



photo: Martin Gaenzle

Lecture | **Monday 16 January 2017, 18:00 s.t.**

China's Many Tibets: Political Integration and Pockets of Resistance

Ben Hillman | Crawford School of Public Policy, College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University, Canberra

Department for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2, Entrance 2.1 (South Asian Studies), Seminar Room 3

Workshop | **Wednesday 18 January 2017, 10:00–16:00**

Himalayan Borderlands in Transition

with contributions by: Filippo Brambilla, Jürgen David, Martin Gaenzle, Guntram Hazod, Ben Hillman, Reinier Langelaar, Wolfram Schaffar, Mélanie Vandenhelsken, Ute Wallenböck, and Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik

Department for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2, Entrance 2.7 (Tibetan and Buddhist Studies), Seminar Room 1

<http://www.univie.ac.at/cirdis>

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Ben Hillman

China's Many Tibets: Political Integration and Pockets of Resistance

In 2008 a wave of political unrest broke out across Tibetan regions in China. Characterized by street protests, inter-communal violence, and, later, by self-immolations, the political unrest was the most widespread since the annexation of Tibetan areas in the first decade of the People's Republic of China. A notable characteristic of the recent wave of protest and conflict has been its spread from central Tibet to the eastern parts of the plateau. And yet, although unrest spread far and wide, not all areas were affected. This seminar draws on recent fieldwork in eastern Tibet to explain why have some Tibetan localities mobilized politically while others have not. Findings challenge previous scholarship on this subject, and shed light on political developments in Tibetan areas, including the dynamics of integration, state-society relations, the efficacy of China's nation-building project, and the prospects for further unrest.

Dr. Ben Hillman is a comparative political scientist who specializes in ethnic politics and policies in China and Asia. He has worked as an advisor to Governments and the United Nations on peace building and post-conflict governance strategies. His book *Patronage and Power: Local State Networks and Party-state Resilience in Rural China* (Stanford University Press, 2014) examines local political institutions and decision-making in China's ethnically diverse western regions. He is co-editor (with Gray Tuttle) of *Ethnic Protest and Conflict in Tibet and Xinjiang: Unrest in China's West* (Columbia University Press, 2016). Dr. Hillman's current research investigates political mobilization in China's Tibetan areas.

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As recent research in the field of 'Borderland Studies' has shown, borderlands are not only marginal and peripheral zones but can be seen as zones of special interaction, potentials and conflict. Focusing on the extended Himalayan region, the purpose of this workshop is to discuss the diversity of methodological and theoretical concepts concerning the perception of 'borderlands' as it is used in different disciplines with background in area studies, cultural, political and social sciences.

Through various case-studies the contributions will illustrate the diversity of human and institutional responses to the transformative changes in the Himalayan borderlands. The topics presented include, e.g, transformations in cultural and religious practices, ethnic mobilization, conflict, marginalization, and environmental concerns across multiple spatial and temporal scales.

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome and Introduction: **Martin Gaenzle** (CIRDIS, University of Vienna)

10:15 – 10:45 **Wolfram Schaffar** (Development Studies, University of Vienna):
Alternative Development Paradigms and Democratisation in Bhutan and Mongolia

10:45 – 11:15 **Ben Hillman** (Australian National University):
China's Ethnic Policies and Ethnic Security in Tibet

coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 **Mélanie Vandenhelsken** (CIRDIS, University of Vienna):
The Sikkim-Nepal Border: a Political Border Among the Sikkimese Limbus

12:00 – 12:30 **Guntram Hazod** (IKGA/ISA, Austrian Academy of Sciences)
The 'Xianbei Context' in the Tibetan Tumulus Tradition (4th - 10th Century)

12:30 – 13:00 Discussion led by **Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik** (Sinology, University of Vienna)

lunch break

14:00 – 16:00 Round table with presentations by:

Ute Wallenböck (Sinology, University of Vienna): *Mongol Power at the Sino-Tibetan Borderland in the Past and Present*

Reinier Langelaar (IKGA, Austrian Academy of Sciences):
Modernity and the Future of Village-Level Support Networks in the North-Eastern Tibetan Borderlands (Eastern Qinghai, China)

Filippo Brambilla (ISTB, University of Vienna):
The Resilience of the Jo nang Tradition Across Time and Borders

Jürgen David (ISTB, University of Vienna):
Transformations in an Himalayan Pilgrimage Center