1. Governing Difference
organized by Ravinder Kaur, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies ToRS and Ayo Wahlberg, Dept. of Anthropology

On the 12th and 13th of November, Ravinder Kaur and Ayo Wahlberg jointly convened a workshop titled ‘Governing difference’. Through 13 paper presentations, the workshop explored the notion of ‘difference’ – as identity, opposition and even resemblance – in its multiple meanings and settings, and the ways in which it plays out in the social-political landscape. Empirically, papers focused on China and India and workshop sessions were designed so as to pair papers on China and India to facilitate comparative reflection as well as conceptual innovation. Moving away from the idea of difference as essential or natural, workshop participants explored how difference is constructed, manifested and obscured in socially uneven societies, particularly those fuelled by neoliberal economic growth in the recent years.

Participants came from universities in Oxford, Cambridge, New York, Leeds, New Delhi, Edinburgh, London, Manchester, Roskilde and Copenhagen. Throughout the two days of discussions based on empirical paper presentations from China and Europe, a number of common thematics emerged. Firstly, the manifestation of hierarchies, inequities and inequalities through processes of differentiation which can be located within the so-called 'rise of Asia'. Some of the most visible forms of differentiation in both countries pertain on the one hand to rural-urban divides and on the other to political contestation and violence. Difference is implicated in processes of othering where fear and violence reinforce each other, yet where questions arise around who decides what is outrageous (and therefore in need of condemnation) and what is necessary (and therefore to be praised).

Participants also explored the productive aspects of difference, for example in processes of functional differentiation where stabilised differences (e.g. between rural and urban dwellers) organise and facilitate socio-economic development for the benefit of some and at the cost of others. Discussions and presentations also centred on the active work of catagorisation/imagination in processes of nation-making, identity management as well as individual coping and negotiation of the stress of change. Empirical research often showed the blurring and grey zones of common dichotomies - licit/illicit, us/them, rural/urban, modern/traditional, etc. - as workshop participants debated the effects of difference rather than trying to determine what differences there are in India and China. Hence workshop participants engaged in conceptual development of the notion 'difference' by focusing on the active work or effects of processes of differentiation.
The workshop will result in a special issue of Third World Quarterly which will be guest edited by Ravinder Kaur and Ayo Wahlberg and the issue will be used as a platform to promote comparative exploration (China and India) as well as conceptual innovation.

Ayo Wahlberg & Ravinder Kaur

2. Belonging, Citizenship and Identities
organized by Marie H. Roesgaard and Brian Arly Jacobsen, Dept, of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

The panel had some last minute cancellations, but in the end featured 9 papers and 5 discussants. Only one paper was from Copenhagen University, the others came from Australian, European, American and Japanese universities. Two discussants were invited from USA and Japan, three were from our university. In addition there was an audience of between 5 to 10 people.

Topics ranged widely and at a first glance might appear disparate, but as the days wore on, it became clear that all papers related very clearly to the panel topic, belonging especially. The panel was structured in sessions where 2-3 papers were presented, the discussants then made their comments and questions from the audience were taken time permitting. This structure ensured highly qualified feed back to the presenters and made the sessions very engaging. Each day ended with a round table discussion, where topics of the day were discussed at length along with overarching issues such as the panel sub-theme of order and meaning, which prompted a very stimulating and useful discussion indeed, and the over-all theme, which is the 4. ADI theme. We discussed how to proceed with unfolding this theme and it appears that “belonging” is central although not to the exclusion of the other two.

The panel thus merited itself academically to a great extent, but also on a networking level many new connections were made, which will be useful in the future. Our panellists and visiting discussants have expressed great satisfaction with the academic content, and admiration for the organization of the conference.

