



GOVERNANCE IN AREAS OF LIMITED STATEHOOD

EDITORIAL

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,



Thomas Risse

2013 is drawing to an end and it has been a very intensive year for us. During many busy and productive months we have been writing renewal proposals and giving project presentations to apply for the SFB 700 funding for the next four years. And our hard work has paid off. The German Research Foundation (DFG) took a positive decision and we are excited to move with seventeen research projects into a new four-year research period!

Corresponding to the current UN „International Year of Water Cooperation“, in this newsletter Marianne Beisheim is reporting on conflicts and potential solutions around the resource water. Furthermore, in his article „We are not Mexicans. We are Comcàac“, Lasse Hölck gives a gripping insight into his research and field work. And last but not least, we will share with you the focus areas of the SFB 700 for the coming four years.

We are looking forward to receiving your comments and insights. We wish you all the best for 2014!

Kind regards,

Thomas Risse
Spokesperson of the SFB 700

INCLUDING

Water-Partnerships in Areas of Limited Statehood2
„We are not Mexicans. We are Comcàac“3
New Publications of the SFB 7004

SFB 700: Our Research Focus 2014-2017

On December 12, 2013 it was officially announced: the next four years will be the third and thus final funding period for the SFB 700. Seventeen research projects will keep investigating into governance in areas of limited statehood.

The SFB 700 has been existing since 2006. During the upcoming funding period 2014-2017, researchers from renowned institutions, including the Freie Universität Berlin, the University of Potsdam, the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) will contribute with their valuable work to researching our core research topics.

The seventeen research projects of the SFB 700 comprise four new and thirteen existing projects, the latter of which already started their work during the first and second funding period. These are the new research schemes:

C10 „Alternatives to the production of state security in areas of extremely limited statehood (Central African Republic and South Sudan)“, directed by Prof. Dr. Andreas Mehler (GIGA),

C11 „Contributions under international law to enable secure governance by external actors in areas of limited statehood“, headed by Prof. Dr. Robin Geiss (University of Potsdam),

D8 „Talk and Action. How international organizations react to areas of limited statehood“, directed by Prof. Dr. Andrea Liese (University of Potsdam), and the transfer project T3 „Governance research and its policy implications on German foreign policy“, managed by Prof. Dr. Thomas Risse and Dr. Gregor Walter-Drop with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs as our direct cooperation partner.

At the heart of our research projects will be the development of an empirically grounded theory of governance in areas of limited statehood. A further focus are the consequences of governance in areas of limited statehood as well as the wording of policy recommendations and their communication to political, scholarly, and social actors.

In the next edition of this newsletter we will present the SFB 700's program and the projects of the third funding period in more detail.



Water Partnerships in Areas of Limited Statehood

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the „International Year of Water Cooperation“. The objective of this international year is to raise awareness on the need of co-operation to manage water resources more efficiently and to prevent conflicts around this resource.

Increasing demand requires cooperation

Despite reinforced efforts to implement the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), around 780 million people still do not have access to clean drinking water and 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation. Every year, an estimated six to eight million people die of waterborne diseases and catastrophes. Following a business as usual scenario, by 2030 the demand for water will exceed supply by 40 percent. Expected growth in population, rising living standards as well as the long-term effects of climate change contribute to this projection. These conditions demand cooperation between different user groups (agriculture and energy sector, industry and house holds) as well as cross-border collaboration between states, for example along the 276 transboundary rivers worldwide.

Presenting research project D1 at World Water Week



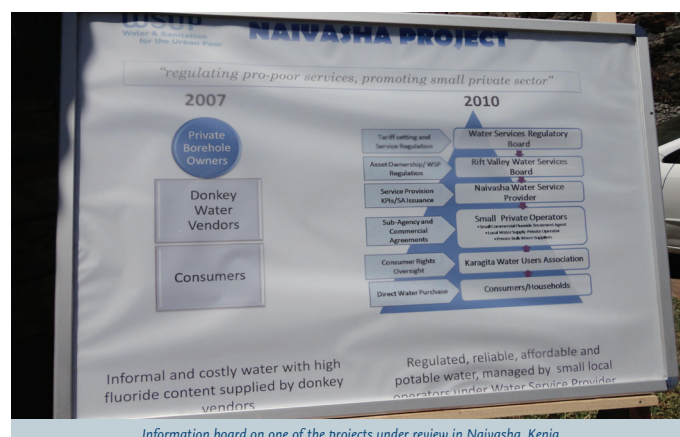
Many events are organized around the International Year of Water Cooperation. While some of them aim at identifying successful examples of previous collaborations, others will negotiate new objectives during the next two years. The results are then expected to inform the negotiations of the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that were suggested at the UN Conference for Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012.

