

Interpretationen („92er Konsens“) beruhten und sich negativ auf die Außenpolitik auswirkten. Breiten Raum nahmen weiterhin Vorträge und Diskussionen zu Taiwans anstehenden Wahlen für das Amt des Präsidenten und der Parlamentarier ein. Weitere Themen waren studentische Belange an europäischen Universitäten, die Auswirkungen des Brexit und die Bedeutung der Wirtschaft Irlands.

Thomas Weyrauch

Peoples and languages of the Sino–Russian borderlands: Dauria

Palacký University Olomouc, October 9–10, 2019

The international two-day workshop “Peoples and languages of the Sino–Russian borderlands: Dauria” was held at Palacký University Olomouc, supported by the European Regional Development Fund project “Sinophone Borderlands — Interaction at the Edges” (CZ.02.1.01/0.0/0.0/16_019/0000791). The workshop was organised by Ute Wallenböck (Palacký University Olomouc) in collaboration with Veronika Zikmundová (Charles University Prague), bringing together researchers of history, anthropology, and linguistics who deal with the area and peoples of historical Dauria. This was the first academic event that truly reflected the diversity of approaches and disciplines necessary to study the Sino–Russian borderland, especially as the culture and history of the Dagurs and other peoples of Dauria — which comprises lands around north-eastern Sino–Russian border — administratively the northernmost part of Heilongjiang, northern part of Inner Mongolian Hulunbuir, and the adjacent parts of Russia — have so far received little attention in the western scholarship. The two-days long event was structured in three sessions. Caroline Humphrey (MIASU Cambridge University) was an important guest who oversaw the presentations and contributed remarks and insights in the discussion. The first session involved the historical and social anthropological approaches to the topic of Dauria. By questioning the inherent connection of Daur names with Daur ethnicity, the first speaker, Loretta Kim (University of Hong Kong) presented a data collection of Daur names ranging from the seventeenth century to the present day. The discussion on identity and ethnicity continued with the second presentation by Bazar Tsybenov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Ulan Ude) on the evolution of the term “Daur-Mongol” and self-identification of Dairs in the revolution period with Fumintai and his involvement in the Pan-Mongol political activity as a case study. Then, Stephanie Ziehaus (Palacký University Olomouc) talked about ethnicity in the imperial context, which frames the Dairs as a vanished transnational community and analyses the impact of imperial categorisation. In the subsequent discussion, questions of ethnicity and identity, ranging from the conflict of territoriality versus kinship in clan affiliation, the conversion of clan names into Chinese surnames and the Daur-Mongols’ involvement in Pan-Mongolism, were revolved.

Sayana Namsaraeva (MIASU, University of Cambridge and Palacký University Olomouc) started the second part of the first session. She explored questions of ethnicity and kinship in the Sino–Russian borderlands through the case of Gantimur. Her presentation was followed by Kicengge (Otemon Gakuin University, Osaka) who presented the “cisan incident” as an example for the legal procedure of appeals in the Manchu Eight Banners and the importance of the textual recording of this legal case for the Daur community, which to this day preserves it as part of their identity. Subsequently, Katerina Zikmundová (Charles University Prague) presented her research on Merse-Guo Daofu, touching upon a topic explored early in the presentation of Bazar Tsybenov. However, she focused mainly on the results of her interview with his late daughter Odognowa, recorded in Hohhot in 2015. Then, Veronika Kapisovská

(Charles University Prague) concluded the first day of the workshop with her presentation on the results of her linguistic and folkloristic field-research by comparing the earliest recorded Daur songs from 1930 to the material collected in her field research in 2016 and 2017.

On the second day, Jargal Badagarov (University of Heidelberg) started the second session presenting a linguistic approach with his research on linguistic features of Buryad speech of a native Dagur speaker due to language contacts in that border area. His presentation was followed by Bayarma Khabtagaeva (Free University Berlin) who showed how designations for body parts play a role in the determination of Dagur language's place among other Mongolic languages. The subsequent third session focused on shamans. Veronika Zikmundová provided a new perspective and an eminently structural approach towards the Daur version of the so-called "Account of the Nishan Shamaness", whereas the presentation of David Somfai Kara (Hungarian Academy of Sciences) was preliminary based on his fieldwork among the Daur with focus on the concepts of the mythological background of the story. These were two fruitful inputs for a subsequent vivid discussion. At the end of the workshop a round table discussion among all participants was organised. The main points which were discussed touched on the term "Dauria" itself by underlining the importance of the non-geopolitically usage of the term, and on the feasibility of future research activities on this topic.

Ute Wallenböck and Stephanie Ziehaus

International Symposium: The Digital Challenge in Germany and Japan in Comparison: Opportunities, Risks, and Digital Cooperation

Hamburg, June 18–19, 2019

Is digitisation a blessing or a curse? This question has recently taken on a pioneering role within the intellectual debate. This is particularly true given the inevitable impact on all areas of human interaction. From the agricultural, health, and industrial sectors, to the platform economy, to the legal and moral ethics of technological change, several scholars have begun to examine the impact of digitisation on postmodern society.

The interdisciplinary symposium on "The Digital Challenge in Germany and Japan in Comparison: Opportunities, Risks, and Digital Cooperation", organized by the Japanese Research Center, the University of Osnabrück (Prof. Dr. Carmen Schmidt), and the German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences (Prof. Dr. Gisela Trommsdorff) at the University of Hamburg and the GIGA Hamburg, and supported by the Japanese Consulate General Hamburg, highlighted future challenges, including the problem of an ageing society, the future of work, ethical and moral issues of digitisation, democracy, and identity politics, but also opportunities such as distance work, smart city technology, efficient use of resources, and effective health care, among others. However, digitisation raises questions that need to be answered, while providing answers to many of the problems we are currently facing. German and Japanese experts from various disciplines have addressed these problems and critically analysed the perspectives, but also the problems, of digitisation and made suggestions on how we can tackle these problems.

The symposium began with a presentation by Professor Franz Waldenberger (DIJ Tokyo) on "Society 5.0 — Japan's Visions and Ambitions for the Digital Age", in which he described and critically assessed the Smart Society Initiative, highlighting the strengths, weaknesses and challenges of achieving such ambitious goals. The second keynote speaker, Professor Arisa Ema (The University of Tokyo), who shared her experiences from the Japanese community,