


## A New Network Initiative

The SHAPING ASIA network brings together scholars from the Humanities and Social Sciences. It acts as a platform for trans- and interdisciplinary knowledge production among researchers working on and in Asia.

Conceptually and methodologically, the network emphasizes three main lines of inquiries:

- Connectivities** Overcoming rigid binary oppositions while stressing relations as well as frictions and ruptures across temporal or spatial scales.
- Comparisons** Putting difference and sameness into relation while contrasting and comparing what otherwise would seem specific / particular.
- Collaborations** Facilitating multi-sited and multi-perspective knowledge production through scholarly cooperation and exchange.

The Shaping Asia network is inclusive. It provides a framework for dialogue and comparative engagement between researchers working on related topics in sites across Asia. Consequently, the network seeks to grasp how Asia is shaped and has shaped the world at different points in history. The methodological approach challenges disciplinary, national, and regional boundaries as well as cultural containers.

<b>Current Thematic Areas</b>	<b>Past Activities</b>	<b>Future Activities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban Futures in Asia: Uneven Mobilities, Contested Visions</li> <li>▪ Knowledge Production and Circulation</li> <li>▪ Women's Pathways to Professionalization in Muslim Asia: Reconfiguring Religious Knowledge, Gender, and Connectivity</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure and the Remaking of Asia through Adapting, Orchestrating and Cooperating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiating Network Workshop, Heidelberg University, 2017</li> <li>▪ Conference 'Shaping Asia: Connectivities, Comparisons, Collaborations', ZiF, Bielefeld University, 2018</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop 'Shaping Migrants and Mobile Worlds: Connectivities, Comparisons, Collaborations', National University Singapore, 2019</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop 'Entangled Comparisons. Grounding Research on Asia – Expanding Research Methodologies', ZiF, Bielefeld University, September 5-7 2019</li> <li>▪ Another 12 workshops are planned in Asia and Germany between 2020 and 2022</li> </ul>

**Network Partners:** American University of Central Asia, Bishkek; Bielefeld University; Nazarbayev University; University of Bonn; University of Bremen; Erfurt University; Goethe University Frankfurt; University of Freiburg; Free University of Berlin; Fudan University, Shanghai; Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta; Göttingen University; Heidelberg University; Humboldt University Berlin; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; University of Leipzig; Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; Marburg University; Max Planck Institute Halle; National University of Singapore; Tokyo University

**We welcome scholars working in and on all parts of Asia interested in joining the network**

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