

Universität Bremen, InIIS
Sarah Biecker, Jude Kagoro, Klaus Schlichte

Call for papers :
The ethnography of internationalized politics.
Methods, chances, limits.
June 10-11, 2015

The starting observation for our conference is that in many fields (development, security, asylum, finance, citizenship; etc.) we see encounters between highly bureaucratized forms of administration and life-worlds that often are inserted in culturally “foreign” contexts. It is probably for that reason that outside Germany, political science has seen in recent years quite some import of methods from social anthropology. In the fields of comparative politics and in area studies ethnography has been present for even longer periods than in International Relations (IR) as a sub-field of political science. With this conference we want to explore what the import of ethnographic approaches and methodologies can contribute to a better understanding of such internationalized political spaces and internationalized forms of rule. While we generally want to promote the dialogue between the two disciplines of political science and social anthropology, the aim of this conference is to see the merits and limits of anthropological approaches to the study of internationalized politics and internationalized forms of political rule. Discussing cases we want to focus on the following questions:

- What are particular merits of ethnographic/anthropological approaches to the study of internationalized politics?
- Can IR learn from social anthropology?
- Is there a difference in “modes of experience” (*Erfahrungsweisen*) between standard political science and ethnography? In how far does anthropological data production differ from standard empirical methods in political science? What are the standards?
- How does ethnography deal with the problem of reproducibility of empirical findings? Are standards compatible or irreconcilable?
- Which rules of interpretation do both disciplines apply?

We invite interested scholars from international relations, social anthropology, sociology or history as paper-givers. Preference will be given to suggestions that include empirical studies. Please send a 1-2 pages abstract to: klaus.schlichte@iniis.uni-bremen.de (deadline January 31, 2015). Expenses for travel, accommodation, meals will be covered for accepted paper-givers.

Participants:

Ed Schatz (political science, Toronto), Thomas Martin (anthropology, Copenhagen), Thomas Bierschenk (anthropology, Mainz); Julia Eckert (anthropology, Berne); Carola Lentz (anthropology, Mainz); Sophia Hoffmann (political science, Bremen); Ulf Engel (political science, Leipzig); Peter Mayer (political science, Bremen).