DEPARTMENT ‘RESILIENCE AND TRANSFORMATION IN EURASIA’

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

DIRECTOR

Chris Hann (until 8/2021)

HEAD OF RESEARCH GROUP

Christoph Brumann (Research Group 'Urban Anthropology', since 9/2021 Department Xiang)
Kirsten W. Endres (Research Group 'The Political and Economic Anthropology of Southeast Asia', since 9/2021 Department Xiang)

SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR REALEURASIA

Lale Yalçın-Heckmann (until 6/2021, funded by ERC until 6/2020)

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Ian Walker (until 8/2021, since 1/2022 Department Xiang)

RESEARCH FELLOWS

Bada Choi (Research Group Endres until 8/2021)
Emma P. Greeson (V4 NET until 5/2020 and 4/2021 – 7/2021)
Deborah Jones (MAX-CAM, since 9/2021 Department Xiang)
Joanna Mroczkowska (V4 NET until 11/2020)
Nikolaos Olma (V4 NET until 7/2020)
Gergő Pulay (V4 NET until 11/2020)
Michal Šípoš (V4 NET until 11/2020)
Kristóf Szombati (V4 NET until 3/2021)
Sylvia Terpe (until 9/2020, funded by ERC until 6/2020)
Samuel Williams (until 12/2021 MAX-CAM, since 10/2022 Department Xiang)
Johana Wyss (V4 NET until 7/2021)

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Elisabeth Köditz (V4 NET until 20/2021)
Floramante S. J. Ponce (Research Group Endres, since 9/2021 Department Xiang)
Thao Vu (Research Group Endres, since 9/2021 Department Xiang)

COMPLETED PHDS

Sudeshna Chaki (11/2020) (REALEURASIA)
Ceren Deniz (12/2020) (REALEURASIA)
Katerina Ivanova (4/2022) (V4 NET)
Hannah Klepeis (7/2020) (Research Group Brumann)
Luca Szücs (2/2022) (REALEURASIA)

VISITING AND WRITING-UP FELLOWS (V4NET)

Matej Butko (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia) (3/2020 and 6/2020 – 10/2020)
Jana Hrčková (Central European University, Budapest, Hungary) (11/2019 – 4/2020)
Kamila Urszula Grześkowiak (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland) (8/2021 – 10/2021)
Katarzyna Ewa Król (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland) (10/2020 –12/2020 and 5/2021 – 7/2021)
Pavel Mašek (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen, Czech Republic) (9/2020 – 12/2020)
Jan Ort (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) (4/2020 – 6/2020)
Sandra Ort-Mertlová (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia) (4/2021 – 9/2021)
Barbora Stehlíková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) (4/2021 – 9/2021)
Barbara-Maria Tołłoczko-Suchańska (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland) (2/2020 – 4/2020 and 11/2020 – 1/2021)
Martin Tremčinský (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) (3/2020 – 3/2020 and 10/2020 – 1/2021)
Márk Vangel (University of Szeged/ University of Pécs, Hungary) (10/2020 – 1/2021)
Tereza Virtová (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) (10/2020 – 12/2020)

ASSOCIATED MEMBERS, RESEARCH AND CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

Catherine Alexander (Durham University, UK) (until 8/2021)
Aleksandar Bošković (University of Belgrade, Serbia) (5/2020 – 8/2021)
Michał Buchowski (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland) (5/2020 – 8/2021)
Ildikó Bellér-Hann (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) (until 8/2021)
Jennifer Cash (until 8/2021)
Stephen Gudeman (University of Minnesota, USA) (until 8/2021)
Don Kalb (University of Bergen, Norway / University of Utrecht, The Netherlands) (until 8/2021)
Deema Kaneff (University of Birmingham, UK) (until 8/2021)
László Kürti (University of Miskolc, Hungary) (5/2020 – 8/2021)
Attila Melegh (Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary) (until 8/2021)
Jonathan Parry (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) (until 8/2021)
Frances Pine (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK) (5/2020 – 8/2021)
Bertalan Pusztai (University of Szeged, Hungary) (until 8/2021)
Mihály Sárkány (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) (until 8/2021)
Petr Skalník (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic) (5/2020 – 8/2021)
Aurél Szakál (János Thorma Museum, Kiskunhalas, Hungary) (until 8/2021)
Detelina Tocheva (CNRS, France) (5/2020 – 8/2021)

INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF EURASIA (IMPRS ANARCHIE)

COORDINATOR

Sascha Roth (until 12/2021)

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Sofia Lopatina (until 9/2021)
Lisa Kröger (until 9/2021)
Adrià Moreno Gil (until 11/2021)
Nikola Stefanovski (until 11/2021)

COMPLETED PHDS

Pablo Ampuero Ruiz (10/2021)
Milana Čergić (6/2022)
Ruben Davtyan (7/2022)
Anu Krishna (6/2022)
Elzyata Kuberlinova (6/2021)
Shilla Lee (11/2021)
Benjamin Matuzak (4/2020)
Julius Roch (10/2021)
Frank Rochow (12/2022)
Adrian Wesołowski (10/2021)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director emeritus:
CHRIS HANN

SUMMARY

Due to the retirement of its Director, the main task of this Department in these years was to bring existing projects (presented in previous MPI reports) to a successful conclusion. Some plans were adversely affected by the COVID pandemic, but thanks to (cost-neutral) extensions, the flexibility of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and the creative ingenuity of individual researchers, all main objectives were achieved.

INTRODUCTION

The Director of this Department was a lame duck in this review period (his official retirement date was 31 August 2021). Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, a member of the Department from its launch in 1999, formerly a Minerva Professor and later Coordinator of the European Research Council project 'Realising Eurasia: Civilization and Moral Economy in the Twenty-First Century', also reached the age of retirement (though she remains active as a *Privatdozentin* at the University of Pardubice, Czech Republic). Three Heads of Research Groups appointed and funded by this department – Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres, and Dittmar Schorkowitz – present their reports independently. Postdoctoral researchers Iain Walker and Samuel Williams joined the new department of Biao Xiang; their individual reports can be found in his chapter.

