



Knowledge Transfer

Since its foundation, ZMO has put significant stress on transferring the results of its research and its expertise into society. Basic research on non-Western histories and cultures provides the essential depth for understanding current conflicts and debates. ZMO contributes to a more discerning view of the so-called 'Muslim World' by offering background information to the media and providing expert interview partners.

ZMO research findings are made available to different target groups, among them politicians, journalists, artists, and the broader public. The centre therefore organises events on current scientific and political topics in cooperation with national and international institutions. Here it cooperates especially with intermediary organisations, cultural associations, adult education centres, and political foundations in Germany.

Publications

ZMO publishes a refereed book series entitled ZMO-Studien with the independent publisher De Gruyter. The series consists of monographs submitted by internal and external researchers, as well as edited volumes. In addition, fellows publish articles and monographs in the relevant international journals and series. Since 2010, ZMO offers the two refereed online series ZMO Programmatic Texts and ZMO Working Papers.

The ZMO Programmatic Texts publish wider conceptual articles engaging with the interdisciplinary and inter-regional research conducted at ZMO. The series provides a platform for authors to present and discuss innovative contributions to current theoretical and comparative debates in relation to ZMO's programmatic research agenda.

ZMO Working Papers reflect developments and discussions related to respective research projects. Texts are usually empirically based and regionally focused and may also represent intermediate results of research. ZMO Working Papers and ZMO Programmatic Texts are Open Access series.

Furthermore, ZMO publishes biannually the *Orient Bulletin* and a regular report which informs about the events of the research year.

Library

The library was founded in 1992 and is conceived as a specialised library around ZMO's main research programmes. It pursues the aim of acquiring new publications in research disciplines such as history, anthropology, and political science with a focus on countries of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. Currently the library holds more than 80,000 titles and 60 periodicals. The library emphasises the maintenance of an up-to-date stock of research literature and especially the acquisition of publications released in countries covered by ZMO's research.

Apart from this regular stock, the library holds different special collections of books and archival material. The largest collection comprises about 9,000 volumes and 300 periodicals that were originally part of the section library for history of the former Academy of Sciences of the German Democratic Republic. In addition, the library comprises private collections, such as the research library on Islamic studies donated by Fritz Steppat and the research estates donated by Africanist Jürgen Herzog, Middle East historian Gerhard Höpp, and historian of South Asia Horst Krüger. The books of these collections are recorded in ZMO's online catalogue. The archival material of the collections is largely digitised and accessible via an electronic inventory. The library is open to the public. Opening hours can be found on ZMO's website.

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Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) is the only German research institute devoted to an interdisciplinary and comparative study of the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia from a historical perspective. Current research focuses on the interaction between predominantly Muslim societies and their relations with non-Muslim neighbours.

ZMO was founded in 1996 as an independent non-profit research center and is part of the Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin e.V. On 1 January 2017, ZMO was admitted to the joint research promotion by the Bund-Länder Commission and became a member of the Leibniz Association. Its current director is Prof. Dr. Ulrike Freitag, a Modern Middle East historian.

The ZMO research programme for 2020–24 is entitled: *Thinking through Translocal Entanglements: Perspectives from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. It investigates historical and present socio-economic dynamics and cultural developments from the 16th century to the present from the perspective of Muslim regions and societies. ZMO's research fellows currently work in these four research units:

I Age and Generation

II Environment and Justice

III Representations of the Past

IV Contested Religion



Research Unit I

Age and Generation

Head of Research Unit: PD Dr. Katrin Bromber

The global increase in life expectancy brings about the reshaping of relations between the generations. Corresponding debates as well as social, institutional, temporal and spatial practices are the result and basis of longer-term processes of transformation that produce specific demographic structures; also in Africa and Asia. Without ignoring the studies on youth, the focus of this research unit strengthens the historical perspective as well as the ongoing research on middle-aged people and the elderly. The unit seeks to understand how state as well as civil society organizations influenced contextual conceptions of age and generation and resulting practices. It studies how the reorganization of intergenerational relationships transforms socio-spatial practices triggered by rapid urbanization, infrastructure development and migration. How does this affect debates on intergenerational justice? Can we identify context-dependent concepts of 'correct' coming of age through the study of transforming intergenerational relationships?



Research Unit II

Environment and Justice

Head of Research Unit: PD Dr. Katharina Lange

Human-environment relations in Asia, Africa and the Middle East are changing at an ever-increasing pace. Previously 'remote' spaces and 'inaccessible' natural substances are being rendered accessible for global markets by new technologies and infrastructures. With this access come new modes of production, consumption, and living that, in turn, bring long-lasting pollution. At the same time, the effects of anthropogenic climate change are transforming agricultural, pastoral and maritime practices. The projects of the research unit *Environment and Justice* examine these changes from both contemporary and historical perspectives. Through case studies drawn from the region, these projects seek to answer three key questions: How have local actors been acting and reacting to such transformations, and how have they been evaluating them? To what extent have they been discussing shifting human-environmental relations in terms of justice/injustice, or other related alternative concepts? What analytic concepts should we use to properly describe the relations between environmental change, social differences, and political hierarchies in these regions?



Research Unit III

Representations of the Past

Head of Research Unit: Dr. Heike Liebau

In times of social crises and upheaval, as well as a lack of utopias and visions for the future, pasts often become a contested resource. Under which circumstances and with which political goals can representations of the past become a mobilising social force? Which ideas of social justice and the right to speak about and for the past are linked to it? These are core questions of the research unit. Empirical research concentrates on (post-)colonial or (post-)socialist societies in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The aim is to identify translocal connectivities between discourses and practices of representations as well as to compare struggles over images of the past in different periods of time. Thematic foci are the relationship between historically operating sciences and politics, the significance of memory politics as well as practices of interacting with historical images in everyday life.



Research Unit IV

Contested Religion

Head of Research Unit: Dr. Abdoulaye Sounaye

How does religiosity interrelate with morality and intellectual culture? The research unit *Contested Religion* takes this basic question that is at the heart of social life across the global south. Focusing on both contemporary and historical cases, the unit engages the ways in which religiosity is mobilized and invested in individual and collective life projects. How do both religiosity and knowledge inform and at the same time challenge political orders, eschatological aspirations, and moral norms? What forms, sites and agents of intellectual culture emerge within that context? Although engaging primarily Muslim contexts, the unit is particularly interested in the interactions between Muslim and their non-Muslim neighbours. Consequently, exclusionary politics, sectarianism, collaboration and strategic borrowing within and between groups and communities are important relational modalities, which the research unit analyses.