



*CASI Second Annual Conference*

*“Formal” and “Informal” Central Asia:  
Institutions, Identities and Discourses*

*PARTICIPANTS*

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**Louise Bechtold** is a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, where she received her Masters Degree in Cultural Anthropology and Philosophy in 2011. She conducted field research for her Ph.D. on ritual economy in southern Kyrgyzstan in the mountainous region north of the city of Jalal-Abad in 2011-2012. Her areas of interest include New Kinship studies, theories of exchange, ritual economy and the anthropology of religion.

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**Anna-Katharina Hornidge** (Doctor of Philosophy) is Senior Researcher at the Department of Social and Cultural Change at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany. She specializes in knowledge and development sociology and cultural studies, but includes environmental sociology and development-oriented innovation creation and diffusion processes among her research interests. She has extensively worked on processes of the social construction of 'knowledge society' in Germany and Singapore (2007), while increasingly looking at farmer-led and farmer-oriented knowledge creation and innovation development in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) and Southeast Asia (Indonesia). She has published (amongst others) in the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (2011), *Natural Resources Forum* (2011), *Rural Sociology* (2011), the *Asian Journal of Social Sciences* (2010) and the *Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia (Sojourn)* (2007). She has co-edited a volume together with Hans-Dieter Evers and Solvay Gerke on *The Straits of Malacca – Knowledge and Diversity*, published by Lit-Publishing (2008) and is currently, together with Christoph Antweiler, co-editing a volume on *Environmental Change, Uncertainties and Knowledge in Southeast and South Asia* to be published with Transcript.

In her current position, Ms. Hornidge is the project leader of a research project on local epistemic cultures and innovation diffusion in agriculture in Tajikistan and Georgia, funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany and implemented by the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany.

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**Hasan H. Karrar** is an Assistant Professor of History at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Lahore, Pakistan. He has a Ph.D. in East Asian Studies (McGill, 2006). His specialization is contemporary Chinese and Central Asian history and politics. His book on Sino-Central Asian relations, *The New Silk Road Diplomacy: China's Central Asian Foreign Policy since the Cold War* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2009) was the first focused study on China's relations with the Central Asian republics in the English-language. Besides continuing to work on Sino-Central Asian political and economic relations, he is building research on the impact of China's rise on pastoral and semi-pastoral societies in Central Asia and Pakistan. This project explores state policies, new commercial opportunities through shuttle trade, and sedentarization in Central Asian mountain and pastoral/semi-pastoral societies.

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**Andreas Mandler** graduated from Humboldt University of Berlin in Central Asian Studies, Philology and Eastern European History.

Currently he works as a junior researcher at the Center for Development Research, University of Bonn, Germany. He is doing research on the relation between knowledge and governance in Tajik agriculture. A short overview of his research project can be found at: <http://www.zef.de/1846.html>

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**John Schoeberlein** serves as director of Eurasian Regional Studies at Nazarbayev University and teaches in the anthropology program at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. Since September 2011, he has been Visiting Professor at the Gumilyov Eurasian National University, teaching in the departments of Philosophy and Sociology. He is a social anthropologist with nearly three decades of experience researching Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Muslim societies of Eurasia generally.

Prior to coming to Nazarbayev University in 2012, he established and directed the Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus at Harvard University (Cambridge, USA) for nearly two decades. He received his Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University in 1994.

His research focuses on identity, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, and community organization. He has conducted a total of over six years of anthropological field research in post-Soviet countries, mainly in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Russia. Themes of his current research include: the changing role of Islam in former-Soviet societies, the development of new cultural orientations including revival of traditions and global cultural influences in Eurasia, discourses and practices of morality in everyday life, Soviet cultural and social legacies, and the interaction between culture and politics in post-Soviet Eurasia.

He played the leading role in establishing the Central Eurasian Studies Society, holding the position of the first President from 2000 to 2003, and continuing to lead the organization through 2007. He has been involved in a number of initiatives aimed at development of social science and cultural studies scholarship on Central Asia and the former Soviet Union. These include leadership of the Central Asia and Caucasus Research and Training Initiative (CARTI) of the Open Society Foundations, and projects aimed at developing the study of anthropology, religion and particularly Islam in among university faculty-level researchers in Eurasia.

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