The implications of the pandemic for this Department were potentially disastrous, given the urgent need to conclude all activities before the retirement of the Director. Outcomes turned out better than initially expected. Several events had to be postponed, including the final conference of the International Max Planck School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) and a workshop of the Visegrád Anthropologists' Network (V4 NET). Miraculously, however, very little was cancelled or lost (the main casualty was the final workshop of the Research Group led by Kirsten W. Endres – see her report). Some of the funds left unspent due to lockdowns were redistributed to researchers who could make a convincing case for extensions. Supplementary short-term grants were extended to numerous members of V4 NET.

With hybridity the name of the game, flexibility and patience were called for. The Department continued its weekly seminars according to the usual semester routines. The Martin Luther University made it possible to examine doctoral theses online. Fifteen students defended successfully in this review period.

With the last postdoctoral research group in economic anthropology ("Financialization") having concluded its work in 2019, no new positions were advertised, and irrespective of COVID, little fieldwork was scheduled for this review period. For some senior members of the Department, COVID had silver linings in terms of freeing up time for data analysis and writing. Fewer meetings and less travel meant more time for reading and even writing book reviews (a genre that has been in decline for years). Together with Ildikó Bellér-Hann, the Director took advantage of the first lockdown to complete work on a monograph about eastern Xinjiang that they not anticipated being able to pull together before retirement (Bellér-Hann and Hann 2020).

Of course, the human costs of the disruption were experienced by everyone. Webinars were an imperfect substitute for exchanges in the seminar rooms and their continuation later in the evening over drinks at Nexus (a popular watering hole for two decades). Sociality in the fresh air was greatly prized. *Communitas* was fostered through departmental excursions along the Saale River and through the forest to the Heidesee (in 2020 and 2021 respectively, when the virus beat its annual summer retreat).

The informal interaction that is so important in most branches of science has always been easy in Halle. This city has less than half the population of Leipzig,

Departmental excursion to Heidesee, July 2021.

which in turn is dwarfed by Berlin. Yet the "cultural capital of Saxony-Anhalt" has much to offer in virtually every field of the arts, and the intellectual traditions of the Martin Luther University are second to none in East-Central Europe. Our interaction with historians and archaeologists of the MLU in the framework of the IMPRS ANARCHIE has enriched our community for over a decade. It was gratifying that Burkhard Schnepel, one of the founders of the university's social anthropology seminar, was able to join the Research School and play an active role in supervision of the last cohort.

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION

External collaborative events included a small hybrid meeting in December 2020, "The Emotional Consequences of the Peace", to explore the politics of memory in Central Europe 100 years after the peace settlements at the end of the First World War. This was organized jointly with historian Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development) and took place at the Harnack Haus in Berlin.

A large, transcontinental online workshop was convened in March 2021 by Dimitriy Funk (Academy of Sciences, Moscow), Otto Habeck (University of Hamburg), and Virginie Vaté-Klein (CNRS). "Anthropology of Siberia in the Late 19th and 20th Centuries: Re-assessing the Contribution of a 'Marginal' Field" took the Department back to its beginnings, when a strong Siberia Project Group provided the impetus for an inter-departmental Siberian Studies Centre under Habeck's leadership. The papers presented at this meeting will be published in 2023 as Vol. 49 of Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, the Department's publication series with LIT Verlag.

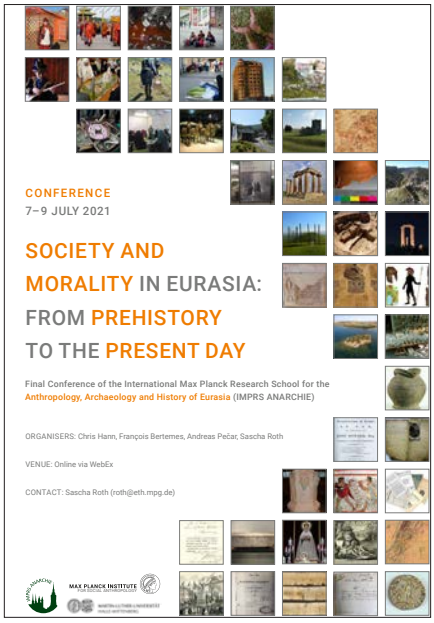
Another highlight was a critical celebration of the centenary of Bronislaw Malinowski's *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, probably the most significant monograph in the history of economic anthropology, if not anthropology in general. This event at the London School of Economics in July 2022 was organized jointly with Deborah James of the LSE. Revised versions of the papers will be published in our Berghahn series, Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy.

Joint workshop to celebrate the centenary of Bronislaw Malinowski's most famous monograph (London School of Economics, July 2022).

GOODY LECTURES

Goody Lectures were given online by Stephen Levinson in 2020 ("On 'Technologies of the Intellect'") and by Thomas Hylland Eriksen in 2021 ("The Treadmill Paradox in Cultural History: Competitive Global Capitalism and the Anthropocene Challenge"). Chris Hann's in-person valedictory lecture in June 2022 on "Colonial Encounters" (see pp. 178–179) was simultaneously an unofficial twelfth lecture in this series. All the Goody Lectures delivered since 2011, together with supplementary materials pertaining to Goody, will be brought together in a single volume edited by Chris Hann and Han Vermeulen. Scheduled for publication in 2023, this will be the fiftieth and last volume of the series Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia, launched in 2003.

INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF EURASIA (ANARCHIE)



Final conference of the IMPRS ANARCHIE.

Postponed from December 2020, the final meeting of ANARCHIE eventually took place in early July 2021 under the title "Society and Morality in Eurasia: From Prehistory to the Present Day". Only residents of Halle were allowed to gather in the main seminar room. Other participants, including the three plenary speakers, took part online.[1] The transdisciplinary conversations extended over 7 panels and 18 papers. The meeting was a resounding culmination of the interdisciplinary exchanges and *longue durée* approaches that were the very foundations of ANARCHIE.

Sascha Roth remained in post as Coordinator until the end of 2021. Ten doctoral dissertations were successfully defended in the present review period; more will follow in 2023. In September 2021, Roth and *Sprecher* Chris Hann submitted a final report to the Max Planck Society, excerpts from which follow below:

"The International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (IMPRS ANARCHIE) was launched in 2012 as a cooperation between the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. It provided young scholars with the opportunity to pursue a doctorate in the framework of a structured programme and excellent research conditions. Four cohorts of doctoral students applied themselves to four broad themes within the space of the Eurasian landmass. Members of the first three cohorts were funded for three years but could receive extensions of up to six months when necessary. Members of the fourth cohort received funding for four years (subject to satisfactory progress). We strove to ensure equal representation of our three disciplines within each cohort.

