

Workshop

Doing Social Anthropology with Folklore

In Search of a New Paradigm for Studies of Han-Chinese Society

July 9-11, 2009

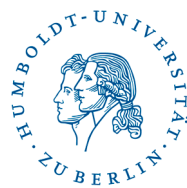
Organized by the
China Study Group



at the Technische Universität Berlin



in cooperation with the
Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt University Berlin.



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Venue:

Institute of European Ethnology, Mohrenstraße 41, 10117 Berlin, Germany

Preliminary Program
(Last update: June 14, 2009)

Thursday, 9th July 2009

- 14:00 *Welcome* Wolfgang Kaschuba and Eva Sternfeld
- 14:15 *Introduction* Xiujie Wu and Yongchao Chen
- 14:30 -15:30 *Keynote speech* Hermann Bausinger
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break**
- 16:00 -18:00 *Constructing kinship and beyond through narratives (1)* (Chair: Philip Clart)
- Zhao, Shiyu How Can Images Be Historical Evidence? - A Historico-Anthropological Study of a Stone Painting in the Tuzhu Temple, Chuxiong, Yunnan (David Sabean)
- Bai, Lanling Descriptions of Family Life in Feng Menglong's Popular Novels (1574–1646) (Brigitte Steger)
- 18:30 Dinner**

Friday, 10th July 2009

- 9:15 – 10:15 *Constructing kinship and beyond through narratives (2)* (Chair: Eva Sternfeld)
- Wu, Xiujie To trust or not to trust strangers? Social support among strangers reflected in the folk narratives of North China (David Sabean)
- 10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break**
- 10:30 – 12:30 *Highlighting Folk Traditions: Exploring or Exploiting?* (Chair: Mareile Flitsch)
- Yang, Lihui Displaying Chinese Folklore to the World: 2008 Olympic Games and the Re-continuing and Reconstruction of Folk Traditions in Gaobeidian Village (Wolfgang Kaschuba)
- An, Deming Negotiating Authority and Resources: The Interaction among Villagers in Reconstructing Popular Religion in Jieting Village (Hans Peter Hahn)
- 12:30-14:30 Lunch break**
- 14:30-15:30 *Folk religions in Transition (1)* (Chair: Deming An)
- Clart, Philip Conceptualizations of 'Popular Religion' in Recent Research in the People's Republic of China (Ildikó Bellér-Hann)
- 15:30-16:00 Coffee break**
- 16:00-18:00 *Folk religions in Transition (2)* (Chair: Xiujie Wu)
- Ye, Tao Civil Discourse and Political Practices: Tracing a Folk Religious Association *longpaihui* in the Last Two Decades. (Jacob Eyferth)
- Chen, Yongchao Folk Legend and Its Dynamics: A Case Study of Oral Narratives and Worship of Ancient Holy Figures in Hongtong, Shanxi (Ulrich Marzolph)
- 19:00 Dinner**

Saturday, 11th July, 2009

9:15-10:15 *Articulating identity (1)* (Chair: Ildikó Bellér-Hann)

Veselic, Maja Huizu, Huimin or Muslim? - The Shifting Identities of Hui Youth in Northwest China (Eva Sternfeld)

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 12:30 *Articulating identity (2)* (Chair: Lihui Yang)

Peng, Mu *Jianghu*, Masters, and Apprenticeship: Embodiment and Esoteric Knowledge in Rural Hunan (Ildikó Bellér-Hann)

Shi, Aidong Contextualizing a Goddess Story in Human Experience: Madam Xian as Orally Transmitted and Literary Inscribed (Ulrich Marzolph)

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-16:00 *When folk meets technologies* (Chair: Jacob Eyferth)

Chen, Peng* Information Technology as Social Recognition and Cultural Expression – A Case Study of Using Mobile Phones among Current Rural Residents (Hans Peter Hahn)

Flitsch, Mareile How Do People in the Northeast Dwell? - 20th Century Rural Han-Chinese Everyday Material Culture between Local Gazetteer, Folk Literature and the Archive of Disappearing Practical Knowledge (Brigitte Steger)

16:00-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:00 *Concluding discussion* (Guest Chair: Nathan Light)

17:00 **END**

* The authors of the paper are Yuhua Guo, Peng Chen and Research Team on “Peasant and Information Technology,” Dept. of Sociology, Tsinghua University.

List of participants

Keynote speaker:

Bausinger, Hermann (Professor Emeritus, Ludwig-Uhland-Institute for Empirical Culture Studies, University of Tübingen)

Contributors of Papers:

An, Deming (Professor, Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing)

Bai, Lanling (Professor, Literature School, Communication University of China, Beijing)

Chen, Peng (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Sociology, Tsinghua University, Beijing)

Chen, Yongchao (Associate Professor, Chinese Literature and Language Department, Peking University)

Clart, Philip (Professor of Sinology, University of Leipzig, Germany)

Flitsch, Mareile (Director and Professor, Ethnographic Museum of the University of Zurich, Switzerland)

Peng, Mu (Lecturer, Institute of Folklore and Cultural Anthropology, Beijing Normal University)

Shi, Aidong (Associate Professor, Institute of Literature, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing)

Veselic, Maja (Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Asian and African Studies, Faculty of Arts, University in Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Wu, Xiujie (Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany)

Yang, Lihui (Professor, College of Chinese Language and Literature, Beijing Normal University)

