



Prof. Paul Werth

Mobilities in Russia's Asian Empire

Evening Lecture Thursday, February 25, 2016, 6-8 pm, Seminar room 4
 Departement of History, Hirschgässlein 21

Religion and Empire in Tsarist Russia

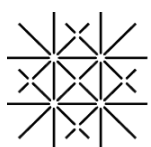
Masterclass Friday, February 26, 9 am-12 pm, Seminar room 3

As part of a broad assessment of Russia's Asian Empire over the long nineteenth century, the **evening lecture** focuses on a critical component of both tsarist attempts to reorder Asia and the actions of Russia's Asian subjects themselves: mobility. Exploring various forms of movement based on engagement with a broad literature, the paper proposes that this focus, aside from capturing a dynamism that characterized the reordering of Asia's northerly parts, permits us to connect diverse geographical points and historical processes with maximum efficiency. In effect, mobility offers a window through which we may understand major aspects of Russia's experience as an Asian power.

The **masterclass** engages with issues at the center of Paul Werth's recent book, *The Tsar's Foreign Faiths* (Oxford University Press, 2014), which offers an imperial history of Russia based on the category of religion. The class proposes a discussion about the ways in which confessional differences formed the basis for imperial rule in Russia and were, in certain respects, more important than the ethnic distinctions that incline some scholars to search for a tsarist "nationality policy." By exploring the issue of religious freedom, the discussion also should illuminate aspects of the historical experience of diverse tsarist subjects themselves.

Paul Werth is Professor in the Departement of History of the University of Nevada. His research focuses on the problem of religious freedom in the Russian Empire and the role of religious institutions and personnel in tsarist imperial governance.

Organised by Prof. Dr. Benjamin Schenk and Stefan Ragaz. To participate in the masterclass please register no later than February 15 by sending an email to: henning.lautenschlaeger@unibas.ch



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