



RePLITO

Quarterly Newsletter # 4, January 2023

Welcome to the fourth issue of our quarterly newsletter!

Our newsletter provides you with an overview of our latest research activities and publications.

By clicking on the hyperlinks, you can go directly to the articles and videos published in RePLITO's Digital Knowledge Archive. We create this dynamic open-access knowledge resource in close cooperation with our partner Off-University. It is a shared space in which we experiment with a variety of academic formats, such as multimedia conversations and collaborative publishing.

RePLITO's digital knowledge archive has three different sections:



Concepts and Repertoires

explores conceptualizations, definitions, interpretations and global repertoires of living together



Conversations

are dialogues about global repertoires of living together



Publications

presents articles, reports, journals and books emerging from our research on global repertoires of living together

We hope you will enjoy reading & browsing through this issue.

Nadja-Christina Schneider

Hava, Maryam, Ayesha

Film screening with director Sahraa Karimi at fsk Kino



Nagehan Uskan (left) in conversation with Sahraa Karimi (c) NCS

The film screening of *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* (2019) at fsk cinema (Nov 13, 2022) in Berlin was a well-attended and unique event. Many people, among them many students, gathered in the cinema hall in order to experience the first independent Afghan film entirely shot in Kabul on screen, and stayed afterwards for the Q&A with director Sahraa Karimi.

The film *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* tells the stories of three Afghan women living in Kabul. Hava is a pregnant woman who lives with her parents-in-law and her husband, and is being treated with disrespect and expected to cook, clean up and serve for everyone. Maryam is an educated TV news reporter, who has to defend her career and independence, as she finds out she is pregnant on the verge of divorcing from her unfaithful husband. Ayesha is an 18-year old pregnant girl, who agrees in despair to marry her cousin, since her boyfriend bails on her after finding out about her pregnancy. The three women are each confronted with a big challenge, with which they have to deal on their own due to the lack of support from their relatives and friends.



Still from the film *Hava, Maryam, Ayesha* (2019)

The film serves as a portrayal of the lived realities of Afghan women and addresses various aspects of how patriarchy determines the framework of women's existence. The women are being treated with contempt and disregard, whether they make a self-determined decision or play by the rules expected. To me, this film has been a moving, powerful and authentic insight on lived realities by women in Afghanistan before the takeover by the Taliban in 2021. Especially now, with this recent development and the rights of Afghan women being violated and denied, this film pays tribute to Afghan women and urges us to not forget them.



The Q&A session with Sahraa Karimi after the film screening was moderated by Nagehan Uskan (currently RePLITO Visiting Research Fellow at HU), and focused on the director's motivation behind this film and how it was produced in Afghanistan. With many questions coming from the audience, Sahraa Karimi impressed everyone with her inspiring storytelling and humor. I was particularly impressed by the director's biography and the whole production-path of the film, as Sahraa Karimi's project was first rejected several times by the authorities, until she herself became the first female president of the Afghan State Film Organization and made not only her own movie possible, but also numerous other films by Afghan directors.

Also, Karimi's illustration of the difficulties of filmmaking in Afghanistan due to government restrictions stood out to me from the Q&A session, as she detailed, for example, how the team was required to smuggle the technical equipment over the borders. The actors and actresses of the film were also all living in Afghanistan, and with many of them not having a background in acting, this film shows real people in real homes in Kabul, which made it even more authentic and unique to me.

Sahraa Karimi touched the audience by telling her story and emphasizing the strength, power and resistance of Afghan women despite being forgotten and ignored by international actors. With her work she gives a voice to Afghan women who resist their predetermined lives and who change their fates by not giving in to patriarchal society. This event was very meaningful to me, not only because the film gives unique insights into the lives of Afghan women, but also because Sahraa Karimi inspires with her words and determination.

About the author: Lara Kauter studies Geographical Development Research (M.Sc.) at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research interests include global inequality, climate justice, migration, agriculture and protest movements.