One of those events around the International Year of Water Cooperation was the World Water Week that annually takes place in Stockholm. This year's theme was "Water Cooperation: Building Partnerships". Marianne Beisheim and Hannah Janetschek presented the results of the research project D1. This project investigates transnational development partnerships with the intention to improve access to drinking water and basic sanitation in urban slums in Kenya, India, and Bangladesh. Such partnerships require cooperation on multiple levels. To start with, political, economic, and civil society stakeholders meet on a transnational level to develop their partnership's institutional design. As soon as the partnership becomes operational on the ground with the aim of implementing projects in areas of limited statehood, cooperation with responsible and affected local players must be established. These players include public authorities, local suppliers, non-governmental local authorities, and last but not least local consumers (see picture of information board on one of the projects under review in Naivasha, Kenya).

One of those events around the International Year of Water Cooperation was the World Water Week that annually takes place in Stockholm. This year's theme was "Water Cooperation: Building Partnerships". Marianne Beisheim and Hannah Janetschek presented the results of the research project D1. This project investigates transnational development partnerships with the intention to improve access to drinking water and basic sanitation in urban slums in Kenya, India, and Bangladesh. Such partnerships require cooperation on multiple levels. To start with, political, economic, and civil society stakeholders meet on a transnational level to develop their partnership's institutional design. As soon as the partnership becomes operational on the ground with the aim of implementing projects in areas of limited statehood, cooperation with responsible and affected local players must be established. These players include public authorities, local suppliers, non-governmental local authorities, and last but not least local consumers (see picture of information board on one of the projects under review in Naivasha, Kenya).

Conditions in areas of limited statehood: recommendations

There is a high risk of conflicts on both levels. Thus, a sensitive communication and a continuous project management are required. While the building of trust and understanding is essential, the project



progress needs continuous monitoring and potential spoilers must be involved into the process early enough. Our field research proves a participatory bottom-up approach to be most effective. This approach starts with investigating local needs and capacities and then aims at developing a solid project design together with local partners to determine, among others, rights and responsibilities within the project. Lasting improvements can be achieved only if local actors are motivated and enabled to perform governance services themselves in the long run. Therefore, we highly recommend partnerships to respect the business case within the whole project, meaning to also have an eye on the long-term economic incentives for local water and sanitation operators. Concurrently, in those areas where support is most needed, local purchasing power and capacities are so low, oftentimes in combination with a critical security situation, that partnerships reach their limits. Even if they design and implement good pilot projects, partnerships often lack the necessary resources to upscale these to achieve broader impact. Moreover, our field research shows that pilot schemes can not simply be replicated in areas of limited statehood. A constant adaptation to the precarious local situation is an equally important factor than the initial setup of supportive conditions on the ground. Both require time and resources.

Collaboration between partnerships and multilateral development cooperation should be intensified to increase the broader impact of successful partnership projects. In order to decide on the financing, the UN should evaluate partnership projects (see related article in our June 2012 newsletter) with a focus on a solid design that is also flexible enough to react appropriately to volatile conditions in areas of limited statehood.

Together with Andrea Liese, **Marianne Beisheim** is co-director of the SFB700 research project D1 that is focusing on the conditions of success of transnational development partnerships. Furthermore, she is a senior researcher in the Global Issues Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). Further information on the project: www.sfb-governance.de/ppp

Poster at the World Water Week: <http://tinyurl.com/D1-Poster>

M. Beisheim and A. Liese (Eds.) 2014: *Transnational Partnerships: Effectively Providing for Sustainable Development?*, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, i.E.

M. Beisheim, A. Liese, H. Janetschek, and J. Sarre 2014: *Transnational Partnerships: Conditions for Successful Service Provision in Areas of Limited Statehood*, in: *Governance (Special Issue on External Actors, State-Building, and Service Provision in Areas of Limited Statehood)*, 27 (4), i.E.

„We are not Mexicans. We are Comcáac“

Most people in this part of the world probably assume that Mexico is inhabited by Mexicans. And it does seem obvious. However, if you imagine looking through an ethnographic magnifying glass taking a closer look at a map, the question arises: entire Mexico inhabited by Mexicans? Well, not entirely.... The Comcáac from Sonora, for instance, have a different opinion. They are one of the thousands of ethnic groups of the Americas who were once grouped under the term “Indians”. “We are not Mexicans,” I am told in the coastal town of Punta Chueca at the Gulf of California. “We are Comcáac,” they declare.

