

Name:

Prof. Dr. Susan Thieme

Freie Universität Berlin, Institute of Geographical Sciences, Department of Anthropogeography

WINS Seminar

Date of presentation:

09.06.2016, IRI THESys, Friedrichstraße 191, 10117 Berlin, Room 4088

Title of presentation: Institutional transitions: Migration and multilocality in Kyrgyzstan

Abstract

Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan are all major destinations for labour migration from rural areas of southern Kyrgyzstan. Along with searching for better income, younger men and women also migrate for educational purpose, children and elderly stay behind. While older people often regard this separation from their families as temporary, younger people start putting down roots in places other than their original homes. With increasing labour and educational mobility livelihoods are less likely to be organised in a single place and instead take on a multi-local dimension. People have responsibilities in different places, sustain networks to maintain linkages and social structures, values and roles in families and communities change. The presentation provides a more nuanced understanding of how people practice and experience this increasing multi-locality and how it affects the livelihoods of men and women of different generations. Furthermore a multi-local perspective also bridges conceptual divides in rural-urban, national-international migration and migration for education and/or work.

Short bio

Since beginning 2015 Susan Thieme holds a professorship in Anthropogeography at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her current main research interest is the role different forms of (im)mobility and migration play in the context of work and higher education. She worked on these topics in South and Central Asia and Switzerland. She has a special interest in transdisciplinary work, e.g. she did a documentary on labour migration in Kyrgyzstan and has been regularly involved in policy advice for the Swiss government.

Before moving to Berlin she led a research group on „migration and im/mobilities“ at the University of Zurich where she also did her Phd and Habilitation. She was visiting fellow at the University of Sussex (UK), the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) De Hague, NL and the American University Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.