Concepts and Repertoires of Living Together

Overview of new entries (Nov 2022 - Jan 2023)

Conviviality – **Sérgio Costa**

The term conviviality was introduced in the humanities and social sciences by the Austrian theologian and philosopher Ivan Illich in a book published in 1973 under the title *Tools for Conviviality*. At that time, Illich was the chair of CIDOC, the Intercultural Documentation Centre in Cuernavaca, Mexico, a centre for training Catholic missionaries, but which in fact functioned as a space for encounters and debates for progressive thinkers from Latin America and other regions of the world. Names such as Paulo Freire, Gustavo Gutiérrez, Susan Sontag, Erich Fromm and André Gorz passed through it. The tools for conviviality explored in the book clearly reflect this context of international dialogue and are conceived as a critical response to human alienation within industrial capitalism. (...)

Islamicate – **Salma Siddique**

Islamicate is obfuscating and contentious in its usage in South Asian media studies. The term is an invitation for debate, as observed in an exchange between two film historians– one from India where Muslims are the largest minority and the other from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Pakistani historian conveyed her discomfort at the term used by Indian film scholars, taking the example of the film *Mughal-i-Azam* (1960, K.Asif), which made over 1945-60 carries the burden of a partition-induced alienation from Pakistan: “Mughal-i-Azam is ‘Islamicate’? I’d say it is Hinduicate”. Neither capturing the nuance nor the rigor of the polemic around the conceptualization, yet the instance suggests that Islamicate’s relationship with the Islamic is as constitutive as its relationship to the non-Islamic. (...)

Critical Regionalism – **Nadja-Christina Schneider**

It may be no coincidence that both the redefinition of the societal role and influence of architects and an increased desire to effectively counter the ‘placelessness’ of a uniform global architecture are currently reviving an interest in the concept of critical regionalism. Initially, in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the term was more strongly associated with a postcolonial identity formation of young nation-states, in which a new generation of architects no longer simply ‘transferred’ modernist architecture to a wide variety of regional and climatic contexts, but sought to emphasize precisely a regional identity as a central feature of modern architecture. In today’s discussion of the concept of critical regionalism, the local scale and knowledge of specific building materials and techniques seem to come increasingly to the fore. Once again, however, it is not a matter of rejecting ‘global influences’ altogether but rather of finding a sensible balance that serves the respective context. (...)

Conversations

(released in Jan 2023)

What is a Pushback?



This video is a product of the 'Visual Storytelling as Resistance' workshop held on Lesbos Island, conducted by Dr. Nagehan Uskan (currently RePLITO Visiting Research Fellow at HU Berlin) as part of the RePLITO project.

"What is a Pushback?" has been produced collectively by migrants, students, activists and NGO workers and describes the pushback issue and the consequences of European border politics, with the migrants subjected to pushbacks as the main narrators. The video was shown by lawyers and human rights activists in different countries, including Greece, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany, for their advocacy work.



Watch the video here

Publications

(published between Oct 2022 - Jan 2023)

Living Together / Looking Apart

RePLITO Conference Report

by Juliana Streva and Fritzi-Marie Titzmann

- with inputs from Saskia Schaefer and Nadja-Christina Schneider

The three-day academic and artistic gathering (28-20 Sep 2022) focused on the representational strategies, practices and histories of living together in the so-called multicultural and multi-ethnic societies in the Global South and within Europe with a particular focus on multi-layered (in)visibilities and visibility. The conference was organised by Juliana Streva, Salma Siddique, Fritzi-Marie Titzmann and Hannah Tzuberi on behalf of “Beyond Social Cohesion - Global Repertoires of Living Together” (RePLITO). The program was realized in collaboration with Off-University and RePLITO's conference partner Prof. Dr. Faisal Devji from St. Anthony's College in Oxford, UK.

