Entangled Spaces of the Global Economy: Export Processing Zones in Asia, in the Asia and Middle East module

Lecturer: Megan Maruschke
megan.maruschke@uni-leipzig.de

Time: Mondays 11-1pm
Place: Neues Seminargebäude, Room 427

Description:
In this course, we will discuss the institutionalization of the global economy in relation to political decentralization and economic liberalization policies and the emergence of various spatial economic forms, namely export processing zones (EPZs). An emphasis will be placed on the interactions and entanglements between EPZs and other socio-political and socio-economic spaces like regional trade agreements, growth triangles, urban areas, and the nation state. The course will provide a broad introduction to the various topics and will focus on the spatial aspects of economic change—the increase of cross-border trade in the 20th century with a simultaneous rise in territorialization strategies/re-bordering through the use of trade barriers, tariffs, and zoning practices. The readings include texts from multiple disciplines, namely anthropology, political economy, geography, and political geography; we explore multiple disciplines through the lens of a single topic. Furthermore, news articles, blogs, and visual material will also form the basis of readings. The course involves texts from Harvey, Brenner, Ong, Bach, Sidaway, and Sassen, among others.

Syllabus:

Background Reading:
Please subscribe to: East Asia Forum (eastasiaforum.org). This site will provide you with regular news and analysis of politics and economics in East Asia.

1. October 12th
Introduction

2. October 19th
What are zones?
   b. “Special Economic Zones, Not So Special, The Economist, 4 April, 2015

3. October 26th
The Zone in the New International Division of Labor

4. **November 2nd**

**History of Zones**


5. **November 9th**

**The Urban Future of Zones**


6. **November 16th**

**Periodization of Capitalism, the State, and the Zone**


7. **November 23rd**

**States and Zones (Geography)**


8. **November 30th**

**Cities, States, and Zones (Political Economy)**


9. **December 7th**

**States and Zones under Neoliberalism (Anthropology)**

10. December 14th
Living inside the Zone (Anthropology)


11. January 4th
Urban Spaces and Accumulation by Dispossession (Geography and Sociology)


d. Video of David Harvey lecture

12. January 11th
Displacement and Development (Sociology and Anthropology)


13. January 18th
Zones and Regionalism (Political Science)


14. January 25th
Micro- and Meso-Regionalism (Political Science and Geography)


15. **February 1st**

**Course Review and Discussion on Final Essay**


b. Additional help for the final essay, presented in class:
   1. English language essays, through a chapter in the above writing guide.
   2. Introduction to Web of Knowledge
   3. Overview of library webpage

Possible Paper Topics:

Paper should be based on *independent research of a “case study” in reference to one or more of the theoretical approaches discussed in class.*

Past examples include: studies of industrial cross border industrial parks in light of graduated sovereignty; a high-tech export processing zone in China studied through the lens of state rescaling; an analysis of the use of history in the construction of the Mekong Subregion; An analysis of Poland’s SEZ policy and admission to the EU.