

SOA 4/2014: Southeast Asians in Germany

The focus of this issue of Südostasien is people from Southeast Asia who live in Germany and their transnational networkings with their countries of origin. Because of its colonial history and the special situation of the region during the "Cold War", very different migration movements from Southeast Asia to Europe have developed. Germany is an exception because of the lack of direct colonial ties, but today many "Southeast Asians" now live in established "communities" in Germany. The histories of the origin of these communities are very different as the example of the Vietnamese in this country indicates: while refugees from the southern part of Vietnam – the so-called "Boat People" –settled in West Germany in the 70s, those who came to East Germany were mainly migrant workers from the northern part of the country. After the German reunification, two transnational communities exist side by side, with different connections to Vietnam. Migration movements and networks concurrently contribute to the "de-territorialisation" of South-east Asia as well as to the "de-nationalisation" of Germany. With this issue, we want to explore and analyse the communities from Southeast Asia living in Germany. Of particular interest are the following questions:

1. Histories of migration
In which contexts did different migration movements from the region to Germany develop? To what extent were refugees and working migrants decisive?
2. Everyday life
From obvious and public places like Asia shops or restaurants to more hidden life models like marriage migration or trafficking: - How does the everyday life of "Southeast Asians" look like in Germany? How is culture reproduced and lived?
3. Networking
Networking activities among migrants are apparent in many associations with Southeast Asian focus or members. How comprehensive and effective are they? Which role do religion, economy, and language play in these networking activities? Which transnational spaces develop from the networks with Southeast Asia? Which explicitly political networks exist and why?
4. Transnational Spaces
What social and economic transnational spaces emerge between „Southeast Asians“ in Germany and the countries of origin? What role do remittances and economic ties play in the development of the Southeast Asian countries. How do they contribute to the achievement of the "Millennium Development Goals"?
5. Politics
Even before the attacks on a refugee home in Hoyerswerda and before Germany had a minister with a Vietnamese background, migrants from Southeast Asia were a political issue. Which stereotypes are they confronted with in Germany and how do they deal with them? Which legal discriminations do they suffer? Are there political organizations in Germany that work on such issues? How do they deal with integration while maintaining their own cultural identity?
6. Second Generation
7. Increasingly, there are people with one or two parents from Southeast Asia who live in Germany, who were born and raised here. Which culture and hybridities of identity develop here? Are there specific networks and alliances of the 2nd generation? What do their connections to Southeast Asia look like?

Articles should be 1 page (up to 4,500 characters including spaces), 2 pages (up to 9000 characters including spaces) or 3 pages (up to 13,500 characters including spaces) and if possible should include photographs. Empirical material (interviews, group discussions, surveys) and photos are most welcome. Please submit articles by 15.9.2014.

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