

JOANNA PFAFF-CZARNECKA, Prof. Dr. is Dean at the Faculty for Social Sciences of the University of Bielefeld (Germany), where she also is a Full professor for Social Anthropology. She was born and raised in Warsaw, from where her family left as refugees for Switzerland. After her Zurich doctoral degree in Social Anthropology her professional career positioned her in Zürich, Oxford, Tokio and Bonn, before she moved to Bielefeld in 2001. Prof. Pfaff-Czarnecka also is an International Fellow of the French Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), and a Scientific Advisory Board member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences' Centre for Studies in Asian Cultures and Social Anthropology.

Research interests: extensive field work in Nepal, ritual, development, citizenship, methods of inquiry, and globalization.

Main publications: Her most important book publications include "Nationalism and Ethnicity in Nepal" (Co-ed. with D. Gellner and J. Whelpton, Kathmandu 2008), "Ethnic Futures: State and Identity in Four Asian Countries" (with A. Nandy, D. Rajasingham, and T. Gomez, New Delhi 1999), "Rituale Heute: Theorien, Kontroversen, Entwürfe" (Co-ed. with C. Caduff, Berlin, 2nd ed. 2001); "Macht und rituelle Reinheit: Hinduistisches Kastenwesen und ethnische Beziehungen im Entwicklungsprozess Nepals" (Gruesch 1989).

ANDRE GINGRICH, Dr. phil. is Director of the Institute for Social Anthropology ISA at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), where he also is a Full Member, and is a Full Professor for Social Anthropology at the University of Vienna. Since 2008, he serves as Panel Chair for the Social Sciences and the Humanities (SH 2 Domain) in the European Research Council. He was a Research Fellow at the School for American Research (Santa FE, NM) in 1995, a Resident Scholar at UMass (Boston) in 1998, and a Lichtstern Scholar at U Chicago in 2002. He won the Austrian Wittgenstein Award in 2000 and became a Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 2008.

Research interests: His research interests cover the social anthropology and history of south-western Arabia, neo-nationalism in Europe, the history of socio-cultural anthropology, and concepts, methods, and theories in the field.

Main publications: His main book publications include "Südwestarabische Sternenkalendar" (Vienna: WUV 1994); "Anthropology, by Comparison" (London-New York: Routledge 2002; co-ed. with R.G.Fox); "One Discipline, Four Ways" (Chicago UPress 2005; co-authored with Fredrik Barth, David Parkin, and Sydel Silverman); "Neo-nationalism in Europe and Beyond" (Oxford-New York: Berghahn 2006; co-edited with M. Banks); and his chapters on south-western Saudi architecture, bee-keeping, and star lore in Dostal, Walter (ed.), "Tribale Gesellschaften der südwestlichen Regionen des Königreiches Saudi Arabien" (Vienna: Verlag der OeAW 2006; pp. 173- 205; 207- 406; 407- 467; 576- 613; 630- 637; 676- 682).

Mag. EVA-MARIA KNOLL is a social anthropologist and a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS).

Research interests: Her main research interests include tourism, science and technology, gender relations, medicine, and body concepts.

Main publications: She has co-edited “Ritualisierungen von Geschlecht” 2006 Wiener Universitätsverlag. Recent publications are „Fortpflanzungsmedizin ohne Sexualität als gesellschaftliche Irritation: Diskurse über ‚Jungfrauen-Geburten‘“, in: Pethes/Schick Tanz (Hg.): „Sexualität als Experiment. Identität, Lust und Reproduktion zwischen Science und Fiction“ 2008 Campus, and “So weit gehen für ein Kind: Reproduktionstourismus als grenzüberschreitender Umweg, in: Bockenheimer-Lucius/Thorn/Wendehorst (Hg.): Umwege zum eigenen Kind. Ethische und rechtliche Herausforderungen an die Reproduktionsmedizin 30 Jahre nach Louise Brown, 2008 Universitätsverlag Göttingen.

RNDr. TATIANA BUŽEKOVÁ , Ph.D. is a social anthropologist and a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. She is teaching at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava. She is also the editor of the journal *Slovenský národopis (Slovak Ethnology)*.

Research interests: cognitive anthropology, religion, internet communication. She conducted research of folk beliefs in western Slovakia and of neo-shamanistic communities in Bratislava.

Main publications: Písané nepísané pravidlá: Etiketa pri rozhovore on-line [Written unwritten rules: etiquette on-line] (2005), Poverové rozprávania, epizodická pamäť a emócie [Folk tales, episodic memory and emotions] (2006), Memory and Reliability of the Source of Information (2006), Nepriateľ zvnútra [The enemy within] (2010).

Mgr. MICHAELA FERENCOVÁ, Ph.D. is a research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava. At the same time she works as a teaching assistant at the Institute of Social Anthropology at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava and participates in a FP7 project *Models and their Effects on Development paths: an Ethnographic and comparative Approach to knowledge transmission and livelihood strategies*. (2009-2012). She is also an editor of the journal *Slovenský národopis (Slovak Ethnology)* issued by the Institute of Ethnology SAS.

Research interests: ethnicity, nationalism, social classifications, commemoration, institutions, political anthropology, cognitive anthropology.

