

ZMO Workshop in co-operation with Irina Morozova (Institute für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Left movements and ideology in Asia, Africa and the Middle East at the last quarter of the twentieth century: towards a comparative-historical analysis

Venue: Zentrum Moderner Orient, Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin

Date: 19 March 2014

Synopsis:

Left movements in Asia, Africa and the Middle East boosted out with the increased pace in the post-WWII decolonisation period. In political messages and quest for new social and cultural identities these movements differed from the 1920-30s' "holy alliance" between local leaders and Western communists that manifested itself in nation-building projects of anti-imperialist and anti-colonial rhetoric. By the mid 1970s, the advance of the Cold War politics in the Third World led to the formation of new factions within the left movement in support or in opposition to communist and liberal ideologies, appropriating their symbols and revolving various responses to the super powers' grand narratives. Importantly, within the shared historical space of the twentieth century those grand narratives had been under great influence of the patterns of power, social projects and cultural ideas originating in the Third World.

The workshop endeavours to look at communities in post-colonial Asia, Africa and the Middle East in historical comparative perspective and explore the similarities and particularities of the societies, which fully experienced socialism (as in Soviet Central Asia, for instance), and other societies, which leaders and activists had different degrees of direct and indirect engagements with the left movements and ideology. We would like to look at institutional and social adaptation to the power hierarchies, as well as knowledge production hierarchies at the times of decolonisation process almost completed in the mid 1970s, through the international socialist system's disintegration at the end of the 1980s and the followed neo-liberal aftermath of the 1990s.

Programme:

9:30-11:00 – Session 1. The "Left" in post-colonial Asia, Africa and the Middle East: in competition for meaning and symbols

Dr. Irina Morozova (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) Introduction to the Workshop

Dr. Ali Raza (*ZMO*) "Exploring new dimensions in the study of the Leftist movement in Pakistan"

11:15-12:45 – Session 2. Hierarchies in post-colonial left movement: relationships vis-à-vis super powers

Dr. Gertrud Hüwelmeier (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) “The “Children of Uncle Ho” - Transnational Networks between Vietnam and East Germany”

Dr. Irina Morozova (*Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*) “International communication vis-à-vis Moscow: Soviet Central Asian and Mongolian elites in comparative perspective (1980-1990s)”

13:00-14:00 – Lunch

14:00-15:30 - Session 3. Leaders, networks and communication (social agents, their biographies; the transformation of institutions)

Dr. Jason Sumich (*Norwegian University of Science and Technology*) “The evolution of the Mozambican middle class”