

Agnieszka Joniak – Lüthi

University of Zurich

ISEK Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies

### Academic experience

Since 08.2018	Assistant professor in social anthropology, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich, Switzerland
2017-2018	Senior researcher, Human Geography Unit, Fribourg University
2017-2018	Lecturer, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
2017	Lecturer (replacement for Prof. Mareile Flitsch), Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich
2015-2016	Senior researcher, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, and Research Network 'Crossroads Asia'
2015	Visiting scholar, Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
2014	Visiting scholar, East Asian Studies Unit, University of Oslo
2014	Visiting scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle
2014	Senior researcher, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland
2011	Affiliated researcher; College of Resources and Environmental Science, Xinjiang University, China
2011-2014	Principal author and coordinator of the team grant 'Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Chinese Territoriality: The Development of Infrastructure and Han Migration to the Region', funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
2010	Visiting scholar, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, Seattle
2010-2011	Guest professor, Department of Cultural Studies, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
2010	Lecturer, Central Asian Studies Unit, University of Bern
2008-2010	Lecturer and research assistant, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
09.2007	PhD exam, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
2005-2006	PhD studies in social anthropology, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
2002-2003	Graduate studies in Chinese linguistics, Sichuan University, Chengdu, People's Republic of China
2001-2005	PhD studies in contemporary sinology, Institute of Oriental Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland
1999-2006	Translator and editor, China-related entries in the Polish edition of Encyclopedia Britannica, Rebis Publishing House, Poznań, Poland

1994-2000	MA in China Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University
1997-1999	Chinese language studies, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China

### Grants and scholarships

2018-2022	SNSF-Professorship and 4-year team grant 'ROADWORK: An Anthropology of Infrastructure at China's Inner Asian Borders'
2017-2018	Seed money to develop project 'MORE-THAN-EARTH: Claims to extraplanetary space', with Christine Bichsel; Université de Fribourg
2017	SNF Conference grant 'On Edge: China's frontiers in a time of change', with Madlen Kobi; Swiss National Science Foundation (grant no. IZSEZO_177072)
2015-2016	Research project 'Spatial production and identity negotiations along Xinjiang's roads', Work Package 4 in team grant "Crossroads Asia"; German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), Grant no. 01UC1503D
01-04. 2015	3-month visiting grant at the Department of Social Anthropology, Cambridge University; funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation (grant returned)
10-12. 2014	3-month visiting grant at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo; funded by the BNF National Qualification Program, Switzerland
02. 2011-01.2014	36-month team research grant "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Chinese Territoriality"; principal author and coordinator of the grant, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation
10. 2013	SNF International Exploratory Workshop grant and a grant from the Mittelbauvereinigung der Universität Bern MVUB for the organization of the conference "Spatial Transformations in China's Northwestern Borderlands", University of Bern
08-09. 2012	Fieldwork grant of the UniBern Research Foundation
06-07. 2010	2-month visiting grant at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Washington; funded by the Swiss National Foundation
09. 2005-02. 2007	Federal Scholarship of the Swiss Government, University of Bern
09. 2002-06. 2003	Joint research scholarship by the Polish and Chinese Ministries of Education, Sichuan University, China
10. 2001-09. 2005	PhD scholarship of the University of Adam Mickiewicz, Poznan, Poland
09. 1997-07. 1999	Joint language training scholarship by the Polish and Chinese Ministries of Education, Sichuan University
2011-2017	Multiple conference participation grants; Swiss Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences SAGW and Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD

## Invited talks

- 23.01.2019  
(forthcoming) “Fragile connectivity: The New Silk Road and the fluid landscapes of Sino-  
Inner Asian borderlands”, Lecture series ‘Grenzen und Grenzräume’,  
Geographisch-Ethnographische Gesellschaft Zürich
- 15.12.2018  
(forthcoming) Roundtable “Chinese Politics Today: Ambivalent Ambitions?”, seminar  
‘China behind the media’, University of Oslo
- 11.10.2018 Roundtable “Where we are? (In Central Asian Anthropology)”; Conference  
‘Ideas and Practices: Exploring Social and Economic Transformation in  
Central Asia’, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
- 3.05.2018 “ROADWORK: An Anthropology of Infrastructure at China’s Inner Asian  
Borders”; Workshop ‘Innovative Approaches to Border Studies’, Tallinn  
University, Estonia
- 30.11.2017 “Linearity, sandy fluidity and academic knowledge production around  
China’s Silk Road Economic Belt”; Workshop ‘Muslims on the Belt and  
Road: New Silk Road social transformations in Inner Asia’, Aga Khan  
University, London
- 10.11.2017 “Roadwork: OBOR and infrastructural challenges in China’s Inner Asian  
borderlands”; Workshop ‘China’s New Silk Roads: Exploring the Emerging  
Worlds of Chinese Globalization’; Department of Cultural and Social  
Anthropology, Cologne University
- 1-2.12.2016 “Fragile connectivity: Road construction and road maintenance in Xinjiang”,  
Research Symposium “China Pivots West: Ethnic Tensions and Human  
Security along the ‘New Silk Road’”; La Trobe University, Melbourne,  
Australia
- 22.11.2016 Roundtable “The Anthropology of Infrastructure”; Research Seminar,  
Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland
- 11.11.2016 “Negotiating home and belonging: Post-1949 Han migration to northwest  
China”; Conference “Central Asia and Migration through the Perspective of  
Oral History”, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague
- 29-30.09.2016 “(Dis)connecting infrastructures and China’s dreams of the New Silk Road”;  
Workshop ‘Mobility in Contemporary China: Imaginaries, technologies and  
power’, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
- 24.05.2016 “The Han – China’s Diverse Majority”; Asian Studies Research Group,  
Newcastle University
- 1.03.2016 “Fragile connectivity: An anthropology of roads in northwest China”;  
Ethnology Colloquium, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural  
Sciences, Zurich University
- 17.02.2016 “Let us not talk about it: Disciplines, silences and fieldwork under  
surveillance”; Lecture in the program ‘Culture in Perspective: South and East  
Asia’, Department of Languages and Cultures, Ghent University, Belgium
- 8-9. 12. 2015 “Road maintenance, ‘ecosystem services’ and the emergent connectivity in  
northwest China”; Conference “Steppe Road: Mongolia’s Connectivity in  
Eurasia,” Cambridge University
- 14.08.2015 “The sociality of infrastructure along the New Silk Road”; plenary talk at the  
Annual Meeting of China’s Geographical Union, Northwestern Section;  
Yining, China

- 10.03.2015 "Production of spatial meaning and shifting geographies at China's northwestern border"; MIASU Lunch Seminar, Social Anthropology Unit, Cambridge University
- 22.12.2014 "The Power of Infrastructure? Transportation networks and the making of state territory in northwest China"; Senior Research Seminar, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München
- 11.12.2014 "Xinjiang's geographies in motion: The making of Han and Uyghur places at China's northwestern border"; Lunch Seminar, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo
- 3.12.2014 "Development of infrastructure and spatial reorganization in China's Great Northwest"; Institute of New Rural Development, Yunnan Agricultural University, Kunming, China
- 10.04.2014 "Han migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region: Between State Schemes and Migrants' Strategies"; Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, Seattle
- 8.01.2014 "Go West Young Men: Post-1949 Han migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region"; Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften, Zentralasien-Seminar, Humboldt Universität, Berlin
- 28.02.2013 "Territoriality from within: Expansion of transportation networks and the making of Xinjiang, northwest China"; Politseminar, Political Geography Unit, Geography Department, University of Zurich
- 06.12.2011 "从土路到高速公路: 交通系统的发展与它引起的流动模式变化" (When country roads become highways: Development of transportation networks and the issuing changes in mobility patterns in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region); Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China
- 23.11.2011 "新疆交通发展: 流动模式与社会变化" (Transportation development, mobility patterns and social change in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China); Research Centre for Anthropology and Folklore, Xinjiang University, Urumqi, China
- 24.04.2008 "Struggle for Power and Recognition: Historical Background and Contemporary Developments in Majority-Minorities Relations in the People's Republic of China"; University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
- 28.02.2008 "Concepts of Han-ness, minzu Unity and Diversity: Analysis of Popular Discourse"; Research Seminar, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zurich
25. 05. 2006 "Unitary or Divided? De facto Diversity and the Monolithic Representations of the Han in the People's Republic of China"; Ethnology Colloquium, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern

## Selected conference papers

- 10-14. 04. 2018 "Fragile connectivity: Maintaining the New Silk Road"; panel One Belt, One Road: Views from the ground, AAG meeting, New Orleans
- 16-19. 03. 2017 "You are Chinese and China is your motherland – Socialization of space and people in early Communist Xinjiang"; AAS meeting, Toronto
- 22-23. 09. 2016 "Temporality of place: Shifting spatialities in China's Inner Asian borderland"; 5th International Crossroads Asia Conference "Area Studies' Futures", Bonn, Germany
- 24-27. 06. 2016 "Roads and non-places at China's northwestern border: Marc Augé revisited"; AAS-in-Asia, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan
26. 10. 2015 "Crossroad spaces and spatial hierarchies"; Crossroads Asia workshop, Centre for Development Studies, Freie Universität Berlin
- 9-11. 10. 2015 "Tarmac or earth? Road building and narratives of change in Xinjiang," Conference of the European Society of Central Asian Studies, Zurich University
6. 03. 2015 "Spatial production and identity negotiations along Xinjiang's roads"; Crossroads Asia workshop, Center for Development Research, Bonn University
- 4-5. 12. 2014 "Mobility and identity-negotiations along Xinjiang's roads"; 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium on Roadology (路学工作坊); Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Chongqing University, China
- 31.07-3. 08. 2014 "Foucault in China"; 13<sup>th</sup> EASA Biennial Conference "Collaboration, Intimacy and Revolution," Tallinn, Estonia
- 27-30. 03. 2014 "Totalizing discourses and porous practices: Ethnicity in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region"; AAS Meeting, Philadelphia
- 20-22. 12. 2013 "Expansion of transportation networks in southern Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region: Spatial reconfigurations, mobility and identity"; CASCA conference "The visible and the invisible: institutions and identities in contemporary Central Asia," Zürich University, Switzerland
- 8-9. 11. 2013 "The making of state territory from within: Transportation networks in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region"; Annual meeting of the German Association for Chinese Studies, University of Würzburg, Germany
- 30.10-1. 11. 2013 "Roads in Xinjiang: Interfaces of conceived, perceived and lived spaces"; Conference "Spatial Transformations in China's Northwest," University of Bern, Switzerland
- 21-24. 03. 2013 "Two Xinjiangs: Han and Uyghur geographies of the region"; AAS meeting, San Diego, California
- 12-14. 12. 2012 "State territory in the making: A case study from China's northwestern borderlands"; Conference "The State in Asia: Power, Citizenship, the Rule of Law", Leiden University, the Netherlands
- 25-27. 05. 2012 "The Peacock flies West': Han migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and its implications for the Uyghur of the Tarim Basin"; Workshop "Mobility and Identity in Central Asia", Institute of Ethnology, University of Zurich

- 15-18. 03. 2012 “Roads and railways in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region: Instruments of economic development and spatial delineation”; AAS meeting, Toronto, Canada
- 2-5. 07. 2009 “‘Since they have never been to school, they do not know who they are’ – The Making of the Chinese Nation at its Peripheries”; Conference of the Society of East Asian Anthropology and Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology; Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
- 12-13. 06. 2009 “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and Chinese Territoriality”; Workshop ‘Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Chinese State: Multiscalar Dimensions and Legal Pluralism’, Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zurich
31. 03-2. 04. 2009 “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (People’s Republic of China) at the Interaction of the National and the Global”; 19th ASEN Annual Conference ‘Nationalism and Globalization’, London School of Economics

