

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Verena Baldwin is a scientific administrator at the Austrian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Social Anthropology. Her research interests focus on the history of science, especially on Social and Cultural Anthropology during World War II. Verena Baldwin finished her Master's degree in 2008 at the University of Vienna at the Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology on "Walter Hirschberg: Textanalyse ethnologischer Publikationen (1928 – 1945)". Verena Baldwin is also part of the Academy's team that works on the estate of Walter Dostal.

Marieke Brandt received her PhD degree in Cultural Sciences at Berlin's Humboldt University in 2004. She worked for five years in International Development Cooperation Projects in Yemen and has conducted extensive research on tribal societies of north-west Yemen. She was a DAAD fellow at the University of Science and Technology in Yemen and a Marie Curie Intra-European fellow at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, where she currently is holding a research position. Her main fields of interest are tribalism, tribal genealogy and history, tribal politics and tribe-state relations.

Andre Gingrich is a Member of the Royal Swedish and the Austrian Academies of Sciences. He received his doctoral degree in social anthropology with Walter Dostal as first advisor of his thesis, and worked as assistant professor with him throughout the 1980s. Gingrich's ethnographic fieldwork began in Syria, and then led him through several sojourns in Asir (with Walter Dostal and Johann Heiss) and northern Yemen (partially with Johann Heiss). In 1990, Gingrich received the *venia docendi* for his habilitation thesis on tribal star calendars in south west Arabia. In 1998, Gingrich succeeded Dostal as Full Professor at the University of Vienna's Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology and in 2003, as head of the Austrian Academy's "anthropology unit" which he then transformed into today's "Institute for Social Anthropology".

Siegfried Haas studied social and cultural anthropology and IT economics at Vienna University. Since 1989 he served as Secretary General of the Austrian Society for the Middle East (Hammer-Purgstall) for which Walter Dostal acted as President and later as Honorary President. Siegfried Haas organized several international academic conferences, such as "Islam in a pluralist world" (Vienna 2005) or "Family, Law and Religion" (Vienna 2009). He also edited and co-edited a number of scholarly publications in Middle Eastern Studies, such as "Zentralasien und Islam" (co-ed. with A. Strasser, G. Mangott und V. Heuberger, Hamburg 2002) or „Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall – Grenzgänger zwischen Orient und Okzident" (co-ed. H. D. Galter, Graz 2008).

Sylvia Maria Haas was the longtime administrator, copy-editor and research manager at Walter Dostal's University of Vienna chair between the mid-1980s and the late 1990s. While preparing her own thesis and doctoral degree in this field, she and her husband Siegfried repeatedly carried out ethnographic fieldwork among nomadic and sedentary groups in the Algerian parts of the Sahara. These experiences culminated in the accomplishment of her 2002 doctoral thesis on the "Bridal Woman" among the Kel Ahaggar. Before and after that, she authored and co-authored several other works, some of them with Andre Gingrich. Best known among these is the interview with Walter Dostal published in "Current Anthropology" (48/3) 2007.

Ingrid Hehmeyer, Associate Professor in the History of Science and Technology at Ryerson University, Toronto, is an agricultural engineer who specializes in human-environmental relationships in the arid regions of ancient and medieval Arabia. Her current field research focusses on the history of water technology in medieval Yemen, where she investigates technical innovations in hydraulic engineering and strategies for water management that allowed people to live under harsh environmental conditions.

Johann Heiss currently is a senior researcher at the Austrian Academy of Sciences' Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) in Vienna. After studying Classical Philology and Arabic language he finished his study of Social and Cultural Anthropology in 1998 with a dissertation on the first imam of the Yemen and the tribal situation in the 10th century with Walter Dostal as first advisor. He carried out field research in Saudi-Arabia (together with Walter Dostal and Andre Gingrich), Yemen (together with Andre Gingrich) and Indonesia (with Martin Slama). As Director of the "Shifting Memories, Manifest Monuments" project, he addressed and scrutinized the memory of the Turks in Central Europe. This resulted in several articles and two co-edited books. In addition, Heiss served since 2011 in the Austrian Science Fund-supported Special Research Realm (SFB) "Visions of Community (VISCOM)" as ISA's senior researcher in the South Arabian part of this major project.

Eirik Hovden is a post doc researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Hovden is part of the FWF SFB project "Visions of Community (VISCOM)" and his research focus is on the practices of welfare and community building in medieval Zaydi Yemen. Hovden wrote his MA thesis on the management of rural rainwater harvesting structures in North western Yemen. His PhD (University of Bergen, Norway 2012) is about the history of awqaf (pious endowments) in Yemen and Zaydi-Islamic waqf law. Hovden is co-editor (with Walter Pohl and Christina Lutter) of a first major research harvest in book form (with Brill, Leiden) from the VISCOM cooperation.

Wolfgang Kraus studied in Vienna with Walter Dostal, and received his doctoral degree in 1989 with a thesis on tribal organization in the Moroccan Atlas. He carried out long-term research on tribal organization, identity and related topics such as local historical memory in central Morocco. He is Associate Professor at the University of Vienna and served (2012-14) as head of its Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology.

Helmut Lukas is a social anthropologist, senior researcher at the Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA) at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and deputy director of ISA. He also is a lecturer with *venia docendi* at the University of Vienna's Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, as well as at the Austrian Institute for China and Southeast Asia Research, Vienna. His research interests include hunter-gatherer studies, cognitive anthropology, human ecology, materialist theory, interethnic relations, indigenous knowledge, ritual and kinship, and body techniques in societies of Southeast Asia. His regional interests relate to Insular Southeast Asia but also to Continental Southeast Asia including Southern China.

Daniel Mahoney has been a researcher at the Austrian Academy's Institute for Social Anthropology since 2011 for the project "Visions of Community (VISCOM): Comparative Approaches to Ethnicity, Region and Empire in Christianity, Islam and Buddhism (400-1600 CE)." He recently finished his Phd dissertation at the University of Chicago, entitled "The political landscape of the Dhamar Plain in the central highlands of Yemen during the late medieval and early Ottoman periods." It is partly based on his participation in the Dhamar Survey Project through which he has performed archaeological fieldwork since 2006.

Roswitha G. Stiegner (a native of Innsbruck) studied in Vienna, Paris, and Graz Semitic philology and socio-cultural anthropology with an increasing specialization on the Arab peninsula, while spending several sojourns in the Arab world (e.g. Saudi-Arabia 1966-68). After her doctoral thesis with Maria Höfner she served as Assistant Professor at the University of Graz departments for Comparative Philology and for translational Science. Her field research experience gained an increasing focus on South Arabia since the late 1970s. She has edited and co-edited a number of volumes in South Arabian Studies, including a book dedicated to the memory of Maria Höfner, and also served as lecturer at the University of Vienna's Department for Middle Eastern Studies. Since 2008, she has been successfully promoting the re-establishment of a teaching and research position in Ancient South Arabian Studies at that department.

Illustrations: References

- Roswitha G. Stiegner: p. 29, 31, 35, 37
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