Marie Roesgaard

3. Autonomy: A formula for security or a cause of separatist conflicts?
organized by Timo Kivimäki, Dept. of Political Science, Kristine Hansen, ADI/NIAS and Ronny Delsy, NIAS

Asian Dynamics Initiative/ASEM Education Hub for Peace and Conflict Studies. This panel that was part of an ongoing series of workshops on peace and conflict was held on 12 November. Due to some last minute cancellations, changes in the format etc, the autonomy panel ended up featuring 6 keynote presenters from Spain, China, Indonesia and USA. The topic revolved around separatist conflicts, and various options
of autonomy, with cases presented from Europe and Asia from areas such as Western China, Nepal and Southern Thailand. After each presentation there were discussions among the ca. 15 participating members of the panel, (PhD students, members from the ASEM education hub and researchers).

The altered format taken into consideration, the panel still expressed great satisfaction with the session and the conference in general.

Kristine Hansen

4. The transmission of Sanskrit medical literature in India
organized by Ken Zysk, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

The workshop on the transmission of Sanskrit medical literature in India was the fifth meeting in six years of the international scholarly network on Indian medical literature in Sanskrit. Previous workshops took place in Vienna, London, and twice in India. The workshop is devoted to the study of the traditional Indian medical system, Āyurveda, through a critical and scholarly examination of its literature in the original Sanskrit language. It is the only scholarly network devoted to a systematic study of this important and unique material. The network consists of an international team of world-renowned scholars who come from Austria, Germany, Holland, Italy, USA, Japan, India, England, Russia, and Denmark.

This year in Copenhagen the workshop was especially successful because on the first day it included a “master class in Sanskrit textual readings,” which involved the network of scholars plus Indology students from ToRS, as part of the students’ study plan for the autumn semester 2010. It was especially beneficial and important for students of Indology to experience and learn first-hand about the profession of Indology and to begin to meet and network with key scholars in the field. The reports from the students were overwhelmingly positive, so that the workshop will include the “master class” for scholars and students in its future meetings.

Following the master class in Sanskrit, there were seven scholarly papers on a variety of topics pertaining to the transmission of Indian medicine and medical thought through the medium of Sanskrit. All paper sessions were well attended with around 20-25 persons for each of the papers. In addition to the scholarly network, attendees included students from ToRS, a scholar from Paris, and members of the general public, who found the proceedings interesting, informative and challenging.

The workshop ran exceptionally smoothly, due to the careful and painstaking efforts of the Marie Yoshida and her team of workers, so much so that almost all of the members of the network came to me afterwards to comment on how well they were cared for and how successful was the entire workshop and conference. In fact, several mentioned that it was the best of the five so far (I hope that we did not place the bar too high for the future!).
There are plans to publish the proceedings of the workshop as a special issue of the internationally refereed *eJournal of Indian Medicine*, based in Holland.

In sum, the workshop on the transmission of Sanskrit medical literature in India was a great success and was significant step towards demonstrating that Indology at Copenhagen University is well and truly and internationally recognised programme at ToRS.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ADI, to the Committee for Internationalisation at ToRS for funding, and to all those individuals who helped to make it such a successful meeting.

Ken Zysk


organized by Peter B. Andersen, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

The panel was arranged on the background of the United Nations framework in the *United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples* from 2007 which provides a recent framework for recognition of Indigenous Peoples within the national as well as the international arenas. As it is evident of the panel’s title self-determination is part of the conceptual framework of the declaration.

The panel provided an overall introduction to the situation by a former member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as a coverage of the historic developments and actual situation of specific indigenous peoples in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia. As it is indicated in the term the indigenous peoples are in various cultural and political minority positions all over Asia, the difference depends on the various degrees of governmental policies and recognition.

13 papers were presented by 14 speakers. At present there are considerations on publication of selected papers but nothing has been decided yet. The grant from the ADI covered parts of the travel and lodging for 4 participants from Asia.

The panel was held in collaboration with IWGIA, the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, who helped in the logistics and invitations as well as the full coverage of travel as well as board of lodging for one of the participants from Asia.

