

Session “Protecting the Weak: Social Justice and Well-Being in China and Japan”, SASE 28th Annual Conference, June 24-26, 2016 - University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Markus Heckel organized together with Dr. Ioan Trifu (Goethe University Frankfurt) a session on “Protecting the Weak: Social Justice and Well-Being in China and Japan” in the Network Q on “Asian Capitalism” organized by Tobias ten Brink, Sebastien Lechevalier, Boy Lühje, and Cornelia Storz.

“Protecting the Weak: Entangled processes of framing, mobilization and institutionalization in East Asia”, is a research project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation within its initiative "Key issues for Academia and Society".

The session linked the topic of wellbeing with social justice. The concept of social justice is the object of rich and complex intellectual discourses about right and duties, which are directly put into question when confronted with concrete example of discrimination. Closely related to social justice, wellbeing encompasses a variety of concerns and challenges regarding the improvement of the conditions of human as well as non-human life. Both themes have become highly relevant in today's political, social, and economic environments, yet remain mainly overlooked in the study of East Asian countries.

Stefan Hueppe-Moon (Goethe University Frankfurt) presented a paper on “New (Old) Ways of Protecting the Weak: Distributive Justice in Contemporary Confucian Political Thought”. Na Zou (Goethe University Frankfurt) presented her paper “Do local government officials discriminate against migrant workers? A field experiment on Mayors’ mailboxes in China”. Markus Heckel (Goethe University Frankfurt) presented his paper on “Uncertainty over Labor Contract Duration: Evidence from Japanese Micro Data”, and Ioan Trifu (Goethe University Frankfurt) his paper “On Behalf of the Voiceless and the Weak? Public Policy and the Moral Economies of Animal Welfare in Japan”.