Knowledge Production, Area Studies and Global Cooperation
By Claudia Derichs

"Among the recent volumes discussing Area Studies, this book clearly stands out as it associates a critical assessment of knowledge production in area-based research with the politically important issue of global cooperation." - Katja Mielke & Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Editors of 'Area Studies at the Crossroads, Knowledge Production after the Mobility Turn' (Palgrave 2017)

Whereas Area Studies and cross-border cooperation research conventionally demarcates groups of people by geographical boundaries, individuals might in fact feel more connected by shared values and principles than by conventional spatial dimensions. Knowledge Production, Area Studies and Global Cooperation asks what norms and principles lead to the creation of knowledge about cross-border cooperation and connection. It studies why theories, methods, and concepts originate in one place rather than another, how they travel, and what position the scholar adopts while doing research, particularly ‘in the field’.

Taking case studies from Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, the book links the production of alternative epistemologies to the notion of global cooperation and reassesses the ways in which the concept of connectedness can be applied at the translocal and individual rather than the formal international and collective level.

Knowledge Production, Area Studies and Global Cooperation provides an innovative and critical approach towards established means of producing knowledge about different areas of the world, demonstrating that an understanding of pluri-local connectivity should be integrated into the production of knowledge about different areas of the world and the behavioural dimension of global cooperation. By shifting the view from the collective to the individual and from the formal to often invisible patterns of connectedness, this book provides an important fresh perspective which will be of interest to scholars and students of Area Studies, Politics, International Relations and Development Studies.

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Claudia Derichs is Professor of Comparative Politics and International Development Studies at Philipps University Marburg, Germany, and a senior associate fellow at the Centre for Global Cooperation Research in Duisburg, Germany. Her research interests are Muslim societies and political transition in Southeast Asia and the Middle East, as well as gender and development studies in Asia and the Middle East. She has published various books and articles on Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and the Arab world, and is an advisor to several academic and political institutions, journals and think tanks. Prior to her studies of Japanese and Arabic, she worked as a journalist.

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