Peter B. Andersen
6. Dynamics of change in North Korea and Northeast Asia since the end of the Cold War
organized by Camilla Tenna Nørup Sørensen, Dept. of Political Science and Geir Helgesen, NIAS

The workshop dealt with a broad range of aspects affecting the security situation in North East Asia, combining approaches from the social sciences and the humanities. A main focus was on developments in North Korea, which generally is seen as the nucleus of instability in the region. With regards to this comparatively closed country the participants presented and discussed external as well as internal aspects, and not least the dynamics between the two, signaling change or continuity.

The workshop was attended by leading scholars from South Korea, the USA, and Europe. Chung-in Moon of Yonsei University in Seoul, who was one of the ADI key-note speakers, presented his insights on the North Korean nuclear ambitions and the external responses to this development. Han S. Park of University of Georgia, USA, interpreted the latest political and economical developments in North Korea and compared with earlier developments in China, suggesting that some positive signs were revealed recently. Mikael Weissmann, the Foreign Policy Institute of Stockholm, dealt with China’s relations with North Korea, and discussed whether China could, and would, be able to play the role as the regions peacemaker. Camilla T. N. Sørensen of Copenhagen University, presently at the School of International Studies at Peking University, pointed to the importance of the regional security context. She presented a discussion of the perspectives for developing a multilateral security framework which could include North Korea to secure long term stability in North East Asia. Heonik Kwon, from London School of Economics, discussed the use of ideology in the North Korean political system from a traditional as well as a modern political point of view. Hatla Thelle, the Danish Centre for Human Rights, and Geir Helgesen from NIAS presented preconditions for a dialogue on human rights with North Korea. They compared with the earlier developments when a similar dialogue was established between Europe and China, and claimed that the continued isolation of North Korea was counterproductive in relation to peace and security in the region. Aidan Foster-Carter from Leeds University, who acted as the panels discussant, concluded the session by connecting the different presentations into a varied but coherent whole.

The audience consisted of around 20 people, of which some tried to follow the discussions in more than one panel. The workshop was commended for a good and including atmosphere, which resulted in active discussions between the audience and the panelists. A publication has not been agreed upon, but this is a possible outcome of the workshop.

Geir Helgesen & Camilla Sørensen
7. Political movements in post-authoritarian regimes
organized by Lars Højer, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies and Morten Axel Pedersen, Dept. of Anthropology

This workshop invited ethnographic studies of incipient political movements and corresponding economic imaginaries in Asia. More specifically, the workshop explored the aesthetics of emerging political forms in different Asian (including Eurasian) contexts, which could be called "post-authoritarian". This deliberately loose label denoted any society which until recently was considered authoritarian in some way or another, but which has since undergone some sort of significant change (civil war, regime change, revolution, etc) bringing about new political aesthetics and economic logics, which may - or may not - be more liberal, democratic and capitalist than before.

Workshop participants addressed the political logic of minority reactions to racist attacks in major Russian cities (Prof. Caroline Humphrey, University of Cambridge), the social life of fake documents in post-authoritarian Indonesia (Prof. Nils Bubandt), new revolutionary movements in post-revolutionary Vietnam (Heonik Kwon, London School of Economics), the political imaginaries of post-Soviet Sufism (Maria Louw, Aarhus University), attempt to temporarily restore the state of justice by raiding the space of power in Russia and Kyrgyzstan (Sergeui Oushakine, Princeton University), reflections on the Zhijing Movement during the Culture Revolution in China (Jun Luo, University of Essex), everyday politics in post-Taliban Afghanistan (Magnus Marsden, School of Oriental and African Studies, London), and nationalist movements and political culture in post-authoritarian Mongolia (Lars Højer, University of Copenhagen).

The workshop will result in a book publication edited by the convenors. The book manuscript will be submitted by July 2011, but funding for publication has already been applied for and a book proposal will be submitted to publishers in January 2011.

