

Course Announcement IGS North-South

Spring Semester 2012

Disciplinary and thematic modules

University of Basel

swisspeace - [Doctoral Programme North-South \(DONOS\)](#)

The Politics of Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective

Seminar by Dr. Briony Jones

Transitional justice is a relatively new field of practice and academia, emerging in the 1980s in response to transitions from authoritarian rule to democracy in Latin America and Eastern Europe. Following the end of the Cold War we have seen an increase in intra-state conflicts and transitional justice measures are increasingly applied in such contexts. Understood by some as a narrow legal response to human rights abuses and by others as a thicker concept which includes forgiveness, reconciliation and memorialisation, transitional justice has come to be accepted as an important part of peacebuilding and dealing with the past.

Recent scholarship on transitional justice highlights its nature as an inherently contested process over which actors will disagree and within which choices and compromises are made. These dynamics are influenced by relative agency and power and are underpinned by assumptions and normative positions. This course will first provide an overview of transitional justice as a field/s including key assumptions, discourses and mechanisms. It will then go on to look at questions of actors and agency, of impact and assessment, and of contestation and hybridity. Concepts such as liberal peace, reconciliation, citizenship and justice will be covered along with cases and empirical insights from Uganda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda and others.

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Jasmine and Lotus: Sociological Approaches to "Revolutions" and "Transitions"

Seminar by Dr. des Philipp Casula

The Arab Spring - including the Lotus and Jasmine revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia, respectively - surprised politicians and social scientists alike. The events were hailed as the beginning of a move toward more democracy, although, months after the upheavals, there are also growing reasons for skepticism. History seems to repeat itself: the 1989 collapse of "communism" also marked an unpredicted revolutionary change, which was celebrated in the West as the "end of history" (Fukuyama). Hence, the Arab Spring, offers a point of departure to reconsider theories of revolution and political change. The seminar is aimed at discussing the most important approaches to the concept of revolution and its derivatives, like "transition", and at analyzing their hidden or explicit premises, which might have deceived theorists or even those who applied revolutionary recipes. In addition, alternative concepts will be discussed. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural level

of revolution. As will be seen, culture has an intimately political dimension. In the final part of the seminar concrete cases of revolutionary change will be discussed, including the Iranian Revolution, the fall of "communism", and the events of the Arab Spring. One focus will be on how the perceptions of revolutionary events have shaped and are shaping the relations between North and South.

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

The Non-Aligned Movement: A Pressure Group of the Global South?

Seminar by Dr. Natasa Miskovic

The history of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is closely linked to the Cold War ? no wonder that research on this topic stopped after 1989 for quite some time. But the Non-Aligned Movement still exists, primarily as a pressure group for the Global South within international organizations, namely the United Nations. This seminar aims at analyzing the role of the NAM in the United Nations and beyond, exploring power struggles and diplomatic networks between North and South, East and West within their historical context. Special attention is given to the training of the participants? interpretative and writing skills, based on original source material (documents, interviews) from the lecturer?s own research collection.

3 ECTS

[Details](#)

Swiss TPH

To be announced

University of Bern

Centre for Development and Environment

Seminar on Sustainable Development: Land Grabbing – new trends and debates

Tuesday 10-12; Starting date: 23.2.12

5 ECTS (a seminar paper has to be written)

[Details](#)

Thematic-Methodological Doctoral Seminar: Agriculture and Energy Relations

The content is to be determined jointly according to PhD candidate's needs.
Date will be announced

1.5 ECTS

[Details](#)

University of Zurich

Development Study Group Zurich

Principles and Theory Course

Geography is a mature and successful discipline, but increasing specialisation means that many doctoral students are recruited from outside the discipline, and that Masters students often specialise early in their careers. This seminar will introduce doctoral students to a range of cross-disciplinary literature and allow wide ranging discussions of the relevance of this literature, and a broad knowledge of the discipline, to individual research projects. Each slot lasts three hours, and we expect you to do some reading and group preparation before and after classes.

1 ECTS

[Details](#)

Promotionsseminar II

PhD seminar II is focussed around a weekend retreat, where cohorts of doctoral students identify areas in which they feel their skills base is weak, and a set of activities and discussions are held to explore these areas. Typically, doctoral students attend this course in their second year of study.

1 ECTS

[Details](#)