

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

Workshop at the University of Konstanz, 18-20 October 2018

Migratory Models in Myanmar

Organized by Dr. Felix Girke (University of Konstanz)

Ongoing and wide-ranging changes in Myanmar are usually discussed in an internationally well-established terminology. Expressions like ‘transition’, ‘sustainability’, ‘development’, among many others, serve to categorize, explain, or justify the current societal dynamics. But these terms should not be taken for granted: They all come with their own histories, trajectories, and implications; they carry within them not one single referent, but encapsulate complex dynamics and both simplified and interpretable suggestions of how things (ought to) work. They transport teleologies, they promise practical cause-and-effect, and they imply the inter-connectedness of real-world elements. In the context of this workshop, we want to analyze such terms as globally circulating ‘migratory models’ that are today invoked in Myanmar to advance certain – often ideological – claims and support particular interests.

Migratory models are backed up by institutions, supported by technologies, made materially manifest in infrastructure, and become embodied in transnational actors. Migratory models demand local reaction and adaptation, as translatability of the usually English terms and their fit with local conditions are far from given. The frictions such migratory models experience in contact with other locally established frames of reference (such as Theravada Buddhism) offer insights into Myanmar culture and society as well as the global regimes that intervene in it.

This workshop seeks to discuss the most central concepts that drive both local politics as well as foreign interventions. Taken together, the papers are to provide a more general understanding of how models migrate to and in Myanmar, how they are translated, adopted and adapted, and how we incorporate this dynamic into our research.

Several speakers have already been invited, but we are still looking for additional presentations on topics such as ‘diversity’, ‘federalism’, ‘interfaith’ and ‘rule of law’. All submissions that fit the framework as set out above will be considered. To integrate junior scholars at the MA or early PhD level working on Myanmar, there will also be an open poster session. To submit a presentation or a poster, please send a title and an abstract of no more than 200 words to the organizer, as well as brief biographical information, by **March 19**.

For further details, also on the theoretical framework, please consult
<https://tinyurl.com/migratorymodelsmyanmar>

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