With the cultural centre Oyoun we deliberately chose an event space outside the University to enable dialogue beyond academia and include activist and artistic voices in the exploration of how living and looking are intertwined.



[Read the full article here](#)

Mapping Places of the New Wave

by Tuba İnal-Çekiç

In an explorative study, I have started identifying places in Berlin where new wave migrants from Turkey feel attached to and identify themselves. The article summarizes the findings of two focus group meetings and six in-depth interviews I conducted with “New Wave” migrants in Berlin in November 2021. Those participants who don't live in Kreuzberg visit the neighborhood regularly for socializing and other daily needs. Places of consumption, especially food businesses and grocery stores appeared as sites of everyday encounters, enhancing social networks. Besides their central role in the city, Kreuzberg and Neukölln serve migrants from Turkey with many facilities that can not be found in other neighborhoods.

[Read the full article here](#)



Publications

(published between Oct 2022 - Jan 2023)

Memory, Housing Architecture and Everyday Life "Lovely Villa: Architecture as Autobiography (2019)"

by Nadja-Christina Schneider

How does a newly built housing estate become a home for a family and its members? How do its architecture and design shape the family and neighborhood relationships as well as forms of living together, and consequently also the biography of the residents - even long after they have left this home?

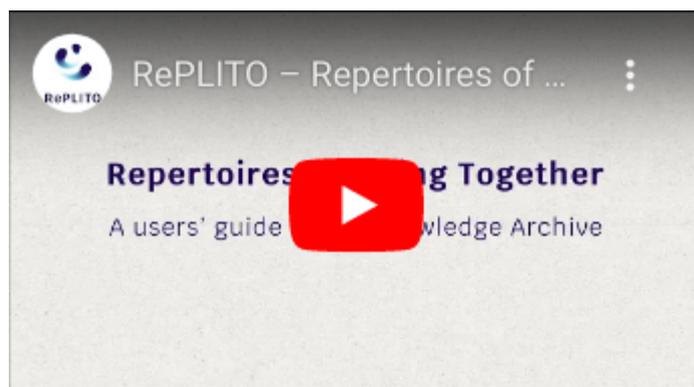
Rohan Shivkumar's remarkable and complex documentary film examines these questions using the example of the LIC Colony designed by Charles Correa in Borivali (also: Borivli), one of the city districts in northwest Mumbai. In 1974, as a young boy, he moved into an apartment complex there, which was completed at the beginning of the 1970s with the title name 'Lovely Villa'. As Shivkumar himself describes, the kaleidoscopic film follows four lines of vision, each with a distinct visual language and voice, and each with its own interesting sound.



[Read the full article here](#)

A Users' Guide to RePLITO's Digital Knowledge Archive

Our Digital Knowledge Archive allows you to write and publish collaboratively beyond the initial release date through commenting and annotating functions. This video guides you through all steps to contribute your reflections and pluralize our perceptions on Living Together.



De:link//Re:link & RePLITO jointly present
3rd International Mother Language Day at IAAW
21 Feb 2023

Transcultural Encounters

In this year's event we will focus on transcultural encounters with Chinese communities, languages and cultures in Asia and Africa.



Reading and Dialogue with Tendai Huchu

moderated by Daniel Koßmann & Susanne Gehrman

The first part of the event will be dedicated to Tendai Huchu's reading of "The Sale", a sci-fi short story in which Chinese-Zimbabwean relations are projected into a dystopic future. In dialogue with the author and the audience, we will discuss how this futuristic vision relates to China's current Belt and Road Initiative on the African continent, but also to Zimbabwe's colonial past and postcolonial presence. The second part of the discussion will be dedicated to Tendai Huchu's broader oeuvre, the shift between genres and the question of writing in English with an African mother tongue – Shona in this case – as cultural and intellectual resource.



