Thematic Network Patagonia

TRANSLATIONAL CHANGE IN PATAGONIA:
SOCIAL INEQUALITY, INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE AND
AESTHETIC EXPRESSIONS

Project ID: 7173593; Programme line: Thematic Networks. Project manager: Prof. Dr. Claudia Hammerschmidt;
Project coordination: Johanna Sittel and David Foitzick

FRIEDRICH SCHILLER UNIVERSITY OF JENA (FSU)
- traditional university: founded in 1558
- high degree of interdisciplinary and networking between faculties and with non-academic institutions
- numbers: 19,000 students, 3,400 doctoral candidates, 2,200 international students, 8,300 employees, 355 professors

PROJECT OBJECTIVES
The thematic network Patagonia aims to analyze the different manifestations of transnational change in Latin America and their local contrasts from an international and interdisciplinary perspective, with particular regard to the Patagonian region. There are explored questions with social, cultural and geopolitical relevance: On the one hand the network contains the empirical analysis of social inequality and the lack of environmental sustainability as a result of capitalist growth mode. On the other hand it considers cultural and aesthetic forms of expression in a transnational region which combines different social influences.

RESEARCH TOPICS
The relation between construction, discursivity and/or performativity of individual/collective identity; postcolonial, multiethnic hybridity and strategic essentialism; nexus of modes of aesthetic and political representation of postcolonial/transcultural subjects/societies.

Patagonia in the context of global market dynamics and its local impact on inequality and social conflicts; concretely:
socio-ecological contradictions of capitalist appropriation, the examples of forest industry and water management in southern Chile.

Geographical imaginations and social construction of space; development of strategic regionalism – beyond geodetermined attributions – or region building as a social practice of regional world linkages in global contexts.

Ecological crisis and sustainability.

History of human rights and the importance of local conflicts for the globalization of human rights activism.

The possibilities and limits of intercultural communication in multiethnic, transnational spaces.

MEASURES
Annual strategy meeting, Intercultural Campus, workshops, study and research stays, internships, interdisciplinary disciplinary and thematic conferences, summer schools, visiting professors.

Contact:
johanna.sittel@uni-jena.de
david.foitzick@uni-jena.de

www.patagonia.uni-jena.de