One core aspect of ANARCHIE was the nature of its interdisciplinarity. Work outside established disciplinary boundaries requires an institutional framework that enables students to step back from their earlier training (usually a master's programme in one discipline). The first-year programme of ANARCHIE thus featured wide-ranging introductory courses covering theories and methods of the social and historical sciences. Students meanwhile worked intensively on their individual projects with their main supervisor. The projects were discussed collectively at Winter and Summer Schools to which suitably qualified international experts were invited. The second year was largely devoted to data collection, which usually took the form of field research in the case of the social anthropologists, archival research in the case of the historians, and work at excavation sites and/or museum collections in the case of the archaeologists. The third year opened with an Autumn School at which progress reports were presented. Thereafter students prioritized the completion of their dissertations and the dissemination of results to a range of scientific audiences.

After a decade of fruitful cooperation, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the collegial spirit shown by our university partners who, in spite of the many competing demands on their time, immersed themselves in interdisciplinary cross-fertilization with the same commitment and enthusiasm that characterized our students.

By the end of 2022, 30 students had successfully defended their dissertations. More are in the pipeline and the final overall completion rate is expected to exceed 80%.

In the broader landscape of the Max Planck Society, ANARCHIE was a modest initiative. Our partners were almost all local. Yet far from being provincial and parochial, we remain as convinced now as we were a decade ago when launching ANARCHIE that our subject mix is full of promise, which should ultimately bear fruit on a larger scale. Social anthropological theory has much to contribute to the study of human origins and evolution (Barnard 2011). Empirical data from contemporary projects on the demise of socialist property relations or the expansion of neoliberal markets are pertinent to topics such as (in)equality in our species and the investigation of long-term social dynamics and comparative psychology. As ANARCHIE draws to a close, the potential for collaboration with other Max Planck institutes and excellent universities in our region remains."

[1] The three plenary lectures were brought together in a booklet, of which a PDF version is available at: https://www.eth.mpg.de/5990326/2021_Anarchie_PlenaryLectures-web-version.pdf

VISEGRÁD ANTHROPOLOGISTS' NETWORK (V4 NET)

In the final phase of this Network, mobility was hindered by the pandemic. Postdocs continued to work on papers and books, while doctoral students continued to work on their dissertations (most of which were submitted at their home institutions and are not recorded here). It was possible to organize several meetings. By July 2021, the coronavirus had relented sufficiently to allow members of V4 NET to gather in large numbers and in style at Schloss Ringberg, the Max Planck Society's charming castle in Bavaria, for a meeting titled "Vox Populi Visegradensis: The Anthropology of East-Central Europe". The 31 presentations covered a wide range, reflecting how young social anthropologists are investigating new technological developments (such as e-waste and the production of bitcoin) as well as the challenges of the populism-illiberalism nexus, while continuing to work in established fields such as historical memory and transformations of the peasantry. Highlights included after-dinner presentations by two longstanding associates of the department, Don Kalb and Deema Kaneff. Thanks were due to Jochen Essl and his team at Schloss Ringberg for their excellent support, and to the Schloeßmann Foundation for subsidizing the costs of this meeting.

Smaller in-person meetings took place in Warsaw in September 2020 (convened by Agnieszka Halemba, "Locating Religion and Nonreligion in Eastern/Central Europe") and in Pezinok, Slovakia, in April 2022 (postponed from March 2021, convened by Juraj Buzalka and Margit Feischmidt, "Tradition and Solidarity in the Visegrád Countries in the Pandemic Moment").

It is important to disseminate anthropological research of the kind that animated V4 NET to audiences beyond anthropology. The special issue of *Europe-Asia Studies* which the Director edited with sociologist Gabor Scheiring was an example of how this can be achieved (Hann and Scheiring 2021; most contributors to the issue were members of the Network). When life gradually returned to normal in 2022, the Director co-organized in-person panels to debate core themes of this issue at meetings of the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies (Cambridge, April 2022) and the Council for European Studies (Lisbon, June–July 2022).

Beyond the concrete benefits it brought to departments and individuals across the region, V4 NET nurtured interdisciplinary agendas and illustrated the value of engaging with Area Studies literatures. The intellectual perspectives and ethnographic insights of anthropologists can make vital contributions in understanding the local and regional factors that shape a broad range of phenomena, from new forms of spirituality to "democratic backsliding".

Network meeting at Schloss Ringberg, Bavaria, July 2021.

MAX PLANCK – CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR ETHICS, ECONOMY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (MAX-CAM)

This collaborative initiative was hard hit by the pandemic, especially the meetings and mobility schemes originally envisaged. The Centre's lifespan was extended until the end of 2022 to allow final activities in Cambridge to be successfully completed. Fortunately, it was possible to publish the papers from the Halle conference of December 2019 (see the previous MPI report for details) according to plan in the Berghahn series Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy (Hann 2021).

MAX-CAM was based in the Department of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, where its activities were managed by two directors (James Laidlaw and Joel Robbins), a coordinator (Johannes Lenhard), and a part-time secretary (Connie Tang). Chris Hann was a regular participant in the Cambridge meetings. Johannes Lenhard prepared a report for the University of Cambridge in November 2022, excerpts from which follow below:

"The Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change (MAX-CAM) was established at the end of 2017 and began operations early in the following year. Funded in equal measure by the Max Planck Society (including the MPI for Social Anthropology in Halle and the MPI for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen) and the University of Cambridge (including a grant from the Isaac Newton Foundation), MAX-CAM was conceived as a research centre to be housed and managed primarily by the Department of Social Anthropology in Cambridge. The impact of COVID did not prevent the Centre from developing into a lively institution with a wide range of impact across the three partners and beyond.

The initial group of six postdocs (four in Cambridge, one each in Halle and Göttingen) was soon expanded with the appointments of affiliated researchers in all three partner institutes, some of whom were supported by external funds. Following the first in-person workshop in Halle in 2019 (discussed in the previous MPI report), a virtual equivalent was organized in Göttingen in 2021. The concluding meeting in Cambridge in September 2022 was in-person and brought all MAX-CAM members together with an international and interdisciplinary group of guests to explore our core terrain: "Ethics and Social Change: Economy, Religion, and Moral Transformation". We also organized a variety of (mostly in-person but also virtual and hybrid) events and smaller workshops at various locations within Cambridge. The postdocs met regularly (at least monthly) to discuss individual projects and also to monitor the Centre's core agenda, namely to investigate new possibilities for linking the domains of ethics, economy, and religion in anthropological research.

Significant collective publications include the special journal issue "Navigating Investment Universes: The Ethics of Decision-Making on New Frontiers of Capital", which has been accepted by the *Journal of Cultural Economy* (edited by Anna-Riikka Kaupinnen and Johannes Lenhard, forthcoming 2023). The postdocs published almost 50 individual peer-reviewed journal articles and 3 monographs in this review period. Papers appeared in a variety of journals from top general anthropology journals (four in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, but also in *Cultural Anthropology, Social Analysis, Cambridge Anthropology, Social Anthropology, Ethnos*) and specialist journals (both for region and for field). We also published outside the boundaries of anthropological journals, including journals in geography (*Environment and Planning D, Housing Studies*), material culture, psychology, medicine, and internet studies. Outreach and popularization were also taken seriously: we published more than 50 journalistic pieces and blog posts across the most influential anthropological media and beyond.

Over 70 papers were presented in academic conferences and as invited speakers at other universities. We organized panels – collectively and in sub-groups – at numerous major anthropology conferences, including the American Anthropological Association, the Association of Social Anthropologists, and the European Association of Social Anthropologists. We also participated in many non-anthropology conferences in fields such as management studies, homelessness, finance, political economy, and policy and technology.

Over the lifetime of MAX-CAM, more than 30 meetings were convened with invited speakers in Cambridge. The events followed different formats, ranging from book workshops (e.g., with Tim Rogan, Felix Stein, and Anna Alexandrova) to internal workshops/seminars (e.g., with Nofit Itzhak and Devin Singh) and larger public lectures open to all. Our guests included distinguished scholars in economics (e.g., Deirdre McCloskey, Diane Coyle) and sociology (e.g., Donald MacKenzie, Eva Illouz) as well as anthropology (e.g., Caitlin Zaloom, Kimberly Chong, Daromir Rudnyckyj, Soumhya Venkatesan). We published podcasts and/or recordings of 10 of these events to make them more widely available.

During COVID lockdowns we were obliged at times to switch to online-only events, but most were in-person. These (and the refreshments that followed) were greatly appreciated by colleagues in Cambridge and contributed crucially to the cohesion of the MAX-CAM community."

REALISING EURASIA: CIVILISATION AND MORAL ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY (REALEURASIA)

REALEURASIA was launched on 1 July 2014 and formally completed in July 2020. Seven doctoral students spent the academic year 2015–6 carrying out field research in cities of modest size located across Eurasia. Three post-doctoral researchers, the project coordinator, and project leader also carried out field research. Five dissertations had been submitted by summer 2020 and a sixth followed one year later. One project (involving fieldwork in China) was not written up for personal reasons. The REALEURASIA blog, an important outlet for the work of project researchers and their partners, was refocused in 2020 to address various aspects of the pandemic.

Originally scheduled to conclude in 2019, REALEURASIA was extended into 2020 due to the intermission of Sylvia Terpe. A full report was submitted to the European Research Council in 2020. The grant-holder (Chris Hann) and the coordinator of this project (Lale Yalçın-Heckmann) later prepared a summary for the departmental homepage, which included the following summary characterization:

"In this project Eurasia was understood in the classical sense of global historians as the super-continent which embraces the whole of Europe (including the Mediterranean world) and the whole of Asia. The project was primarily rooted in the theories and methods of economic anthropology, but it also set out to renew links to historical sociology and adjacent fields. It combined detailed ethnographic investigations of family businesses, in towns selected to ensure structural comparability, with attention to the embeddedness of economy in religion, polity, and society as they have evolved together in the *longue durée* of the Eurasian past.

The project was constructed so as to contribute to various subfields of anthropology, while also engaging with long-running debates about modernity and global history. Our investigations of contemporary economic behaviour revealed common dilemmas, which we construed as support for the views of anthropologist Jack Goody and numerous global historians who have approached "Christian Europe" as an important macroregion of the Eurasian landmass, rather than as a distinct continent. The recent rise of East Asia is a timely reminder that the most powerful civilizations of this landmass have common origins dating back to the Bronze Age. Goody's perspective on three millennia of Eurasian history can be productively combined with Karl Polanyi's analysis of the transformations of the last three centuries. "

REALEURASIA exemplified how such macro-level interpretations can be productively combined with ethnographic research. Critical of over-simplified usage of "moral economy", Hann drew on his own long-term research in Hungary to highlight the salience of human labour (work) for grasping the moral dimension. Economic action is profoundly influenced by evolved values, and the toolkit of Max Weber remains useful in analysing these values. The volume *Moral Economy at Work* (ed. Lale Yalçın-Heckmann 2022) illustrated how moral ideas embedded in history and culture shape relations between employers and employees, and how concepts of class are complicated by differentiation according to ties of kinship, neighbourhood, ethnicity, religion, caste, etc.

FAREWELL HALLE

In summer 2022, with life slowly returning to normal, the Director (by now retired) delivered in-person plenary lectures to interdisciplinary audiences at conferences and workshops in Fribourg, Vilnius, Budapest, and Prague. In November 2022 he crossed the Atlantic and the United States of America to Seattle, where he delivered the William A. Douglass Distinguished Lecture to the Society for the Anthropology of Europe (as part of the meetings of the American Anthropological Association).

In June 2022, the Director returned briefly to bid farewell to the institute and city that were his base and home for almost a quarter of a century. A *Festschrift* featuring close *Weggefährten* over many decades had taken him by surprise a year earlier (ed. Kaneff and Endres 2021). Now he was honoured by a second, comprising chapters by former doctoral students (ed. Buzalka and Pasieka 2022). Although numbers still had to be limited due to the pandemic, about 60 colleagues and alumni gathered for an exciting symposium under the motto "Holistic Discipline". The preceding afternoon featured the presentation of new books and the retiring director's valedictory lecture, in which he reflected on the pitfalls and exaggerations of contemporary decolonization rhetoric in the light of his own biography. The presentations, lecture, and symposium together made for a last memorable whiff of collective effervescence. The Director thanked everyone who had taken the trouble to travel to Halle for the occasion, and also members of the Institute (in particular the Department's senior members and administrative staff) for their long-term collegiality and support. The social highlight of these balmy summer days was an afternoon cruise for all guests and institute staff on the incomparable Saale.

The Department's accomplishments in the last two decades have illuminated many aspects of the contemporary world, especially in countries with a socialist past. Do they help in grasping the state of the world in 2023? Neither the repression of the Uyghurs in China nor the invasion of Ukraine by the

Dean Francois Bertemes welcomes the audience to the Valedictory Lecture of Chris Hann (23rd June 2022).

Russian Federation has led the Director to abandon his vision of unity-in-diversity across the Eurasian landmass ("from Lisbon to Vladivostok"). On the contrary, he continues to critique resurgent Atlanticist hypocrisies and to view the recovery of long-term Eurasian legacies as a precondition for ending violence, promoting more equal forms of human society, and protecting the planetary environment. The "otherness" of Cold War socialism has long been dismantled. But in applying paradigms developed elsewhere to Eurasia, most of which has been relatively neglected by social anthropologists, it is important not to forget the distinctive patterns of this landmass. We need to make global comparisons but they must be historically informed through area studies contextualization.

A directorship in Halle is the most satisfying position a research-oriented social anthropologist can wish for. The wrench of leaving an academic paradise was mitigated for this retiree in several ways, both personal and institutional. First, Corpus Christi College smoothed the process of relocation back to Cambridge by re-electing him to a Fellowship (a position he had held previously between 1980 and 1992). Second, the Max Planck Society wasted no time in reaffirming its commitment to the future of social anthropology in Halle. Two new Directors took up their posts in 2020. As Ursula Rao and Biao Xiang consolidate their programmes and reconstruct a dynamic institute fit for the post-COVID era, and with comparable processes of renewal taking place at the Martin Luther University, it is reassuring to know that Halle will remain at the forefront of anthropological research globally.

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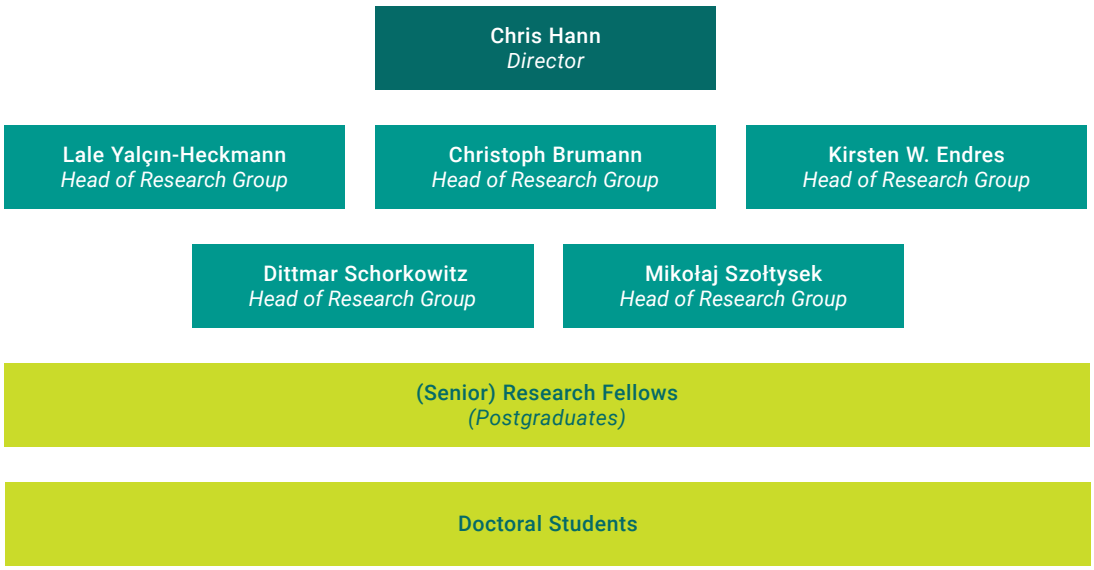
APPENDIX I: OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURE AND PROJECTS, 1999–2022

The organigram below shows the structure of the department. Five Research Group Leaders (including Honorary Professors appointed by the Martin Luther University and Minerva Professors appointed by the Max Planck Society) supported Chris Hann for varying periods of time in a variety of ways, including the supervision of doctoral students (also in the framework of ANARCHIE).

The table on the following page provides a comprehensive listing of the Department's collective projects. Except where indicated, responsibility lay with the Director. The numbers in parentheses refer to associated projects (mostly comprising scholars whose research costs the Institute helped fund, but who were not formally recruited and remunerated as core members of a research group; the associated projects of members of the Visegrád Anthropologists' Network were doctoral theses registered at the students' home institutions).

Between 1999 and 2021, almost one hundred "senior" researchers worked in the Department. The number of doctoral students appears to be higher, but this is misleading. Two-thirds of the students admitted to the IMPRS ANARCHIE were archaeologists and historians who did not take part in the regular anthropology seminars. Hann's Advanced Grant from the European Research Council also had a bias toward doctoral students. Overall, postdoctoral projects have received a significantly larger share of the regular departmental budget.

For further explication of this table together with discussion of doctorate completion rates and the destinations of our alumni, see *Twenty Years of Eurasia* (compiled by Chris Hann with the assistance of Anke Meyer, published in Vol. II of the MPI report to the Advisory Board for the years 2017–2019).



GROUP/SCHOOL/NETWORK	(SENIOR) RESEARCH FELLOWS	DOCTORAL STUDENTS
Property Relations (2000–2005)	13 (+ 2)	4 (+ 1)
Religion and Civil Society (2003–2006)	4 (+ 3)	5 (+ 2)
Religion and Morality (2006–2009)	8 (+ 2)	4
Kinship & Social Support in China and Vietnam (2006–2016)	9 (+ 2)	5 (+ 1)
Caucasian Boundaries and Citizenship from Below (MINERVA) *Lale Yalçın-Heckmann* (2004–2009)	1 (+ 1)	2 (+ 1)
Political, Economic and Social Inclusion and Exclusion in Poland and Bulgaria (Volkswagen Foundation project of *Deema Kaneff and Frances Pine*, 2003–2006)	2	2
The Catholic Church and Religious Pluralism in Lithuania and Poland (Volkswagen Foundation project of *Ingo Schroeder and Kinga Sekerdej*, 2007–2010)	2	2
The Global Political Economy of Cultural Heritage *Christoph Brumann* (2011–2016)	0	2
Traders, Markets, and the State in Vietnam (MINERVA) *Kirsten W. Endres* (2011–2016)	1 (+ 1)	2
Historical Anthropology *Dittmar Schorkowitz and Mikołaj Szołtysek* (2009–2017)	2 (+ 2)	2
Economy and Ritual (*with Stephen Gudeman, 2009-2012*)	6	0
Industry and Inequality in Eurasia (*with Catherine Alexander and Jonathan Parry, 2012–2015*)	6 (+ 2)	0
International Max Planck Research School for the Anthropology, Archaeology and History of Eurasia (ANARCHIE) (2012–2021)	0	45
Realising Eurasia: Civilisation and Moral Economy in the 21st Century (ERC Advanced Grant, 2014–2020)	4 (+ 1)	8
Financialization (*with Don Kalb, 2015–2019*)	6	0
Buddhist Temple Economies in Urban Asia *Christoph Brumann* (2014–2018)	2	2
Electric Statemaking in the Greater Mekong Subregion *Kirsten W. Endres* (2017–)	1	2
Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change (MAX-CAM) (2017–2022)	2 (+ 5)	0
Visegrád Anthropologists' Network (2017–2022)	7	2 (+ 14)
TOTAL:	**76 (+ 20)**	**89 (+ 19)**

All departmental projects, 1999–2022

APPENDIX II: POSTER GALLERY

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

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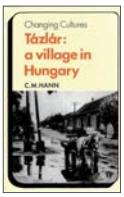
CHRIS HANN

A Journeyman's Way in Economic Anthropology

APPRENTICESHIP IN HUNGARY

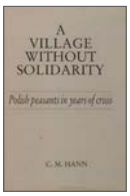
In his Oxford undergraduate studies of economics and politics, Hann chose to specialize in "communist countries". After moving to Cambridge to study social anthropology for his doctoral research, he was encouraged by Jack Goody to investigate "market socialism" through fieldwork in Hungary. Although he has also worked from time to time on other topics, economic anthropology (especially the study of property and markets) has remained central to his work ever since the publication of his first monograph.

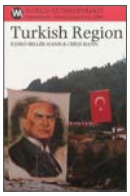


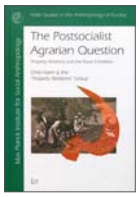

Ürümchi, 1986

CONSOLIDATING THE CRAFT, COMPARATIVELY

Before defending his PhD in Cambridge in 1979, Hann had already started a postdoc project in Poland. The aim was to compare rural social organization in a socialist state that had failed to push through collectivization with what he had found earlier in Hungary. As a Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, he then launched a project to investigate how subsistence-oriented smallholders had adapted to a lucrative cash crop (tea) in a remote region of capitalist Turkey. Later work in the east Black Sea region was carried out jointly with Ildikó Bellér-Hann.



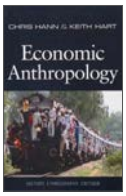




MIGRATIONS

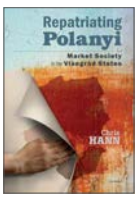
Needing to escape from Oxbridge, Hann spent most of the 1990s at the University of Kent (Canterbury). In 1999 he became a hireling in Halle. His first Focus Group at the new Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology was rooted in work he had initiated in Canterbury on "property relations". The primary context for the empirical research was postsocialist Eurasia, many facets of which were explored at an early conference held at Halle's *Frankesche Stiftungen* (right). A more expansive concept of Eurasia became the departmental brand.


Karl Polanyi (Photo: courtesy of Gareth Dale and Don Grant)



COMMEMORATING AN ANCESTOR

Not every conference leads to a satisfying publication but the meeting that Hann organized in Halle in 2006 with his former Cambridge colleague Keith Hart resulted in two. The aim was to assess the renewed pertinence of Karl Polanyi, revered founder of the guild of economic anthropologists, in the era of neoliberalism. In addition to the volume of proceedings, the position paper prepared by the conference conveners morphed into a widely translated introductory volume.



ROUTINIZATION

In an eclectic sequence of postdoctoral research groups since 2009, Hann has shared responsibilities with Stephen Gudeman, Catherine Alexander, Jonathan Parry and Don Kalb. For theoretical inspiration in his own research, he has continued to look in the first instance to Polanyi, whose concepts he applies in investigations of both rural Hungary (left) and Xinjiang, China (together with Ildikó Bellér-Hann, right).


Ürümchi, 2013

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Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia (2003–2023)

Editors: Chris Hann, Burkhard Schnepel (2003–2023); Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres, Thomas Hauschild, Richard Rottenburg, Dittmar Schorkowitz, Shingo Shimada, Lale Yalçın-Heckmann (for varying durations)

"… anthropology needs a broader vision. It needs to shake off its strong association with the primitive and the exotic and become genuinely global in its comparisons. From this perspective, more sustained attention to Eurasia and a renewed focus on its underlying unity might launch the transformation of our parochial scholarly traditions into a mature cosmopolitan science."

– Chris Hann, in his Preface to this series

Vol 1 | Hann, Chris, and the "Property Relations" Group, 2003: **The Postsocialist Agrarian Question**. Property Relations and the Rural Condition

Vol 2 Grandits, Hannes, and Patrick Heady (eds.), 2004: **Distinct Inheritances.** Property, Family and Community in a Changing Europe.
Vol 3 Torsello, David, 2004: **Trust, Property and Social Change in a Southern Slovakian Village.**
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Vol 42 | Bellér-Hann, Ildikó, and Chris Hann, 2020: **The Great Dispossession.** Uyghurs between Civilizations.

Vol 43 Hornig, Laura, 2020: **On Money and *Mettā*.** Economy and Morality in Urban Buddhist Myanmar.
Vol 44 Berta, Anne-Erita, 2021: **Small is Good.** Business and Morality among Danish Shopkeepers.
Vol 45 Tereshina, Daria, 2021: **Managing Firms and Families.** Work and Values in a Russian City.
Vol 46 Deniz, Ceren, 2021: **The Formation of Provincial Capital.** Value Regimes and the Politics of Labour in Anatolia.
Vol 47 Chaki, Sudeshna, 2021: **Tenacious Ties.** The Social Dynamics of Small-scale Enterprises in India.
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Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy

Series Editors: Stephen Gudeman and Chris Hann

Definitions of economy and society, and their proper relationship to each other, have been the perennial concerns of social philosophers. In the early decades of the twenty-first century these became and remain matters of urgent political debate. At the forefront of this series are the approaches to these connections by anthropologists, whose explorations of the local ideas and institutions underpinning social and economic relations illuminate large fields ignored in other disciplines.

The primary goal of the series is to disseminate the results of collective projects at the Max Planck Institute. Works by external scholars on related themes are also eligible for consideration.

Volumes Published 2015–2022

Vol 1 **Economy and Ritual**: Studies of Postsocialist Transformations (edited by Stephen Gudeman & Chris Hann, 2015)

Vol 2 **Oikos and Market**: Explorations in Self-Sufficiency after Socialism (edited by Stephen Gudeman & Chris Hann, 2015)

Vol 3 **When Things Become Property**: Land Reform, Authority, and Value in Postsocialist Europe and Asia (Thomas Sikor, Stefan Dorondel, Johannes Stahl and Phuc Xuan To, 2017)

Vol 4 **Industrial Labor on the Margins of Capitalism**: Precarity, Class, and the Neoliberal Subject (edited by Chris Hann & Jonathan Parry, 2018)

Vol 5 **Market Frictions**: Trade and Urbanization at the Vietnam-China Border (Kirsten Endres, 2019)

Vol 6 **Financialization**: Relational Approaches (edited by Chris Hann & Don Kalb, 2020)

Vol 7 **Work, Society, and the Ethical Self**: Chimeras of Freedom in the Neoliberal Era (edited by Chris Hann, 2021)

Vol 8 **Moral Economy at Work**: Ethnographic Investigations in Eurasia (edited by Lale Yalçın-Heckmann, 2021)

Vol 9 **Wine Is Our Bread**: Labour and Value in Moldovan Winemaking (Daniela Ana, 2022)

Vol 10 **Thrift and Its Paradoxes**: From Domestic to Political Economy (edited by Catherine Alexander & Daniel Sosna, 2022)

Volume 1
Economy and Ritual

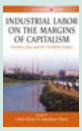
According to accepted wisdom, rational practices and ritual action are opposed. Rituals drain wealth from capital investment and draw on a mode of thought different from practical ideas. The studies in this volume contest this view. Comparative, historical, and contemporary, the six ethnographies extend from Macedonia to Kyrgyzstan. Each one illuminates the economic and ritual changes in an area as it emerged from socialism and (re-)entered market society. Cutting against the idea that economy only means markets and that market action exhausts the meaning of economy, the studies show that much of what is critical for a people's economic life takes place outside markets and hinges on ritual, understood as the negation of the everyday world of economising.

Volume 2
Oikos and Market

Self-sufficiency of the house is practiced in many parts of the world but ignored in economic theory, just as socialist collectivization is assumed to have brought household self-sufficiency to an end. The ideals of self-sufficiency, however, continue to shape economic activity in a wide range of postsocialist settings. This volume's six comparative studies of postsocialist villages in Eastern Europe and Asia illuminate the enduring importance of the house economy, which is based not on the market but on the order of the house. These formations show that economies depend not only on the macro institutions of markets and states but also on the micro institutions of families, communities, and house economies, often in an uneasy relationship.

Volume 3
When Things Become Property

Governments have conferred ownership titles to many citizens throughout the world in an effort to turn things into property. Almost all elements of nature have become the target of property laws, from the classic preoccupation with land to more ephemeral material, such as air and genetic resources. *When Things Become Property* interrogates the mixed outcomes of conferring ownership by examining postsocialist land and forest reforms in Albania, Romania and Vietnam, and finds that property reforms are no longer, if they ever were, miracle tools available to governments for refashioning economies, politics or environments.



Volume 4
Industrial Labor on the Margins of Capitalism

Bringing together ethnographic case studies of industrial labor from different parts of the world, *Industrial Labor on the Margins of Capitalism* explores the increasing casualization of workforces and the weakening power of organized labor. This division owes much to state policies and is reflected in local understandings of class. By exploring this relationship, these essays question the claim that neoliberal ideology has become the new 'commonsense' of our times and suggest various propositions about the conditions that create employment regimes based on flexible labor.

Volume 5
Market Frictions

Based on ethnographic research conducted over several years, *Market Frictions* examines the tensions and frictions that emerge from the interaction of global market forces, urban planning policies, and small-scale trading activities in the Vietnamese border city of Lào Cai. Here, it is revealed how small-scale traders and market vendors experience the marketplace, reflect upon their trading activities, and negotiate current state policies and regulations. It shows how "traditional" Vietnamese marketplaces have continually been reshaped and adapted to meet the changing political-economic circumstances and civilizational ideals of the time.

Volume 6
Financialization

Beginning with an original historical vision of financialization in human history, this volume then continues with a rich set of contemporary ethnographic case studies from Europe, Asia and Africa. Authors explore the ways in which finance inserts itself into relationships of class and kinship, how it adapts to non-Western religious traditions, and how it reconfigures legal and ecological dimensions of social organization, and urban social relations in general. Central themes include the indebtedness of individuals and households, the impact of digital technologies, the struggle for housing, financial education, and political contestation.

Volume 7
Work, Society, and the Ethical Self

Primarily on the basis of ethnographic case-studies from around the world, this volume links investigations of work to questions of personal and professional identity and social relations. In the era of digitalized neoliberalism, particular attention is paid to notions of freedom, both collective (in social relations) and individual (in subjective experiences). These cannot be investigated separately. Rather than juxtapose economy with ethics (or the profitable with the good), the authors uncover complex entanglements between the drudgery experienced by most people in the course of making a living and ideals of emancipated personhood.