The presence of the past

If you take their history into consideration it does become quite clear why this group of approximately 800 Comcáac speaking inhabitants of Sonora does not quite feel they belong to their Mexican neighbors. Until the beginning of the 20th century, both the Spanish colonial rulers and the Republican government of sovereign Mexico tried to wipe the Comcáac either culturally or physically off the map. First cultural encounters took place as early as the 17th century and were recorded in the Spanish reports that are kept in the Archivo General de las Indias in Sevilla and in the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico City. Since Mexican Independence in 1821 there has also been a Archivo General del Estado de Sonora which today is located at the provincial capitol Hermosillo.

From Hermosillo it is still quite a way to get to the Comcáac because 150 km of the most driest desert of whole North America cover the landscape between the capitol and the Comcáac habitat. In the past, the various governments sent out many military campaigns after the Comcáac hunter-gatherer group into the desert of Sonora but many of them literally ran into the sand either because the soldiers had to turn

round or because they died of thirst. Today a paved road goes right to the coast and since the fitout last year it even runs to Punta Chueca. The second Comcáac settlement named Desemboque is located about 60km further north. To get there it takes about a three hour

drive through rough terrain. With a normal rental car there is no getting through and in the rainy season in July and August it is even difficult with a four-wheel drive. Yet the hardest barrier to overcome if you want to reach the Comcáac is of a completely different nature: mistrust.

The Spanish already used words like trust and mistrust (*confianza/ desconfianza*) to describe their relation to the Comcáac. Later, after Independence and the introduction of a Republican system the term trust was being used almost over-excessively in official documentation. You find expressions, such as “inspiring confidence” or “exorcising mistrust” referring to operations that aimed to make the Comcáac collaborate with the officials in critical moments. In previous years, the Comcáac together with state authorities made book publications available in which they explicitly demand a trust building on the part of the government. “You can not collaborate with the Comcáac if you do not win their trust day by day,” says Antonio Robles Torres of the council of elders.

By means of social interactions, both the Comcáac council of elders and the local council of Hermosillo strive to dispel the historically grown mistrust between the population groups. In 2011, council of elder member Antonio Robles was cited in the Hermosillo newspaper *El Imparcial* explicitly inviting Mexican neighbors to participate in the Comcáac’s traditional New Year’s celebration end of June/ beginning of July that mark the beginning of the rainy season. And for the past four hundred years officials have put down in writing that the group of hunters and gatherers has been trying to establish regular contact to their (new) neighbors by visiting the colonists’ settlements since the arrival of the Spanish in Sonora. In mid-19th century, a writer of the former provincial newspaper *El Sonorense* described how these human visits and encounters had ensured decades of peaceful coexistence of Sonora people and Comcáac.

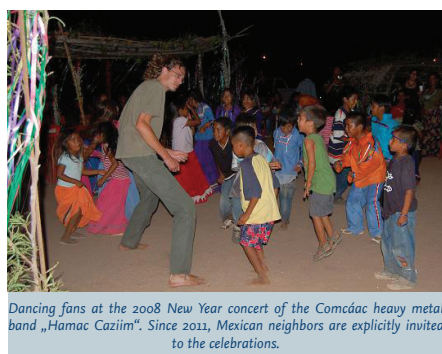


Cleanup in the Comcáac settlement of Punta Chueca on the day before the Hermosillo council meeting (picture taken by author)

Overcoming the conflictual past

And finally, on December 1, 2012, the council of Hermosillo held their meeting for the first time in the Comcáac settlement of Punta Chueca. The inhabitants welcomed this highly symbolic act of good will although they were feeling somehow bothered by the extensive cleanup operations on the day before that were undertaken specially for the visit of the councilors. The council session took place under a tent roof and on stamped desert soil where the council of Hermosillo declared, among others, the third week of June of every year to be the “Semana Seri”. The intention of this week was to give the Mexican inhabitants of Hermosillo an understanding of the culture of their indigenous neighbors. As a result of these recent developments, since the beginning of this year you can now frequently read the name Comcáac instead of “Seri”. “Seri” was the enigmatic term made up and then imposed by the colonial rulers in the 17th century.

