

Exploratory Workshop

April 26–27, 2019

Forum Transregionale Studien

Global Conversations

Cross-Fertilization of Knowledge in the Making of the Modern World

Global conversations have their history. In the first half of the twentieth century, the particular conjuncture of world events offered new vistas for the talk among scientists and experts involved in various spheres of the international agenda. The rise of internationalism bolstered intellectual cooperation and cross-fertilization of knowledge. International programs of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace along with various local fellowship funding schemes strongly endorsed the pursue of scholarship along transnational networks. Also institutions such as the Kaiser Wilhelm Society served as centers for knowledge exchange. Yet, opening up for collaboration was perceived as a threat to national interests and this, in turn, increased suspicion and rivalries between scholars.

This workshop explores complex channels of communication between scholars across Europe and Asia. These channels were refracted through politics which added impetus to their existence and, at the same time, set their limits. In particular, the workshop aims to unravel connections between Eastern Europe, Germany, and East and South Asia which often took place through the agency of American scientists and experts. The ways in which scholars saw the notion of human character, social betterment, and social change demonstrate the complex relationship between epistemology and stereotypes. In order to investigate the nexus, we focus on seemingly universal spheres of scholarly activity connected with the *Anthropos*.

Conveners

Axel Jansen (German Historical Institute, Washington DC)

Olga Linkiewicz (T. Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

Katrin Steffen (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg at the University of Hamburg, IKG e.V.)

Organizers

Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin