

WORKSHOP

**THE FRONTIER OF CONTINENTAL
NORTH EAST ASIAN INDUSTRIALIZATION.
THE LONG PERSPECTIVE (1895 – NOW)**

**A JOINT WORKSHOP OF THE
ALLIANCE FOR RESEARCH ON EAST ASIA (AREA) RUHR**

Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum
Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen

Monday–Tuesday, February 25–26, 2019
Institute of East Asian Studies IN-EAST
Geibelstr. 41, 47057 Duisburg
Campus Duisburg
University of Duisburg-Essen

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Monday, February 25, 2019

Morning Session

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Christine Moll-Murata**, *Ruhr University Bochum*

- 9:00 The Changing Nature of Industry as Concept and Practice. Straws in the Wind from North-East Asia
Prof. Dr. Flemming Christiansen, *University of Duisburg-Essen*
- 10:00 Small-plot Farming and Transnational Agribusiness Ventures in Xinjiang: The Cases of Kashgar and Shihezi
Dr. Alessandra Cappelletti, *Xi'an Jiaotong – Liverpool University*
- 11:00 Strategies for Infrastructural and Industrial Development in the Russian Far East – Old Issues, New Debates
Dr. Bhavna Davé, *SOAS, University of London*
- 12:00 The Uncertainty of the Northern Economic Corridor
Dr. Katarzyna Golik, M.A., *Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw*
- 13:00 LUNCH

Afternoon Session

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Katja Schmidtpott**, *Ruhr University Bochum*

- 14:00 Postnomadic Sedentarization in Urban Areas of Inner Asia
Dr. Ivan Peshkov, *University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań*
- 15:00 Mongolia's Post-Socialist Belongings
Prof. Dr. Ines Stolpe, *University of Bonn*
- 16:00 The Industrialization of Inner Mongolia in the Mengjiang Era (1937–1945): Infrastructure, Resources, and Finances
Prof. Dr. Christine Moll-Murata, *Ruhr University Bochum*

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Morning Session

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Dmitry Didenko**, *Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow*

9:00 Perspectives on Urbanization and Industrial Change in Inner Mongolia since 2000

Prof. Dr. Flemming Christiansen

10:00 The Effect of Korean Migration to Yanbian Prefecture (China) on Education, ca. 1890 – present

Prof. Dr. Leo Lucassen, *International Institute for Social History (IISH), Amsterdam*

Dr. Bas van Leeuwen, *IISH*

Li Jieli, B.A., *IISH*

11:00 Mining the Dragon Vein: Coal Extraction and Secular Power in Northeast China, 1895–1912

Dr. Limin Teh, *Leiden University*

12:00 LUNCH

Afternoon Session

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Flemming Christiansen**

13:00 “A New City Is Born”. Industrialization and Urban Development in Changchun, 1940s–1950s

Dr. Susanne Stein, *Ruhr University Bochum*

14:00 Social Welfare in Northeast China: Social Security before the Founding of the People’s Republic

Prof. Dr. Tao Liu, *University of Duisburg-Essen*

15:00 Russia and China: Changing Patterns of Industrialization

Anastasia Nikulina, M.A., *AREA Ruhr Doctoral Researcher*

Student participation is very welcome!

Please register before the conference: christine.moll-murata@rub.de

BIOS AND ABSTRACTS

Dr. Alessandra Cappelletti

is Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations at Xi'an Jiaotong – Liverpool University (XJTLU), Suzhou, China. Her research interests are focused on Chinese foreign policy in Central Asia, Belt and Road Initiative, agricultural development and agribusiness in North-West China, Muslim communities in China. She is currently working on her monograph on identity and socio-economic development in Xinjiang for Palgrave.

Small-plot Farming and Transnational Agribusiness Ventures in Xinjiang: The Cases of Kashgar and Shihezi

This presentation explores policies and processes meant to be conducive to the construction of an agribusiness in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as well as the different outcomes generated in Kashgar prefecture and in the sub-prefecture-level city of Shihezi. From land allocation mechanisms to the reshaping of the socio-political environment of rural areas, from the adjustment of the legal framework underpinning land use to the organization of training programs for peasant workers, actions have been taken by XUAR local authorities to encourage transnational agribusiness companies to invest in the region. As a consequence, a rather advantageous investment environment attracted a variety of agribusiness companies already active in North-Western China and Central Asia, in particular those belonging to the para-state organization called Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC). While the case of Shihezi can be understood as a successful one (Shihezi State-Owned Assets Management Group Co., Ltd. and Xinjiang Shihezi Garden Dairy Co. Ltd. and other companies flourished in the region and have headquarters in the city), local authorities in Kashgar are struggling to prove that investments are generating the expected return, and the need for a more intense socio-political work is claimed as necessary.

What local authorities claim as successes in the social and political arenas in Kashgar is thus used as a trade-off to persuade Beijing that a valuable work has been done to keep the region stable and attract investors, that officials are worth being promoted and the investment environment is improving. The “education programs” and “vocational and training centers” which have been recently established in the region can be claimed as part of the process of “delivering results to Beijing”, in the framework of a local political struggle aimed at creating an environment suitable for investors where the share of newly produced wealth flows towards well-defined actors.

Dr. Flemming Christiansen

is Chair Professor in Political Sociology of China at the Institute of Sociology and Institute of East Asian Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany. He taught Chinese studies at the University of Leeds from 1995 to 2011 as Chair Professor and Director of the National Institute of Chinese Studies between 2006 and 2011. His main books include *Chinatown, Europe: An Exploration of Overseas Chinese Identity in the 1990s* (2003) and *Chinese Politics and Society: An Introduction* (1996). He was also co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Modern China*, 4 volumes (2009), *The Politics of*

Multiple Belonging. Ethnicity and Nationalism in Europe and East Asia (2004); and *Village Inc.: Chinese Rural Society in the 1990s* (1998).

The Changing Nature of Industrialization as Concept and Practice. Straws in the Wind from North-East Asia (an overview)

The concepts of "industry" and "industrialization" are central to the overall project, for it is important to focus on how the creation of wealth has developed in a spatial setting that transcends borders, forms of economic organization, ethnic diversity, as well as multiple modes of commercialization, technological development and labor organization over an extended historical period. Tracing the concepts through the etymological and ideological provenance of the concepts, the paper examines their limits and their potential for dynamic explanations of emerging realities of wealth creation in continental North East Asia and elsewhere.

Perspectives on Urbanization and Industrial Change in Inner Mongolia since 2000

Based on observations from new urban residents in Hohhot and urbanization planning documents for places in Inner Mongolia the paper seeks answers to the question how spatial, occupational and social mobility reshapes potentials for wealth creation in large conurbations. The aim is to outline explanations of open-ended development trends that balance individual initiative, evolving opportunities, multi-level administrative settings and shifting political priorities.

Dr. Bhavna Davé

is Senior Lecturer in Central Asian Politics in the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS, University of London. She is the author of the book *Kazakhstan: Ethnicity, Language and Power* (Routledge: London 2007). Her current research and writing are centred on: 1) the political economy and legal framework of labour migration, migrant and diaspora networks in Russia and Kazakhstan; 2) geopolitics and alliances in Eurasia, and the consequences of China's Belt and Road Initiative for Central Asian states and the Russian Far East; 3) the strategic role of the 'priority development programme' of the Russian Far East as part of Russia's pivot to Asia policy and the implications for the East Asian region.

Strategies for Infrastructural and Industrial Development in the Russian Far East – Old Issues, New Debates

After decades of lowered growth and crumbling industrial and social infrastructure stretching from late Soviet period to mid-2000s, the Russian Far East, regarded as a 'double periphery' – peripheral to European Russia as well as to the adjacent industrialized North-East Asian region – has become a new target of infrastructural modernization and a subject of developmental discourse emanating from Moscow.

Putin has described the 'priority development of the Russian Far East' as the foremost geopolitical objective of Russia in the 21st century. Policymakers in Moscow envision it as a crucial launching pad for Russia establishing itself as an Asia-Pacific power – an objective that requires enormous investment in the transport infrastructure, manufacturing, agrarian sectors as well as in the development of its oil and gas and hydroelectrical potential. If the aim of Moscow during the Soviet period was to integrate its far eastern periphery closely with the European parts of the USSR, the objective of its strategic development now has a geopolitical and economic rationale.

This paper will begin with an analysis of the structural factors (remoteness of the region and lack of internal coherence, lack of infrastructure, sparse population) which challenge Moscow's pursuit of development in the Far East. It will then focus on two sets of issues: 1) an examination of the different perspectives, strategies advocated by policymakers in Moscow and in the region, resulting in the lack of cohesiveness, and complicated further by the absence of the budgetary allocations for a comprehensive development programme; 2) the implications of China's ever growing role in commercial, agricultural and industrial sectors in the region and how these affect Moscow's developmental objectives in the Far East.

Chair

Dr. Dmitry Didenko

is Leading Researcher at the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow. His research and publications focus on human capital formation and efficiency in Russia and globally in the context of innovative and catching-up development, social aspects of economic growth and human development. He has extensive expertise in applied research and analytics for Russian financial institutions. Author and co-author of ca. 100 academic papers, including 3 books highlighting various issues of knowledge-intensive economy.

Dr. Katarzyna Golik

is an orientalist and economist at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Main interests include: education of national minorities in the People's Republic of China, especially of the Mongols in different regions, Political and economic transition in the Republic of Mongolia and Northern China, creation of contemporary Mongolian culture in China by different actors, nationality processes in Northern China, Sino-Mongolian economic relations.

The Uncertainty of the Northern Economic Corridor

The Chinese side underlying the economics as a key factor for the stability seems to have omitted a few factors. The economic exchange influenced Mongolia in a negative way as well, undermining the state social stability. Also, the grassroots acceptance of the projects might play an increasing role. At the moment public opinion in Mongolia is increasingly negative towards the increasing Chinese presence.

The situation in China itself will probably affect the economic relations with Mongolia. The Chinese government's policy on financial markets should be observed by China's economic partners. Despite the prospect of further release of the Yuan course, it is difficult to predict what scale of instability may be acceptable to the Chinese authorities. Sudden changes and non-standard interventions on the financial market in this field carry risks for interbank and corporate settlements.

Chinese prevention from the capital outflow has had already an impact on the foreign investment dynamic. The grand projects in their preliminary shape rise various concerns about the outcome. If the Chinese side proposes only credits, Mongolia might not be able to use them. The investment in the uncertain Mongolian environment and under the domestic regulations might not succeed as well. The perspectives for the project remain unclear.

Dr. Tao Liu

is a professor (W1) at the Institute of East Asian Studies and at the Institute for Sociology in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Duisburg-Essen and has published articles on social policy and demographic ageing in China and Germany, global knowledge diffusion and digitalization in the modern society. His research interest relates to the social policy, welfare system and urban governance in China.

Social Welfare in Northeast China: Social Security before the Founding of the People's Republic

In general, the mainstream views support that the modern Chinese social security system originated in the labor insurance system enacted in 1951 in the communist China. This research studies tentatively the welfare system before the founding of the People's Republic. Preliminary studies have found that the Northeast region plays a vital role in China's modern social protection. Manchukuo, which was founded by the puppet regime of Puyi during the Japanese occupation of the Northeast between 1931 and 1945, partially applied the model of Japan's large-scale enterprises management to Northeast China (kabushiki kaisha), forming an early form of corporate welfare within the Chinese territory. Soviet Russia deeply intervened in Northeast China after World War II, and the Soviet management model of state-owned enterprise was also imitated by both of the nationalist and communist government. The corporate management model and corporate welfare of Japan and the Soviet Union provided institutional heritage for the CCP's early establishment of the corporate welfare of large state-owned enterprises in the Northeast.

Dr. Leo Lucassen

is Research Director of the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, and part-time professor of Global Labour and Migration History at the Institute of History of Leiden University. He is a former fellow of the New School for Social Research in New York and the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS) and since 2011 a member of the Academia Europaea. He specializes in migration history, urban history, state formation, eugenics and other socio-political developments in modern states.

Dr. Bas van Leeuwen

holds Master Degrees in Dutch Law, European and International Law, Economic History and Russian History and a PhD on human capital and growth in the 19th and 20th century Southeast Asia from Utrecht University. He is project leader of a 5-year ERC project on regional industrialization in Northwestern Europe and China, ca. 1800–present at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam. His fields of interest are price volatility, markets, human capital, national accounts, industrialization on a global scale between ca. 500 BC and the present.

Li Jieli

works as a researcher at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam. Her fields of interest are the economic history, price history, and market integration of China between ca. 1200 AD and the present.

The Effect of Korean Migration to Yanbian Prefecture (China) on Education, ca. 1890–present

The Koreans in China are often considered a “model minority”. Not only, is it argued, were they able to retain their ethnic diversity since the early 20th century, but they have been able to exploit this by advancing their education levels, something that has persisted until the present. In this paper, using a new individual level database, we test this assumption and find that education of Koreans in the 1910s–30s in North Korea had already been higher than that of Han Chinese. This difference was simply continued in the subsequent decades thanks to the policy of appeasing Korea and geographical proximity to North Korea. This did not, however, place Koreans in an advantageous position as, in terms of occupation, there are signs of overeducation among ethnic Koreans.

Dr. Christine Moll-Murata

is Chair Professor of Chinese History at the Faculty for East Asian Studies of Ruhr University Bochum. Her research interests include social, economic, and technical history of China, with a special focus on the history of guilds and crafts during the Song to Qing dynasties and the transition to mechanized production in the late nineteenth and twentieth history, and labour history of China, Taiwan, and Japan between 1500 and 2000.

The Industrialization of Inner Mongolia in the Mengjiang Era (1937–1945): Infrastructure, Resources, and Finances

In the process of modernization and industrialization in the region that is presently the Chinese province of Inner Mongolia, a relatively short period stands out. This was the phase when among the powers that strove for predominance in Northeast Asia, the Japanese impact was the strongest. In political terms, this became most evident after the Japanese military interference in the Chinese northeastern provinces in 1931 and the foundation of the dependent state of Manchukuo in 1932. Yet in military terms, the wars with China, 1894/95 and with Russia in 1905 antedated this manifestation of political power and led to economic repercussions that contributed to the industrialization in this region north of the Great Wall.

This paper focuses on the industrialization efforts during the existence of the puppet state of Mengjiang (literally, the Mongolian frontier) between 1937 and 1945, which formed a further satrapal political entity under Japanese control. It looks at the preconditions of modern industrialization, that is, the local infrastructure, electricity, communications, and finances, as they were presented in the Japanese literature of the period, mainly for the cities of Zhangjiakou (Khalgan), Datong, Hohhot and Baotou. Moreover, the economic aspects of the extraction of resources in agriculture, herding, and mining will be discussed. The presence of Japanese state and private enterprises in these cities will be assessed together with the – at least official – data of the amount of capital invested. The available literature indicates the remarkable speed with which the Japanese enterprises and colonial institutions made their appearance in the region. Their bias is quite evident. As in the case of Manchukuo, pre-existing infrastructure built during the time of Chinese Republican and Warlord rule is largely ignored. Conversely, the Japanese endeavours and possible achievements were passed over in silence in the period after 1945.

The paper thus aims to add and critically evaluate a facet of economic impact that tends to be forgotten in the present academic discourse in China.

Anastasia Nikulina

is a PhD Candidate of the AREA Ruhr Doctoral Program, University of Duisburg-Essen. Her current research focuses on China's modern economy, special economic zones in their historical development, policy transfer and transplantation, neodevelopmental economy.

Russia and China: Changing Patterns of Industrialization

The presentation aims to overview the development of East Asia from the industrialization perspective. We discover if the industrialization concept can be used to establish the research framework for area scholars.

Does the explanation of East Asian industrialization go beyond the import-substitution (ISI) model? How can we benefit from adding a policy transfer dimension to study industrialization? Inspired by institutional theory, we take a comparative look at the industrialization process in Europe, Latin America and Asia and distinguish specific characteristics of the Russian and Chinese industrialization in the period of 1900 to 1990s.

Further, we use special economic zones (SEZs) as an illustration of industrialization processes in autocratic states. Concordant with policy transfer theory, we describe China's Soviet-led industrialization before the Great Reform. Having undergone the transformation in the 1980s and 1990s, China, on the opposite, becomes a donor of development model for Russia in the 21st century. What are the reasons for that? And what does it infer about the modes of industrialization and their consequences?

We aim to answer these questions before our final part, which suggests the future of industrialization as a concept and China's contribution to the world's development patterns. In fact, what is China's new industrialization pattern and can it be reproduced elsewhere?

Referring to the newly established concept of fourth industrial revolution (4IR) and China's way of approaching it, we leave an open question: Will China (or Asia) lead industrialization in the decades to come?

Dr. Ivan Peshkov

is an economist and social anthropologist working at the University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poznań, main publications include: *New Future for New City Residents: Traces of Russian Presence in Chinese Borderland Cities* (2017); *In the shadow of 'frontier disloyalty' at Russia–China–Mongolia border zones* (2015); *Usable Past for a Transbaikalian Borderline Town* (2014).

Postnomadic Sedentarization in Urban Areas of Inner Asia

This research project aims to investigate the impact of sedentarization on family patterns and kinship practices in three suburban areas in Northern Asia: Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), Ulan-Ude (Russia, Siberia) and Hailar (China, Inner Mongolia). In the twentieth century, these cities underwent rapid growth and became the leading centres of socialist modernization among Mongolian-speaking herdsmen.

The communist authorities in the three countries saw future in fully sedentarized society and so they restricted nomadic mobility. People were sedentarized in pastoral collectives, local administrative centres or in municipalities. The collapse of the socialist economy and collective production system in the early 1990s has contributed mass migration from pastoral areas to big cities. Substantial population growth was driven by countryside herders' migration.

In Mongolia, former nomads placed their felt tents (ger) on the city's outskirts, known as the Ger districts, which have poor access to the basic service such as electricity, sanitation, healthcare and education and therefore in many cases they are characterized as slums. The same tendency we may observe in Buryatia. In recent years many illegal log houses have been built by immigrants in the suburbs of Ulan-Ude city. The concentration of post-nomadic communities one may find also in Hailar's suburbia.

Despite the fact that the post-socialist transformation proceeded quite differently from country to country, one can point out a number of analogies between the three neighbouring regions. A new stage of nomadic post-socialist modernization is directly connected with the process of urbanization and peripheral sedentarization. This study intends to explore socio-cultural alterations caused by modernization using a standard anthropological analytical tool.

Chair

Dr. Katja Schmidtpott

is Professor of Japanese History at Ruhr University Bochum. Her research interests include history of German-Japanese economic relations, industrialisation, urbanisation and the change of local communities in Japan, rationalisation of everyday life, changing perceptions of time, and changing food habits.

Dr. Susanne Stein

is a research fellow at Ruhr University Bochum, Department for the History of China. She has published a monograph and several articles on the history of Chinese urban planning and development during the first decades of the People's Republic. Research for her current book project on Chinese dryland reclamation from the 1950s to the present was funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation (2015–2016).

"A New City is Born". Industrialization and Urban Development in Changchun, 1940s–1950s

Since the early 2000s, the northeastern provincial capital Changchun has increasingly drawn on its national reputation as the first motor city of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to claim a leading position in the contested arena of the country's booming automotive industry. This presentation explores the relationship between Changchun's industrial development and urban reconstruction during the early years of the PRC against the background of the city's colonial legacy.

Being a small administrative and commercial outpost on the Manchurian frontier in the late 19th century, Changchun became the terminal of the Russian and Japanese railway lines during the first decades of the 20th century and was subsequently chosen as the administrative and political center of the Japanese-controlled puppet state of Manchukuo. Between 1932 and 1945 a modernist "New World Capital" took shape according to Japanese plans. After the Communist siege and takeover of the city in 1948, the distinctive urban layout was left almost untouched, even though in 1951 Changchun was assigned one of the PRC's 156 key industrial construction projects to be realized with Soviet assistance. Between 1953 and 1956 the Number One Automobile Factory and its attached residential quarters were set up on the southwestern outskirts of Changchun. According to contemporary Chinese discourse, this new "motor city" was entirely built from scratch on the vast and inhospitable Manchurian plain.

By focusing on the history of Changchun during the post-war and post-liberation years, my research aims to evaluate this claim within the context of the region's urban-industrial and infrastructure development that was equally driven and disrupted by various Chinese, Japanese and Russian/Soviet actors during five decades of colonial rule, warfare, military occupation and socialist reconstruction efforts.

Dr. Ines Stolpe

is Professor of Mongolian Studies at the University of Bonn. Her research interests and areas of teaching include Mongolian language, cultural and political history and social change, politics of remembrance, civil society, educational philosophy, and post-socialist studies.

Mongolia's Post-Socialist Belongings

Commonly assigned to Central Asia, Mongolia tends to orient itself – politically, strategically and economically – rather towards Northeast Asia and Eastern Europe. The country keeps navigating the post-socialist world taking advantage of “old” allies, including Russia and North Korea (DPRK), and of new connections, including South Korea (ROK) and Japan. Drawing on the double meaning of ‘belonging’, the talk intends to discuss some implications of Mongolia’s downgrading from the so-called Second World, focusing on changing paradigms of ‘progress’, ‘development’, ‘brotherhood’ and resulting (im-)mobilities.

After once having bypassed capitalism, Mongolia is currently entering what David Sneath (2018: 202), referring to Max Weber, denotes “patrimonial capitalism”, with its industrial and agricultural sectors operating at a low level, high indebtedness and a striking inequality. Urbanisation is not connected to industrialisation any more, and discourses on “underdevelopment” give way to regress from neo-extractivist to extractivist orientations, but also to heated debates over rights to land use in a country with a long history of public access.

This can be exemplified with the case of an area in Mongolia’s far east, that was known as the battlefield of Chalch(yn) Gol in the Mongolian People’s Republic and the USSR, and as Nomonhan in Japan and the former West, respectively. When it was rumoured that large parts of the area would be sold to South Koreans for a large-scale agriculture project or a free trade zone, the public outrage stirred up all kinds of old and new resentments, favouring nationalist arguments and distrust rather than economic potentials.

Dr. Limin Teh

teaches modern Chinese history at Leiden University and is completing a book manuscript on the history of labor and land in Fushun, a coalmining town in Northeast China, from 1900 to 1950.

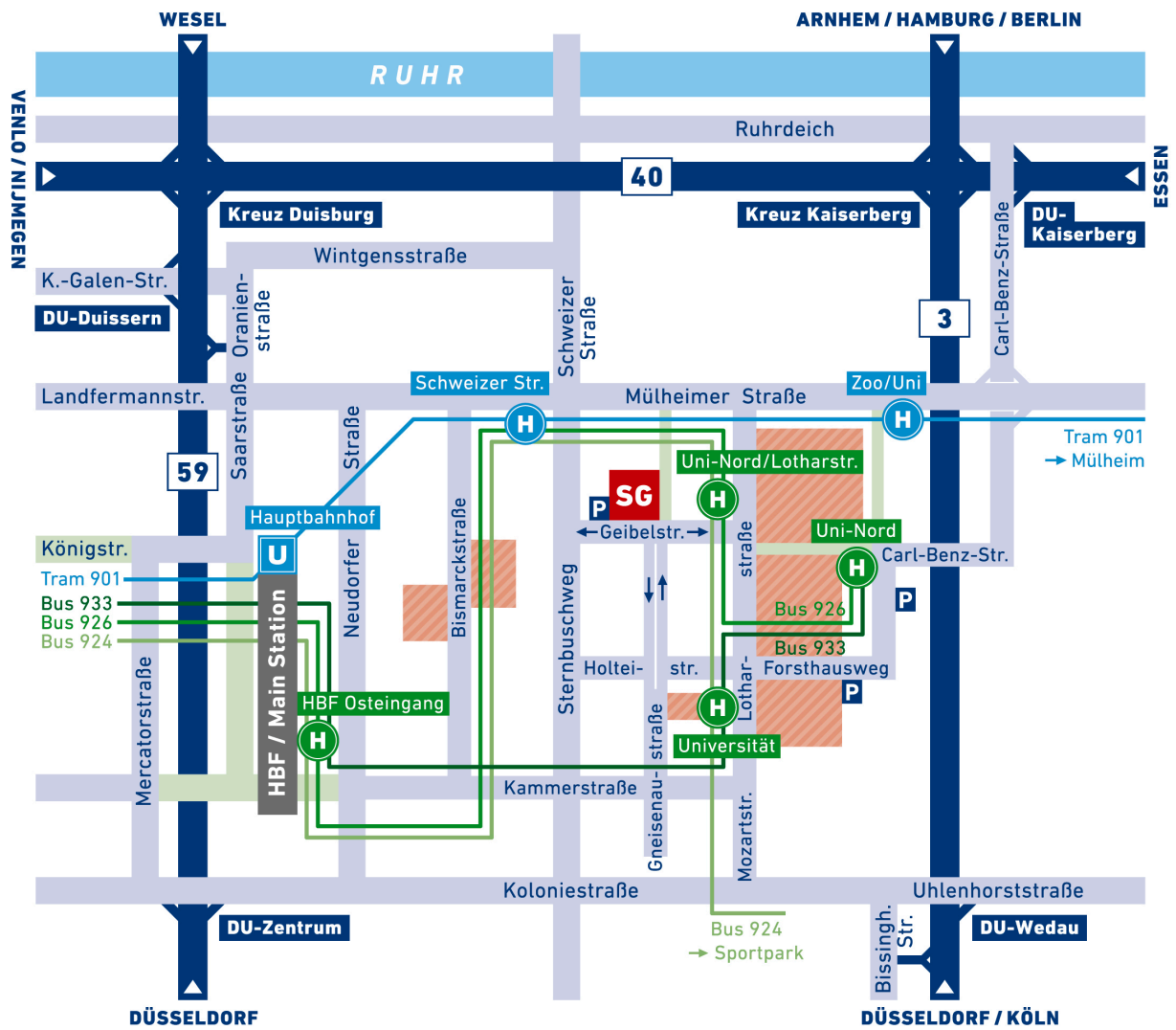
Mining the Dragon Vein: Coal Extraction and Secular Power in Northeast China, 1895–1912


Coal mining in late Qing and early Republican China ushered in new forms of mobilities (rail transport), production (industrial manufacture), governance (mining laws), knowledge production (geology), and political mobilization (unionization). These new forms, in one way or another, contributed to the dissolution of the late imperial state. In this paper, I take this claim a step further to assert that mining secularized political power when mining extended into formerly sacred landscape. This paper examines changes in the landscape of the area that the Qing court termed the

“dragon vein longmai” and “the place where the dragon arose longxing zhi di,” which encompassed three mausoleums in the Greater Mukden (or Shenyang) vicinity and the Changbai mountains. To protect this area that was considered the birthplace of the Manchu people, the Qing court in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries instituted controls over the landscape, ranging from ritual visits to restricted land ownership. The dragon vein also happened to possess a wealth of coal deposits, which were opened in the late nineteenth century to foreign and Chinese mining interests following exponential rise in coal demand resulting from the construction of the Russian-owned Chinese Eastern Railroad. What global and local factors brought about this change? How did the imperial throne and local Qing officials negotiate this change? What were the implications of this change on the imperial throne? These questions guide the paper’s investigation of the introduction of mining in the Manchu ancestral homeland, using maps, travelogues, and official documents.

Julia Aristova

works as a researcher at the Institute of East Asian Studies at the University of Duisburg-Essen and teaches sociology. Her research interests include socio-technical transition in China, governance of low-carbon development, and sociology of knowledge.



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