### Conferences, workshops and panels organized

22. 11. 2018  
(forthcoming) Convener of and discussant on the panel “Beyond Engineering - Anthropological Knowledge on Infrastructure” (with Madlen Kobi, Università della Svizzera Italiana), Swiss Anthropological Association annual meeting, University of Zurich
- 13-15. 08. 2018 Convener of and discussant on the panel “Fragile infrastructures, secure nations: on the making of ruins in highland Asian borderlands” (with Alessandro Rippa, LMU Munich), Asian Borderlands Research Network meeting, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- 12-15. 10. 2017 Convener of the conference “On Edge: China’s Frontiers in a Time of Change” (in collaboration with Max Woodworth, Ohio State University and Madlen Kobi, Università della Svizzera Italiana), Kandersteg, Switzerland
- 16-19. 03. 2017 Convener of the panel “Spaces and people in between: Gender, politics and market along China’s western borders” (with Hasan Karrar, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan), AAS meeting, Toronto
- 22-23. 09. 2016 Convener of the panel “Space, place and time”, 5th International Crossroads Asia Conference “Area Studies’ Futures,” Bonn, Germany
- 24-27. 06. 2016 Convener of the panel “Frontier spaces: The production of place and meaning in China’s borderlands” (with Max Woodworth, Ohio State University), AAS-in-Asia meeting, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan
- 9-11. 10. 2015 Convener of the panel “Roads in borderlands: Beyond the political geography of the state”; Conference of the European Society of Central Asian Studies, Zurich University
9. 05. 2014 Convener of the international workshop “Economy, ecology and community development projects in China’s western borderlands”; Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern. In collaboration with the Mountain Research Initiative, Department of Geography, University of Bern
- 21-24. 03. 2013 Convener of the panel “Spatial transformations in China’s western borderlands”, AAS meeting, San Diego, California

- 8-9. 11. 2013                      Convener of the panel “The Great Northwest and the Chinese State: Spatial imageries and space-transforming strategies” (with Susanne Stein, University of Tübingen); Conference of the German Association for Chinese Studies, University of Würzburg, Germany
- 30.10-1. 11. 2013                  Convener of the international conference “Spatial Transformations in China’s Northwest” (with Madlen Kobi), Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
- 12-13. 06. 2009                    Convener of the international workshop “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Chinese State: Multiscalar Dimensions and Legal Pluralism” (with Andrea Riemenschmitter and Simona Grano), Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Zurich

### Photo exhibitions

09. 2007                              “China through the camera lens”, exhibited at Geography Department, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland; in cooperation with Leszek Sobkowiak, Geography Department, Adam Mickiewicz University
05. 2001                              “Fieldwork in China”; exhibited at the Institute of Comparative Pedagogy, Adam Mickiewicz University; in cooperation with Peter Lüthi (Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern) and Aleksandra Boroń (Institute of Comparative Pedagogy, Adam Mickiewicz University)
05. 2000                              “China through the camera lens”, exhibited at the University Library, Adam Mickiewicz University

### Language skills

Polish (native speaker); English, German, Swiss German, Chinese (fluent); Russian (intermediate), French (reading skills), Uyghur (basic communicative skills), Kyrgyz (learning)

### Publications

*Books and special issues:*

Joniak-Lüthi, A. and Uradyn Bulag (eds.) 2016. Spatial transformations in China’s northwestern borderlands. Special issue of *Inner Asia* 18 (1).

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2015. *The Han: China’s Diverse Majority*. Seattle: University of Washington Press (paperback: March 2017).

Reviewed in Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale, Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, newbooks.asia, China Review International, Asian Ethnicity; podcast containing the interview with the author on newbooksnetwork.com.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. and Alfred F. Majewicz (eds.) 2005. *Nie tylko Europa* [There is more than Europe]. Poznań: Adam Mickiewicz University, Institute of Oriental Studies.

*Peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters:*

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (under review). Orbital. Environment and Planning D: Space and Society. Special collection on 'Volumetric Sovereignty', edited by Franck Billé.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (under review). Maintaining whose road? In: Francisco Martinez and Patrick Laviolette. *Ethnographies of Brokenness and Repair* ('Material Mediations' series). Berghahn.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (under review). Globalization in the desert: A road, a disappearing river and fragile connectivity in Sino-Inner Asian borderlands. *Development and Change*.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2018. Ethnicity and the Han. In: Tim Wright (ed.). *Oxford Bibliographies Online: Chinese Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2016. Disciplines, silences and fieldwork methodology under surveillance. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* [German Journal of Anthropology] 141: 197–214.

Kinzley, Judd and A. Joniak-Lüthi. 2016. Territory, border, infrastructure – Imagining and crafting national borderlands in twentieth century China. Crossroads Asia Working Paper Series, no. 36 (re-published as a Working Paper in *Social and Cultural Anthropology*, LMU Munich, Vol. 21).

