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ISA INTERNATIONAL GUEST LECTURE

The Nodal Points of Transnational Bionetworking

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Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA)
Seminar room 1, 1030 Vienna, Apostelgasse 23

This paper examines location and network, circulation and connectivity, mobility and motionlessness in order to renew current understanding on therapeutic travel and the transnational production of medical knowledge and practice. For this purpose, the notion of “space of connectivity” is introduced to highlight the intersections of transnational networks and circuits. Circulations within these circuits converge in situated nodal points, such as clinics or medical classrooms, where connectivity between geographically mobile and immobile agents intensifies. These nodal points result from the crystallization of transnational social, material and technological formations in a particular place and at a particular moment in time. They are stabilized by motionless actors. By examining spatiality and temporality in various structures that target foreign interest and clientele in India, this paper will provide a theoretical frame for the study of transnational bionetworking.



Laurent Pordié holds PhDs in both anthropology and pharmaceutical sciences, is a senior researcher with the CNRS, appointed to the Center for Research on Medicine, Science, Health and Society (Cermes3). He is also affiliated to the Center for South Asian Studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, where he is teaching. He is the founder of the international NGO Nomad RSI, a founding member of the PharmAsia Network, and the recipient of numerous prizes. Laurent's works revolves around the social study of science and medicine in South Asia, among them the award winning book *Tibetan Medicine in the Contemporary World* (Routledge 2008 - ICAS BOOK Prize 2009) and the recent co-edited volume *Les nouveaux guérisseurs* (EHESS 2013).

