When knowledge moves with humans: Travel, mobility, and media in Asia

Friday, Sep.17, 2021
6:00-7:30 pm (JST, UTC+9)
Online (via ZOOM)
Language: English
(ディスカッションは日本語可)

Please register by Sep.15 (JST) via QRcode

Abstract

This seminar is based on a joint research project entitled 'Knowledge Production and Circulation in Asia', which is part of a larger research initiative, 'Shaping Asia', conducted by scholars affiliated to different institutions in Europe, Asia, and USA (http://www.shapingasia.net/). It seeks to understand what kinds of knowledge circulate where and when, and why and how they do or did so. It addresses the dynamics of global epistemic frameworks and those found within them by focusing on epistemic communities in everyday life: turning away from a merely intellectually oriented understanding of epistemology and attending to knowledge systems that inform and connect people in their daily life across nations and regions.

The first presentation by Claudia Derichs addresses Muslim women’s mobility and religious knowledge. Some case studies of Muslim women who use their religious knowledge to professionalize in medical services, life coaching, or health counselling for fellow Muslim women around the world are introduced. While the women are physically staying at one place (at home), they are virtually mobile in numerous ways. Their professional services 'travel' across regions, and the knowledge they provide hails from their higher education in 'online madrasas' (online colleges). The second presentation by Emi Goto focuses on actresses in Egypt who expressed their understanding of Islamic thought and their views on social practices associated with Islam through films, satellite TV program, and internet. Their knowledge and ideas were conveyed to a wide range of people across regions, leading to further discussions on women and Islam. Through the lenses of travel, mobility, and media, these presentations want to capture how knowledge 'moves with humans' and circulates across regions.

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