Lars Højer & Morten Axel Pedersen

8. State Policy and Local Responses in China’s West
organized by Trine Brox and Ildiko Beller-Hann, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

The one-day panel State Policy and Local Responses in China’s West organised by Trine Brox, Tibetology, and Ildiko Beller-Hann, Central Asian Studies, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, took place on 13 November 2010.

Eight papers were presented: Jesper Schlaeger “China’s Western Development Strategy and the Internet: Analysing the role of information and communication technologies in the policy process”, Tim Summers “Bridges and Frontiers - A Local Response to Provincial Repositioning in Yunnan”, Michael Ulfstjerne “Seeing like a Company: Urban Utopias and new Public Private Partnerships in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region”,

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There was about 15-20 people in the audience, mostly students and paper presenters. We had a good discussion not only on the key concepts of the panel title, but also on state-society relations in the various locations introduced in the papers: Yunnan, Sichuan, Inner-Mongolia, Xinjiang and Tibet. All participants expressed their satisfaction, both with the academic standard of the conference and with the excellent organization provided by ADI. Encouraged by the success of the panel, the conveners are planning to organize a follow-up workshop next year.

Trine Brox & Ildiko Beller-Hann

9. Globalization and trade with emerging economies
organized by Jakob Roland Munch, Dept. of Economics

The focus of this workshop was aspects related to international trade with emerging low-wage economies. Among the many topics presented were the determinants and consequences of foreign direct investments in Asia, the impact of outsourcing on domestic labor markets, import penetration from China, and the determinants of firm-level export successes. Most papers had a strong empirical methodological approach, but some papers also contained theoretical models.

One important aim of the workshop was to bring together younger researchers and more senior scholars working on these subjects. To that end the workshop featured two renowned keynote speakers in Professor Larry Qiu, University of Hong Kong, and Professor Holger Görg, Kiel University. In addition, among more experienced workshop participants were Junior Professor Ingo Geishecker, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, and Professor Pascalis Raimondos-Møller, Copenhagen Business School. In total 11 papers were presented and seven of these were presented by Ph.D. students, Post. Docs. or Assistant Professors. It was my clear impression that these young researchers benefitted a lot from comments and discussion by the more senior workshop participants.

Another outcome of the workshop was network activities. Several participants exchanged e-mail addresses as some issues needed follow up discussions. For example, two of the participants, Daniel Nguyen and Frederic Warzynsky, are considering writing a joint paper as a result of discussions during the workshop. Also, I was personally invited by Professor Qiu to join and participate in the annual Asia Pacific Trade Seminars which, he
is co-organizing. Professor Görg invited me to give a talk at University of Kiel, which is scheduled for June 6, 2011.

Jakob R. Munch

10. Ideas in Transit
organized by Denise Gimpel and Bent Nielsen, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

The three “Ideas in Transit” panels took place on Friday Nov. 12th and Saturday Nov. 13th and comprised in all 16 participants from 8 different universities in China, Europe and America as well as one participant from Egypt. The panels addressed the following issues: 1) Ideas in Migration (ADI China Project, Copenhagen); 2) Environmental Issues; 3) Movement and Transplantation of Ideas. The first panel concentrated on China, whereas the following two panels focussed on Asia.

We would like to emphasise the following with regard to the panels

• All the participants in all the three panels participated at all times. This was not obligatory, but it contributed to a growing and broadening discussion of the individual papers and the underlying theoretical issues at stake. This gave continuity to the discussion and made the conference into an extremely beneficial experience for all concerned.

• The panels opened up a number of cross- or interdisciplinary perspectives. It was extremely interesting to follow how researchers from the social sciences were addressing theoretical problems usually situated within the humanities and vice versa. It was a pleasure to be part of an undertaking in which historians, philologists, literary scholars, anthropologists and political scientists entered into a meaningful debate and exchange of ideas. This promises to open up channels of very fruitful cooperation in the future both within and outside Copenhagen University.

• Publications will arise from the panels. One will be a book based on the ADI China Project at Copenhagen University and involving scholars from Copenhagen, Durham (UK), China, the United States as well as a PhD student and an M.A. student at Copenhagen (China Studies). The other is envisaged as a special issue of an Asian Studies journal and focussing on environmental issues in a transnational context.