Crouching Tigers and Invisible Dragons: Representation of Indian-Chinese in Indian Popular Cinema

Evening lecture with **Prof. Lawrence Liang**
(Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi)

moderated by Nadja-Christina Schneider

Further information
will be published at
<https://replito.de/>

Click *here* for more
information about



The Indian-Chinese or desi-chinese community in India constitutes a minuscule minority as far as population goes, but the cultural impact of the community has not been insignificant and one can find its imprints across culinary cultures as well as certain manufacturing and service sectors such as the tannery business and beauty industry. There has also been relatively little scholarship on this tiny community, and in the absence of official and scholarly accounts, what would it mean for us to turn to Indian cinema, that great archive and chronicler of social lives in India, to excavate a social history of the community? In this talk Prof. Liang traces the history of the representation of the Indian-Chinese in popular Indian films and asks whether there are indeed any images of the community beyond a set of clichés.

Upcoming lecture & conversation series (summer term 2023)

Lecture and Conversation Series | Summer Term 2023



DWELLING TOGETHER

URBAN HOUSING, NEIGHBORLINESS AND MULTILocal HOMEMAKING

26.04. Dwelling in New Spaces

Tuba İnal-Çekiç (HU Berlin & Off-University)

03.05. Memory, Housing Architecture and Everyday Life

Nadja-Christina Schneider (HU Berlin & RePLITO)

10.05. Film screening: Kanade - a documentary about the architects Shankar and Navnath Kanade (2021)

by TEEPOI collective with the two directors & producers
Karishma Rao and Vishwesh Shiva Prasad

17.05. Living Together or Living Separately?

Indian University Spaces and their Neighborhoods

Anna Schnieder-Krüger (HU Berlin)

24.05. Homelessness and Homemaking

İclal Ayşe Küçükırca (HU Berlin & Off-University)

31.05. Tracing Vignettes of Srinagar's Old City Through a Memory Lens

Arshi Javid (HU Berlin)

07.06. Socio-Spatial Negotiations of the Highly Skilled Indian Migrants

Dhara Patel (TU Darmstadt)

14.06. Commoning the Mahalle. The Neighborhood as Urban Commons

Julia Strutz (HU Berlin, RePLITO & Off-University)

21.06. In the Company of Plants

Hilal Alkan (Leibniz ZMO Berlin)

28.06. Non-Humans and the Postcolonial City

Veena Hariharan (Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi)

05.07. Houshamadyan Archive and (Digital) Archiving

Vahé Tachjian (FU Berlin)

12.07. Concluding session with the working group Urban Dwellings

Wednesdays, 6-8pm at HU Berlin (in-person)

Contact: Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider

nadja-christina.schneider (at) hu-berlin.de

<https://replito.de/>

<https://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/de/querschnitt/medialitaet>



(© Background Image Pavel Nekoranec on Unsplash)

Upcoming Lecture Series & MA Seminar (summer term 2023)

Interrogating Coloniality: Post- and Decolonial Theory and Practice

Schirin Amir-Moazami and Mahmoud Al-Zayed

Over the past decades post- and decolonial approaches have flourished both in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies as well as in the much younger research field of Islam in Europe. In this seminar, we will take stock of these discussions while focusing - particularly but not exclusively - on "Critical Muslim Studies". While discussing the ongoing debates around the divergences and convergences between the post and de-colonial, we will raise questions about the critical importance of these approaches as well as their marginalisation in the academy throughout Europe. We will further inquire into post- and de-colonial theory "in action" by engaging in activist practices in Berlin.

In the lecture series, invited international speakers – both scholars and activists – will share their approaches to post- and decolonial thought and practices with a public audience.

Further information will be published at <https://replito.de/>

Imprint

RePLITO Quarterly Newsletter No. 4, January 2023

Newsletter of the joint research project "Beyond Social Cohesion - Global Repertoires of Living Together (RePLITO)", funded by the Berlin University Alliance in the framework of the Main Call Exploration Projects Social Cohesion

Editor

Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider
Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region
Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Invalidenstraße 118
10115 Berlin

Project website: <https://replito.de/>