



## TEAM WORKSHOP NO. 1

**Date:** 26-28 February 2019

**Venue:** Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, University of Zurich

**Address:** Andreasstrasse 15, 8050 Zurich (<https://roadworkasia.com/contact/>)

**Room no.:** AND 5.03 (5<sup>th</sup> floor)

### Overview:

In the 1970s, Paul Virilio coined the term 'dromocratic society' (from dromos 'road', and cratos 'power') as a synonym of modern society. Though roads are indeed ubiquitous, they have been clearly under-theorized and for decades have led an existence at the margins of anthropological enquiry. The rise of interest in the situations of in-betweenness, and thus also in roads and other transport infrastructures, can be located in a larger tide of research challenging the 'sedentarist metaphysics', boundedness of places and nations, and methodological nationalism, which developed parallel to transnationalism and mobility studies. Undoubtedly, also debates on the agency of things have spurred the rise of research interest in roads, while studies of automobility, and materialities and atmospherics of travel in human geography and sociology have been important conceptual influences too. Social anthropologists of roads have integrated inputs from other disciplines with the persisting anthropological interest in subalternity and power asymmetries, non-hegemonic histories, nationalism, the state, territory, borders, and more. The ROADWORK project draws inspiration from a number of those debates to study the social life of roads along China's borders with Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, India and Nepal.

During this first ROADWORK workshop, the team members will convene in Zurich to discuss their research so far and collectively identify the themes for future collaboration. The workshop will also provide a focused timespace for the core team members to present their research plans and collect feedback. Last, our aim will be to draft a basic roadmap for the next four years and plan key activities such as the museum exhibition, conference panels, meetings in the field, and publications.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

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26 February 2019, Tuesday

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12.30-14.00 (Zurich team only)  
**Team training** by Chantal Hinni: Managing team calendar, website access, social media  
Office no: AND 5.18

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15.45 Gathering at Agnieszka's office (optional for those available)  
Office no: AND 5.18

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16.15 **Opening lecture** (optional for those available)  
Richard Irvine, University of St. Andrews  
Title: Deep time is where we live: on the intersection of geological and biographical temporality  
Room no: AND 4.06 (4<sup>th</sup> floor)

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18.30 **Welcome gathering** for workshop participants (optional)  
Address: TBA

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27 February 2019, Wednesday

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9.45-10.00 Arrivals  
Department of Social Anthropology, Andreasstrasse 50, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Room no. AND 5. 03

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10.00 **Overview and objectives of the workshop**  
Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi

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10.30-11.45 **Introductions 1**  
Thomas White  
Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

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	Zarina Urmanbetova Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Zurich University
11.45-13.00	Lunch break
13.00-14.15	<b>Introductions 2</b> Emilia Sulek Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Zurich University  Verena La Mela Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
14.15-14.30	Coffee break
14.30-15.45	<b>Introductions 3</b> Eric Schluessel Department of History, University of Montana  Till Mostowlansky Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
15.45-16.00	Coffee break
16.00-17.15	<b>Introductions 4</b> Galen Murton School of Integrated Sciences, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia and Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at LMU Munich  Agnieszka Joniak-Lüthi Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies, Zurich University
17.15-17.30	<b>Summary</b>
17.30-19.00	Walk through central Zurich or return to hotel
19.00	Dinner

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28 February 2019, Thursday

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10.00-12.00 **ROADWORK** core team members introduce their research plans  
Discussion and feedback

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12.00-13.00 Lunch

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13.00-14.30 **Roadmap 2019-2022**  
Planning fieldwork and meetings in the field, joint publications,  
museum exhibition

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14.30 **Conclusion of the workshop**

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