within which choices and compromises are made. These dynamics are influenced by relative agency and power and are underpinned by assumptions and normative positions. This course will first provide an overview of transitional justice as a field/s including key assumptions, discourses and mechanisms. It will then go on to look at questions of epistemology, actors and agency, impact and assessment, and of contestation and hybridity. Concepts such as liberal peace, reconciliation, citizenship and justice will be covered along with cases and empirical insights from Uganda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and others.

Thursday 12.15-16.00, Starting date: 28.02.2013 (fortnightly)

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Swiss TPH

To be announced

University of Bern

Centre for Development and Environment

Next courses will be offered in Autumn Semester 2013

University of Zurich

Development Study Group Zurich

Principles and Theory Course

Geography is a mature and successful discipline, but increasing specialisation means that many doctoral students are recruited from outside the discipline, and that Masters students often specialise early in their careers. This seminar will introduce doctoral students to a range of cross-disciplinary literature and allow wide ranging discussions of the relevance of this literature, and a broad knowledge of the discipline, to individual research projects. Each slot lasts three hours, and we expect you to do some reading and group preparation before and after classes.

1 ECTS

[Details](#)

Promotionsseminar II

PhD seminar II is focused around a weekend retreat, where cohorts of doctoral students identify areas in which they feel their skills base is weak, and a set of activities and discussions are held to explore these areas. Typically, doctoral students attend this course in their second year of study.

1 ECTS

[Details](#)

Workshop with Alison Mountz

Public lecture, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstr. 190, room 25-H-92 Alison Mountz, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada "Island upon Island, Sovereignty upon Sovereignty: Mapping the carceral archipelago through island detentions"
(no prior registration is needed)

Scientific workshop with Alison Mountz on 19. June 2013, Department of Geography, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstr. 190, room 25-H-38 Please register with norman.backhaus@geo.uzh.ch since space is limited. There is also the possibility of an individual talk with Alison Mountz on 20. June for a limited number of people (please state your interest in your registration for the workshop).

Tuesday, 18 June 16:15-18:00 public lecture
Wednesday, 19 June 9:30-17:00 scientific workshop
Thursday, 20 June 9:30-12:30 individual talks

Integrative module

University of Bern

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE, University of Bern) and Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques (CSRS, Abidjan)

Summer School on Global Change, Innovation and Sustainable Development

Summer School 2013: Health and Environment

In Côte d'Ivoire
1 – 10 September 2013

The Summer School 2013 of the International Graduate School (IGS) North-South focused on "Health and Environment" – a theme for which the Swiss TPH and the CSRS provided two key conceptual frameworks ("One Health" and "Ecohealth"). The goal of the Summer School was to provide an intercultural, inter- and transdisciplinary learning and exchange platform for PhD students from different countries around the world, representing a number of different scientific disciplines. The event was also designed to lay the basis for future bi- or multilateral research collaborations.

The programme included the following blocks:

- Seminar on Global Change (GC) and Sustainable Development (SD), providing insights into concepts of sustainable development, development theories, discourses, global change processes and emerging dynamics, and methodological implications for research on GC and SD in the form of an inter- and transdisciplinary research approach;
- Lectures and exercises on concrete methodological issues of inter- and transdisciplinary research, including qualitative and quantitative methods and a mixed methods approach;
- Lectures and exercises on this year's thematic focus: "Health and the Environment in the Context of Global Change and Sustainable Development";

- Fieldwork exploring urban and rural challenges of GC and SD including preparation and presentation of results (two groups): the first group focussed on the “One Health” and “Ecohealth” concepts and the second on “governance and social services in a post-conflict situation”;
- Lectures and exercises to develop soft skills in scientific writing and publishing and a workshop to develop the skills needed for communicating with policy and the media.

Access to a selection of course materials:

[Programme](#)

[Participants and group photo](#)

[Introduction to the Summer School](#)

[Presentation on Global Change and Sustainable Development](#)

[Presentation on One Health and Ecohealth](#)

[Various other training materials](#)