• Panellists were a good mixture of established scholars, PhD students and, in one case, an M.A. student. In this way the conference helped to integrate different “generations” of scholars and to illustrate to those undergraduate students envisioning a career in academia how fruitful exchange can take place and how they are welcomed into an academic community.
• The special guest discussant from the United States, Prof. Richard Smith, was an important factor in the discussions. He was present at all times and managed to bring together various strands of different research projects in a manner that showed how they all addressed similar basic issues.

• It was very encouraging to note student participation at the sessions in general. These included students from the Asian section at ToRS as well as a number of students from other disciplines at Copenhagen University who had taken their elective courses within China Studies. These students actively took part in the discussions at times.

• The whole conference and its accompanying events were very well organised. All helpers were friendly and competent. Immediately after the conference we received emails from the participants underscoring how their participation had been beneficial and inspiring for their academic work but also that they had felt welcome and well looked after during their stay in Copenhagen. This is high praise indeed and reflects upon the organising skill of those responsible for the Asian Dynamics Initiative. They deserve our thanks.

Denise Gimpel & Bent Nielsen

11. Gendering Asia
organized by Cecilia Milwertz, NIAS and Katja Rangsivek, Dept. of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies

Network aim - conference theme
The Gendering Asia Network was established in 2005 and has previously held conferences in 2005, 2007 and 2009. The overall aim of the Network is to strengthen research and teaching on gender and Asia in the Nordic countries. The fourth conference focused on the many meanings of ‘Gendering Asia’ with papers emphasizing issues such as:

• How the concept of gender is applied in studies of Asia.
• How gender is constituted and expressed in politics, economy, culture and society in Asia.
• How Asian feminisms are constructed and understood.

Challenges
One of the great challenges for the Gendering Asia Network is to make the importance of gender visible and to make it clear to the wider Asian studies community, as well as policy makers and the general public that applying a critical gender perspective makes a difference to the knowledge we construct of Asia.

The conference was opened by Hilda Romer Christensen, Coordinator of Gender Studies at Copenhagen University. She emphasized the challenge of combining studies of Asia
and Europe in a truly transnational approach that acknowledges the ways in which the two entities are increasingly intertwined in terms of global work and welfare issues and the need to look at both the ‘gender in’ and the ‘gendering’ of global value chains, global care as well as global chains of production and consumption and exploitation.

Keynote speeches
Keynote speeches were given by Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-vo, University of California, Los Angeles who addressed the issue of ‘The Feminine Coordinate: Staging Asian Modernity and Neoliberal Globality in Vietnam’ and by Associate Professor Anindita Datta, Delhi University, who spoke on ‘Contextualizing Asian Feminisms’. Both speeches were videotaped and can be viewed at the Gendering Asia Network website http://www.barha.dk/group/gendering-asia-network

Papers and participants
Twenty-five papers were presented by participants from Australia, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, India, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and the UK. Papers were presented within the themes of sexuality, politics, family, violence and migration.

A total of 47 people had registered specifically for the Gendering Asia section of the ADI conference and participants from other sections took part in one or more of the paper presentation sessions.

Network workshop
The Conference was preceded by a two day workshop held at the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies. With the workshop the Gendering Asia Network moved on to a new stage of activity in which members will develop joint Nordic research projects. This new stage of Network activity has been made possible by a generous three-year grant from NordForsk. At the workshop five groups were established, they start work immediately and will meet again at a workshop in Iceland in 2011.

Researchers from universities in Asia who are part of the research project ‘Revisiting Gender in Development. Complex Inequalities in a Changing Asia’ funded by the Norwegian Research Council and led by Professor Ragnhild Lund, the Department of Geography, Norwegian University of Science and Technology will be invited to join the groups and attend the workshop.

Cecilia Milwertz & Katja Rangsivek