International Conference at Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, January 22 – 24, 2015

“Protecting the Weak. Entangled Processes of Framing, Mobilization and Institutionalization in East Asia”

Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation
Within its Initiative “Key Issues for Research and Society”

Organized by the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (IZO)
In Collaboration with the Institute for Social Research (IfS)

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Arrival at Frankfurt/Main and Check In at Hotel Beethoven (Beethovenstr 46, 60325 Frankfurt/M.)
6.00 pm Informal joint dinner

Friday, January 23, 2015, Campus Westend, IG Farben Building, Eisenhower Room

Theoretical Approaches and Historical Backgrounds of Protecting the Weak

9.00 am Conference Registration
9.15 am Welcome Addresses by Birgitta WOLFF, President of Goethe University,
Vera SZOELLÖSIEI-BRENIG, Program Director, Volkswagen Foundation
Iwo AMELUNGE, Vice-Director of Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies
Representative of the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research (IfS) (tbc)

9.45 am Introductory remarks by Heike HOLBIG

PART I: The Weak across Societies
Chair: Heike Holbig

10.00 am Shalini RANDERIA (The Graduate Institute, Geneva): “Porous Legalities: Paradoxes of Protection for the Poor”
10.20 am Discussion
11.00 am Discussion
11.20 am Coffee Break

PART II: State and Civil Society as Key Actors
Chair: Moritz Bälz

11.40 am Hans-Jürgen PUHLE (Goethe University, Frankfurt/M.): „Rethinking the Role of the State – Different Trajectories, Similar Functions“
12.00 am Discussion
12.20 pm Daniel ALDRICH (Purdue University): “Civil Society and the Protection of Weak in East Asia”
12.40 pm Discussion
1.00 pm Lunch

PART III: Normative Approaches to the Protection of Weak
Chair: Cornelia Storz

2.30 pm Stefan GOSEPATH (Free University, Berlin): “Philosophical Approaches to Protecting the Weak: Ideal versus Non-ideal Conditions”
2.50 pm Discussion
3.10 pm Chunrong LIU (Fudan University / University of Copenhagen): “Community Institution and the Protection of the Weak”
3.30 pm Discussion
3.50 pm Coffee Break
PART IV: Historical Trajectories of Protecting – Or Not – the Weak in East Asia

Chair: Iwo Amelung


4.30 pm Discussion

4.50 pm Vladimir TIKHONOV (University of Oslo): “Social Darwinism as History and Reality: The Story of ‘Competition’ and ‘The Weak’ in Twentieth-Century Korea”

5.10 pm Discussion

6.00 pm Conference Dinner

Saturday, January 24, 2015, Campus Westend, IG Farben Building, Eisenhower Room

Framing, mobilization and institutionalization in Japan and China: Four case studies

9.30 am Introductory remarks by Cornelia STORZ & Moritz BÄLZ

PART I: Disaster Victims

Chair: Iwo Amelung


10.10 am Bin Xu (Florida International University, Miami & Yale University, New Haven): “Moral Legitimacy and Disaster Politics in China”

10.30 am Discussion

11.10 am Coffee Break

PART II: Employee Well-Being

Chair: Cornelia Storz

11.30 am Ryo KAMBAYASHI (Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo): “Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, and the Great Recession: Lessons from Japan’s Lost Decade”

11.50 am Xiangdong WEI (Lingnan University, Hong Kong): “Labour Market Design and Employee Well-being in China”

12.10 pm Discussion

1.00 pm Lunch

PART III: Animal Welfare

Chair: Moritz Bälz

2.00 pm Hitoshi AOKI (Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo): “Legal Culture and Animal Protection in Japan”

2.20 pm Wei SONG (Law Institute, Univ. of Science and Technology of China, USTC, Hefei): “Changing Attitudes, Social and Legal Conditions for Animal Protection in China”

2.40 pm Discussion

3.20 pm Coffee Break

PART IV: Cultural Heritage

Chair: Heike Holbig

3.40 pm Natsuko AKAGAWA (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne): “Local, National and International Factors in the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Japan”

4.00 pm Robert SHEPHERD (George Washington University, Washington, DC): “China, UNESCO, and Cultural Heritage Preservation: Is There Room for Civil Society in Spiritual Civilization Campaigns?”

4.20 pm Discussion

5.00 pm Conclusion by Iwo AMELUNG & Heike HOLBIG

5.30 pm End of conference

6.00 pm Farewell Dinner