The latest rapprochements have reached a new level. This form of communal socializing never existed in previous centuries. However, if joint festivities will actually create a sense of shared identity and communal spirit between the different participants remains to be seen in the years to come. But fact is that history proved frequent face-to-face encounters between the Comcáac and their Mexican neighbors to be unfailingly beneficial to the process of building trust.



Dancing fans at the 2008 New Year concert of the Comcáac heavy metal band „Hamac Cazim“. Since 2011, Mexican neighbors are explicitly invited to the celebrations.

Lasse Hölck is working as a research associate for the SFB 700 „Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood“. He is involved in the research projects C5 and Dg.

The C5 project comparatively investigates the generation of security in border areas between the U.S.A. / Mexico and Argentina / Chile in the second half of the 19th Century, focusing on the socio-cultural conditions for security and governance in culturally diverse areas. The Dg project focuses on “relations and collective use of resources in culturally heterogeneous areas: the Latin American frontiers, 1880-1910.”

Lasse Hölck also wrote a book which soon will be published entitled “Fighting for trust. The Comcáac from Sonora (Mexico) under colonial and republican rule, 1650-1850.”

New Publications of the SFB 700

Monographs and Volumes



Börzel, Tanja A./Hamann, Ralph (Eds.) 2013: Business and Climate Change Governance. South Africa in Comparative Perspective, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.



Börzel, Tanja A./Thauer, Christian R. (Eds.) 2013: Business and Governance in South Africa. Racing to the Top?, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.



Bouziane, Malika/Harders, Cilja/Hoffmann, Anja (Eds.) 2013: Local Politics and Contemporary Transformation in the Arab World, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan.



Carlsnaes, Walter/Risse, Thomas/Simmons, Beth A. (Eds.) 2013: Handbook of International Relations. Second Edition, London: Sage Publications.



Magen, Amichai/Risse, Thomas/McFaul, Michael (Eds.) 2013: Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law: American and European Strategies, Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan. (Paperback Edition)



Risse, Thomas (Eds.) 2013: Governance Without a State? Policies and Politics in Areas of Limited Statehood, New York: Columbia University Press. (Paperback Edition)



Risse, Thomas/Ropp, Stephen C./Sikkink, Kathryn (Eds.) 2013: The Persistent Power of Human Rights. From Commitment to Compliance, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Paperback Edition)

SFB Working Paper Series

Kode, Johannes 2013: On the Social Conditions of Governance: Social Capital and Governance in Areas of Limited Statehood, SFB-Governance Working Paper Series, No. 60, Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700, Berlin, September 2013.

Kocak, Deniz 2013: Security Sector Reconstruction in a Post-Conflict Country: Lessons from Timor-Leste, SFB-Governance Working Paper Series, No. 61, Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700, Berlin, October 2013.

Krieger, Heike 2013: A Turn to Non-State Actors: Inducing Compliance with International Humanitarian Law in War-Torn Areas of Limited Statehood, SFB-Governance Working Paper Series, No. 62, Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700, Berlin, June 2013.

Daxner, Michael/Schrade, Urs 2013: Higher Education in Afghanistan: Governance at Stake, SFB-Governance Working Paper Series, No. 63, Collaborative Research Center (SFB) 700, Berlin, November 2013.

Contact

Freie Universität Berlin
Sonderforschungsbereich (SFB) 700
Alfried-Krupp-Haus Berlin
Binger Str. 40
14197 Berlin
Germany

Tel.: +49-30-838 58502
Fax: +49-30-838 58540
E-Mail: sfb700@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Web: www.sfb-governance.com
Editorial/Layout: Katharina Pätz/Christian Gerber

Research Program of the Collaborative Research Center 700

Governance has become a central focus within the field of research of the social sciences. The SFB 700 inquires into the conditions of governance in areas of limited statehood. This includes developing countries or those in transition, failing and failed states in troubled regions around the world, and, from a historical perspective, different colonial set-ups. How and under which conditions are efforts of governance performed in areas of leadership, security, welfare, and environment within regions of limited statehood? And what issues arise in this context? These are the key questions the Collaborative Research Center 700 (SFB), which is sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG), has been dealing with since it started its work in 2006.

Coordinators of the SFB 700

Spokesperson
Spokesperson
Managing Director

Prof. Dr. Thomas Risse
Prof. Dr. Stefan Rinke
Dr. Gregor Walter-Drop

Partner Organisations of the SFB 700

Freie Universität Berlin

Universität Potsdam

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (WZB)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

Hertie School of Governance (HSoG)

Freie Universität  Berlin



WZB

SWP

Hertie School of Governance