Volume 8
Moral Economy at Work

The idea of a moral economy has been explored and assessed in numerous disciplines. The anthropological studies in this volume provide a new perspective to this idea by showing how the relations of workers, employees and employers, and of firms, families and households are interwoven with local notions of moralities. From concepts of individual autonomy, kinship obligations, to ways of expressing mutuality or creativity, moral values exert an unrealized influence, and these often produce more consent than resistance or outrage.

Volume 9
Wine Is Our Bread

Based on ethnographic work in a Moldovan winemaking village, *Wine Is Our Bread* shows how workers in a prestigious winery have experienced the country's recent entry into the globalized wine market and how their productive activities at home and in the winery contribute to the value of commercial terroir wines. Drawing on theories of globalization, economic anthropology and political economy, the book contributes to understanding how crises and inequalities in capitalism lead to the 'creative destruction' of local products, their accelerated standardization and the increased exploitation of labour.

Volume 10
Thrift and Its Paradoxes

Thrift is a central concern for most people, especially in turbulent economic times. It is both an economic and an ethical logic of frugal living, saving and avoiding waste for long-term kin care. These logics echo the ancient ideal of household self-sufficiency, contrasting with capitalism's wasteful present-focused growth. But thrift now exceeds domestic matters straying across scales to justify public expenditure cuts. Through a wide range of ethnographic contexts this book explores how practices and moralities of thrift are intertwined with austerity, debt, welfare, and patronage across various social and temporal scales and are constantly re-negotiated at the nexus of socio-economic, religious, and kinship ideals and praxis.

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Stephen Gudeman (gudeman@umn.edu)

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PUBLICATIONS

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For organizational reasons, publications by Research Group Leaders Christoph Brumann, Kirsten W. Endres and Dittmar Schorkowitz, together with those of their group members, all of whose research was sponsored and fully funded by this department until September 2021, are listed separately. Publications by researchers associated with the Max Planck – Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change are also absent from this list.

MONOGRAPHS

Ana, Daniela. 2022. *Wine is our bread: labour and value in Moldovan winemaking*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 9. New York; Oxford: Berghahn.

Bellér-Hann, Ildikó and **Chris Hann**. 2020. *The great dispossession: Uyghurs between civilizations*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 42. Berlin: LIT.

Benovska-Sabkova, Milena. 2021. *Orthodox revivalism in Russia: driving forces and moral quests*. Routledge Religion, Society and Government in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet States. London; New York: Routledge.

Berta, Anne-Erita. 2021. *Small is good: business and morality among Danish shopkeepers*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 44. Berlin: LIT.

Buzalka, Juraj. 2021. *The cultural economy of protest in post-socialist European Union: village fascists and their rivals*. Routledge Studies in Anthropology. London; New York: Routledge.

Chaki, Sudeshna. 2021. *Tenacious ties: the social dynamics of small-scale enterprises in India*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 47. Berlin: LIT.

Coşkun, Mustafa. 2020. *Improvising the voice of ancestors: heritage and identity in Central Asia*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 39. Berlin: LIT.

Deniz, Ceren. 2021. *The formation of peripheral capital: value regimes and the politics of labour in Anatolia*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 46. Berlin: LIT.

Hornig, Laura. 2020. *On money and Mettā: economy and morality in urban Buddhist Myanmar*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 43. Berlin: LIT.

Köllner, Tobias. 2022. *Religion and politics in contemporary Russia: beyond the binary of power and authority*. Routledge Religion, Society and Government in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet States 14. London; New York: Routledge.

Pranaitytė-Wergin, Lina. 2020. *The coffin in the attic: gifts, debts and the Catholic Church in rural Lithuania*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 41. Berlin: LIT.

Roszko, Edyta. 2020. *Fishers, monks and cadres: navigating state, religion and the South China Sea in Central Vietnam*. NIAS Monograph Series 151. Copenhagen: NIAS.

Roth, Sascha. 2020. *Politics of representation: housing, family, and state in Baku*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 40. Berlin: LIT.

Tereshina, Daria. 2021. *Managing firms and families: work and values in a Russian city*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 45. Berlin: LIT.

Trần, Hoài. 2021. *Doing gong culture: heritage politics and performances in the Central Highlands of Vietnam*. Halle Studies in the Anthropology of Eurasia 48. Berlin: LIT.

EDITED VOLUMES AND SPECIAL ISSUES

Bellér-Hann, Ildikó, Aysima Mirsultan, and Rune Steenberg (eds.). 2021. *Voiced and voiceless in Xinjiang: minorities, elites, and narrative constructions across the centuries*. Asian Ethnicity 22(1).

Buzalka, Juraj and **Agnieszka Pasieka** (eds.). 2022. *Anthropology of transformation: from Europe to Asia and back; essays in honour of Professor Chris Hann*. Cambridge: Open Book Publishers. DOI: 10.11647/OBP.0282.

Hann, Chris (ed.). 2021. *Work, society, and the ethical self: chimeras of freedom in the neoliberal era*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 7. New York; Oxford: Berghahn.

Hann, Chris and Don Kalb (eds.). 2020. *Financialization: relational approaches*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 6. New York; Oxford: Berghahn.

Hann, Chris and Gábor Scheiring (eds.). 2021. *Neoliberal capitalism and Visegrád countermovements*. Europe-Asia Studies 73(9).

Vermeulen, Han F. and Federico Delgado Rosa (eds.). 2022. *Ethnographers before Malinowski: pioneers of anthropological fieldwork, 1870–1922*. EASA Series 44. New York; Oxford: Berghahn.

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Yalçın-Heckmann, Lale (ed.). 2022. *Moral economy at work: ethnographic investigations in Eurasia*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 8. New York; Oxford: Berghahn. DOI: 10.3167/9781800732353.

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Barrett, Tristam. 2020. Financialization and reproduction in Baku, Azerbaijan. In: Chris Hann and Don Kalb (eds.). *Financialization: relational approaches*. Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy 6. New York; Oxford: Berghahn, pp. 136–156.

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