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2016. The Making of State Territory in Xinjiang: Territorialization from Within and Without. In: Roland Altenburger and Esther Bentmann (eds.). *Raum und Grenze in den China-Studien, Jahrbuch der Deutschen Vereinigung für Chinastudien 10*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. Pp. 137-155.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. and Uradyn Bulag 2016. Introduction: Spatial transformations in China's northwestern borderlands. *Inner Asia* 18 (1): 1-14.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (2016, censored). 新疆的流动性话语与身份协商 [Mobility discourses and identity negotiations in Xinjiang]. Accepted for publication in 西南民族研究 [Southwestern Nationality Studies] and withdrawn by the editors after the intervention of censorship.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2016. Blurring boundaries and negotiating subjectivities: The Uyghurized Han of southern Xinjiang, China. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 39 (12): 2187-2204.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2016. Roads in China's Borderlands: Interfaces of spatial representations, perceptions, practices, and knowledges. *Modern Asian Studies* 50 (1): 118-140.



Hamut, Bahargül and A. Joniak-Lüthi 2015. The Language Choices and Script Debates among the Uyghur in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. *Linguistik online* 70 (1): 111-124.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2015. Xinjiang's geographies in motion. *Asian Ethnicity* 16 (4): 428-445.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2013. Han Migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region: Between State Schemes and Migrants' Strategies. *Zeitschrift für Ethnologie* [Journal of Anthropology] 138: 155-174.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2013. The Han Minzu, Fragmented Identities and Ethnicity. *Journal of Asian Studies* 72 (4): 849-871.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2009. The Han in the People's Republic of China: Discourse of Unity and the de facto Diversity. *Linguistic and Oriental Studies from Poznań* 9: 149-166.

Joniak, A. 2004. The Course and Consequences of the Ethnic Identification Process (minzu shibie) in the People's Republic of China. *Linguistic and Oriental Studies from Poznań* 6: 111-120.

*Other publications:*

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (forthcoming). Commissioned review of "What is China? Territory, Ethnicity, Culture, and History" (by Ge Zhaoguang 2018). *China Review International*.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (forthcoming). Blurring boundaries and negotiating subjectivities: The Uyghurized Han of southern Xinjiang, China. In: Michael Dillon (ed.). *Chinese minorities at home and abroad*. London: Routledge.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2018. Review of "Azan on the Moon: Entangling Modernity Along Tajikistan's Pamir Highway" (by Till Mostowlansky 2017). *Europe-Asia Studies* 70 (3): 493-494.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2018. Commissioned review of "Ethnicity in China" (by Xiaowei Zang 2015). *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 24 (2). DOI: 10.1111/1467-9655.12898.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. and Max Woodworth 2017. *On Edge: China's Frontiers in a Time of Change*. Post at <http://allegralaboratory.net/edge-chinas-frontiers-time-change/>

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2017. *Disappearing lines*. Anthroblog [www.anthro.unibe.ch](http://www.anthro.unibe.ch)

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2017. Commissioned review of “Oil and Water: Being Han in Xinjiang” by Tom Cliff. *The China Quarterly* 229: 244-245.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. (岳安歌) (forthcoming). 新中国成立至改革开放前夕：新疆维吾尔自治区汉族移民研究 (Early Communist-era Han migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region). 新疆职业大学学报 (Journal of Xinjiang Vocational University).

Rippa, Alessandro, Matthäus Rest, Radhika Gupta, Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi, Carolin Maertens, Juliane Müller, Lisa Rail and Martin Saxer. 2016. *On Roads: A Review Letter. Dialogues, Cultural Anthropology* <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/969-on-roads-a-review-letter>.

Joniak-Lüthi, A. 2005. *Zarys polityki państwa chińskiego wobec “barbarzyńców” od czasów dynastii Han do dziś* [The outline of the Chinese policy towards the ‘savages’ from the times of the Han dynasty till today]. In: Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi and Alfred F. Majewicz (eds.). *Nie tylko Europa*. [There is more than Europe]. Poznań: Adam Mickiewicz University, Institute of Oriental Studies. Pp. 25-37.