Main publications: Teoretické prístupy k identitám a ich praktické aplikácie. [Theoretical approaches to identities and their practical impact.] (Bratislava 2005, ed. with Juraj Marušiak); Paměť města. Obraz města, veřejné komemorace a historické zlomy v 19.-21. století. [Urban memory: Representations of city, public commemorations and historical turning points in the 19.-21. century.] (Brno 2009, M. Ferencová – J. Nosková et al.).

GEBHARD FARTACEK, Dr. phil. is a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS). He worked as a lecturer at the Institute for Social- and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna, at the University of Education in Vienna, and at the Austrian Oriental Society.

Research interests: Cosmologies and religion in the Middle East; Conflict resolution, belief-systems, epistemological models and local conceptions of time and space.

Main publications: Pilgerstätten in der syrischen Peripherie [Pilgrimage Sites in the Syrian Periphery] (Vienna: ÖAW-Verlag 2003); The Outsider's Gaze as part of the Methodological Toolkit? Reflections on the Research Project the « Musikantenstadl » (In: *Ethnologia Europaea*, Volume 36:2, p. 54-68); Unheil durch Dämonen? Geschichten und Diskurse über das Wirken der □inn. Eine sozialanthropologische Spurensuche in Syrien. [Harm because of Daemons? Stories and Discourses about Djinn in contemporary Syria] (Vienna: Böhlau 2010).

HELMUT LUKAS, Dr. phil. is a social anthropologist and senior researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS). He is teaching as lecturer (Univ.-Doz.) at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna as well as at the Austrian Institute for China and Southeast Asia Research, Vienna.

Research interests: Human ecology, materialist theory, hunter-gatherer study, interethnic relations, indigenous knowledge, ritual, kinship.

Main publications: Ungleichheit und Egalität in Samosir (Sumatra). Die Sozialstruktur der vorkolonialen Toba-Batak im Vergleich zu Gesellschaften am Festland Südostasiens [Inequality and Equality in Samosir (Sumatra). The Social Structure of the Precolonial Toba-Batak in Comparison to Societies on Mainland Southeast Asia]. (Vienna: ÖAW-Verlag, in press). Can "They" save "Us", the Foragers? Indonesian and Thai Hunter-Gatherer Cultures under Threat from Outside. (*Südostasien Working Papers der Kommission für Sozialanthropologie der ÖAW*, Bd 2, Wien.) Theories of Indianization exemplified by Selected Case Studies from Indonesia (Insular Southeast Asia). (In: *Proceedings of Papers. "Sanskrit in Southeast Asia: The Harmonizing Factor of Cultures"*, International Sanskrit Conference, May 21-23, 2001. Sanskrit Studies Centre and Department of Oriental Languages, Silpakorn University; Bangkok: Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya Press 2003: 82-107).

CHRISTIAN JAHODA, Dr.-phil. is a researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS). His current research projects on *Oral and Festival Traditions of Western Tibet* (2008-2011) and *Society, Power and Religion in pre-modern Western Tibet* (2009-2012) are funded by the Austrian Science Fund.

Research interests: oral and festival traditions, trance-mediums, monastic Buddhism, polity and economy in pre-modern Western Tibet.

Main publications: *Text, Image and Song in Transdisciplinary Dialogue* (2007, ed. with D. Klimburg-Salter and K. Tropper); Political space and socio-economic organisation in the Lower Spiti Valley (early nineteenth to late twentieth century) (2008, *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies*, no. 4); Eine frühe buddhistische Steinstele (*rdo ring*) in sPu rang, Westtibet: eine Neuuntersuchung. Bericht einer österreichisch-tibetischen Feldforschung (with C. Papa-Kalantari, 2009, *Asiatische Studien / Études Asiatiques*, LXIII/2).

MARIA-KATHARINA LANG, PhD cand. is a research fellow at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS). Currently she is leading the project « *Mongolian Ethnographica by the Collector Hans Leder in European Museums* » (2010-2012) within the funding program of the Austrian Ministry of Sciences and Research « *Research in Museums* ». From 2007- 2009 she held a grant within the PhD program of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Research interests: Mongolian studies, Material Culture, Anthropology of Art, Post-Socialist Transition.

Main publications: *Mongolische Ethnographica in Wien. Die Sammlung Hans Leder im Museum für Völkerkunde Wien.* (Wien: ÖAW-Verlag 2010; in print).

PhDr. GABRIELA KILIÁNOVÁ, CSc. is director and senior research fellow at the Institute of Ethnology of Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava. She worked as visiting lecturer at the Comenius University in Bratislava (1997-98, 1998-99), at Vienna University (1996-97, 1999-2000), and at the Regensburg University (2003-04, 2005-06, and 2007-08). She is the main editor of the journal *Slovenský národopis (Slovak Ethnology)*.

Research interests: collective identity, oral traditions, social anthropology of death, modernization and transformation processes in Eastern Central Europe.

Main publications: *Communities in Transformation. Central and Eastern Europe. Anthropological Journal on European Cultures* (2003 ed. with O. Danglová and M. Kanovský), *Identita a pamäť. Devín/ Theben/ Dévény ako pamätne miesto [Identity and Memory. Devín/ Theben/ Dévény as lieu de mémoire]* (2005), *My a tí druhí v modernej spoločnosti [Us and the Others in Modern Society]* (2010, ed. with Eva Kowalská and Eva Krekovičová).