Ye, Tao (Professor, Institute of World Religion, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing)

Zhao, Shiyu (Professor, History Department, Beijing Normal University)

Discussants:

Bellér-Hann, Ildikó (University Lecturer, Center of Oriental Studies, Martin-Luther-University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Eyferth, Jacob (Assistant Professor, University of Chicago)

Hahn, Hans Peter (Professor, Institute for Historical Ethnology, Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main)

Kaschuba, Wolfgang (Professor, Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University)

Light, Nathan (Senior Research Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Saale, Germany)

Marzolph, Ulrich (Professor, Encyclopedia of the Folktale, Georg-August University of Göttingen)

Sabeau, David Warren (Professor for European History, University of California, Los Angeles)

Steger, Brigitte (University Lecturer for Modern Japanese Studies, Cambridge University)

Sternfeld, Eva (Director of the China Study Group, Technische Universität Berlin)

Outline:

Although folklore studies may share certain subject matters—customs, traditions and social institutions—with social/cultural anthropology, the two fields do not necessarily share the same social-scientific orientation. Even in the discipline's earliest phase of development, folklore studies was dominated by its affiliation with the humanities. In this sense, *Volkskunde* in Germany and *minsuxue* in China share similar experiences and encounters.

“*Volkskunde sei eine Sozialwissenschaft*” (Let folklore be a social science) was a slogan circulated among the folklore students and researchers of Tübingen at the beginning of 1960s. With such a re-orientation in place, German *Volkskunde* successfully adjusted itself to be able to respond to rapid social changes in examining everyday life. In contemporary China, folklore studies' similar shift in orientation seems to have been indispensable in understanding the cultural re-arrangements that result from a confrontation with dramatic societal transformations.

This workshop offers a forum for intensive communication between German- and Chinese-language scholarship of folklore studies and social anthropology. The majority of thirteen papers presented, covering the fields of folk religion, kinship, coping with new technologies and ethnic identity, are based on empirical case studies of China. Meanwhile, German-speaking scholars will offer their comments on these papers from the perspectives of methodology and research design.

The focus questions this workshop raises are:

1. How do folklorists incorporate methodological concerns to make their own academic development compatible with the new social-scientific orientation?
2. What advantages and restrictions do the abundant historical written documents and oral literature of China have for the social anthropological analysis of contemporary society?
3. Which areas/themes emerge as promising from a successful integration of folklore and social anthropology?
4. If we are somehow able to offer clear responses to Questions 2 and 3, then we are approaching a new paradigm of studying Han-Chinese society. How can we help bridge the gap between social-anthropological literature and Chinese area studies? How can we characterize the position of social-anthropological studies of China on the international stage of general social anthropology?

Nine leading figures of German-speaking scholarship of folklore studies and social anthropology are invited to comment the working papers and to join discussions; among them, Professor Hermann Bausinger will highlight the intellectual sources of Tübingen in his keynote speech.

Anyone who is willing to contribute to the discussions is welcome to attend. The language used will be primarily English, which may be supplemented by German and Chinese as needed.

社会人类学的民俗视角——探寻汉族社会研究的新范式

风俗、传统、社会组织等是民俗学和社会—文化人类学共同关注的研究对象，尽管它们的社会科学取向程度大不相同。无论在德国还是在中国，在民俗学的初始发展阶段，它甚至主要归属于人文科学。

在二十世纪六十年代初，“民俗学应该是一门社会科学！”是一句在图宾根广为流传的口号。借助于学科的重新定位，德国民俗学成功地完成了学科自身的转型，成为一门有能力对快速的社会变迁做出学术上的反应、并致力于日程生活研究的学科。在当代中国，如果民俗学力图在面对急速社会变迁中的文化调适有所言说的话，类似的学术取向上的转型似乎也在所难免。

题为“社会人类学的民俗视角”的国际研讨会将于2009年7月9日在德国柏林举行。本次会议旨在为中德民俗学、社会人类学学者提供充分的交流与互动的平台。会议上发表的十三篇论文，涉及到民间宗教、亲属关系、新技术应用以及族群认同等不同领域。多数论文基于中国汉族农民社会田野实证的个案研究。会议邀请来自德语圈的民俗学者和社会人类学者从方法论和问题设计的角度对这些论文进行评议。

本次研讨会将聚焦如下问题：

- 一、 作为个体的民俗学者，如何在自己的学术发展中进行方法论上的调整，以利于整个学科迈向新的社会科学取向？
- 二、 在对当代中国社会进行社会人类学分析的时候，丰富的书面历史资料和口传文学可以提供哪些优势，它们又有哪些限制？
- 三、 如果将民俗学与社会人类学结合起来的话，哪些研究领域最具有实验的潜力并有可能成为学术想象力的新增长点？
- 四、 如果我们对第二个和第三个问题有略为明晰的答案的话，那么我们已经走上了探寻研究汉族社会新范式之路。我们如何在社会人类学的中国研究与一般的汉学、中国学之间架设一座桥梁？我们该如何在国际社会人类学的舞台上凸显中国研究的定位？

赫尔曼·鲍辛格(Hermann Bausinger)教授将在主题演讲中详解图宾根民俗学的思想源泉。

欢迎各路学者参与讨论，会议详情见 <http://www.china.tu-berlin.de/>