

MARC THEUSS

Name: Marc THEUSS
Nationality: German
Gender: Male
Address (w): [CSCCA](#), Room 20, Osteuropa-Institut (Institute for East European Studies), Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin), Garystr. 55, Berlin, GERMANY.
Email: marc.theuss@gmail.com
DoB: 04 Jun 1972

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1999 – 2000 **MA Social Anthropology of Development (with special regional focus on Central Asia)**
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
Awarded with *distinction (75%)*

Courses taken:

Social Anthropology of Development	<i>75% (Distinction)</i>
Theoretical Approaches to Anthropology	<i>78% (Distinction)</i>
Society and Politics of Central Asia	<i>73% (Distinction)</i>
Research Methods	<i>75% (Distinction)</i>

Dissertation: 'Risk Management Among Kyrgyz Herders'. Based on ethnographic fieldwork with FAO in Krygyzstan. Awarded *70% (Distinction)*

1991 – 1995 **BA Psychology and Social Anthropology**
University of Manchester. Awarded with *2:1 honours*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Nov – Dec 2005 **Senior Editorial Process Manager' (I-ANDS, GTZ/Afghan Government)**

For a short term-consultancy, involved in the high-profile Afghan government's Interim Afghanistan Development National Strategy (I-ANDS). The I-ANDS is equivalent of an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and will lead to a full PRSP in the forthcoming year.

Responsibilities:

- Managing the coordination of a team of writers, (Economists, Historians, Sociologists, Development Experts), authoring a range of thematic chapters, that would ultimately appear in the I-PRSP

- Liaising between Afghan Management (Karzai's Senior Economic Adviser), Donor Agencies and Afghan Ministries, to ensure that the content of the I-PRSP reflected the will and strategy of all key stakeholders (particularly the Government)
- Writing (in short time-scales) strategic cross-sectoral papers to be included in the I-ANDS (Gender, Counter Narcotics, Anti-Corruption etc.)
- Ensuring that I-ANDS paper was being written in a timely, punctual and systematic fashion
- Ensuring coherency across the chapters of the document and in reference to external documents, procedures and policy documents

Jul 2005 – present **'Researcher' (Afghan Badakhshan and Tajik Gorno-Badakhshan). Accounting for State-Building, Stability and Violent Conflict, Freie Universitaet, Berlin, Germany**

Member of a Research Team, investigating shifts in local governance and emerging forms of statehood in the peripheries of the ex-Soviet Union (Central Asia and Caucasus).

Research focus:

Competition over the provision of alternative functions of statehood: a comparison of Shughnan and Wakhan/Ishkashim/Zebok districts

Research goal:

Explore shifting patterns of provision of statehood and associated conflict, between assorted economic actors, with a particular focus on how Opium-Poppy Economy and heroin trafficking networks are impacting on patterns of competition

Responsibilities:

- Collaborating with numerous institutions (CSCCA, Aga Khan Foundation (Afghanistan/Tajikistan) and Aga Khan Health Services (Tajikistan)), to implement the research process at all stages (research instrument planning, researcher deployment, data management, analysis, report-writing and dissemination)
- Managed a team of approximately 50 researchers to investigate: heroin/opium addiction trends and typology and shifting patterns of governance and provision of statehood, associated with markets of narcotics addition and narcotics trafficking networks
- Publish research findings in academic texts, journals and periodicals.

Apr 2002 – Jun 2005 **Head of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Unit. AKF Afghanistan.**

Over a three year period, responsible for transforming an embryonic research team into a substantial MER Unit with robust qualitative and quantitative monitoring, evaluation and research capacities. Managed 15 local staff members, engaged in large-scale and sophisticated research processes, throughout AKF's programme area.

Research:

- Facilitated a multi-sited research process, assessing peace and conflict potentials
- Lead research into changing leadership and governance patterns. Research goal involved identifying the impact the collaborative AKF/Interim Authority National Solidarity Programme has had on facilitating more democratic micro-political institutions and local decision-making
- Managed research investigating the impact of opium cultivation and consumption, at the household level
- Coordinated qualitative research into migration/seasonality as a livelihoods strategy. Multi-sited ethnographic research was coordinated at origin, destination and en-route in Wakhan, Jurm, Shewa, Darwaz and Sheghnan
- Researched crop, (particularly poppy), planting decision-making and credit/debt mechanisms underpinning the Opium Poppy Economy
- Coordinated research team investigating the factors encouraging the growth of poppy production and explored possible future cropping trends
- Implemented a gender and livelihoods research process in several villages in Jurm

Baseline Studies

- Conceptualised and planned a comprehensive household and community-based livelihoods baseline study in 80 communities in: Baghlan; Bamyan; Badakhshan
- Managed the design of research and evaluation instruments, databases, computerisation of questionnaire data, statistical analysis and technical reporting of the education, health, WATSAN baseline surveys

Monitoring

- Coordinated the initiation of a Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment System, aimed at tracing peace and conflict dynamics and the impact AKDN Afghanistan is having on conflict processes
- Established a routine livelihoods monitoring system in 80 communities, inspired by the DfID Sustainable Livelihoods Framework
- Established a technical agricultural monitoring system (looking at indicators such as: productivity; production; seed bank budgets; input distribution figures)

Policy

- Disseminated and presented key research findings, (particularly in the domain of: peace and conflict potentials; opium poppy economy; rural livelihoods and migration), to key audiences: government; policy; practitioners

Sep 2001 **Sociologist, Environmental Resources Management (ERM),
Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan**

Conducted work on behalf of Environmental Resource Management (ERM) on a EU Tacis funded project, which is a World Bank pre-investment study on a planned drainage project around the Aral Sea. Key tasks:

- Developed household-level; local administration-level (*khakimiat*); and farm-level survey questionnaires. These questionnaires aimed to build a detailed picture of: existing socio-economic conditions; water-use and management practices; soil irrigation and drainage activities within the project command area
- Ensured that local sociologists administered questionnaires systematically and according to World Bank regulations
- Managed local sociologists' Participatory Rural Appraisal research activities. This qualitative fieldwork aimed to ascertain: the social impacts of this project on local fishermen, farmers and herders; stakeholders' priorities for development; chief livelihoods within the project command area
- Assessed potential for local conflict related to tensions resulting from water-management practice changes, arising from the restructuring of drainage systems
- Conducted Public Consultations with local actors to ascertain resistance, objections and responses to the planned drainage system course impact
- Made recommendations to technical consultants regarding possible drainage system design modifications, in order to avoid or mitigate, where possible, any negative socio-economic impacts

Nov 2000-Apr 02 **Research Officer, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the
University of Sussex, Brighton**

Involved in designing, co-ordinating and developing two major information gateways and one minor website for the development community. Key tasks:

- Editor of various [Eldis](#) 'Resource Centres'. Promoted the *Resource Centres* within relevant communities of practice
- Designing, developing, modifying and testing all aspects of [GDNet](#) site

Aug 2000 **Researcher/Consultant, FAO Research Project, Kyrgyzstan**

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Participated in an FAO research and consultancy project, attempting to assess and improve risk-management strategies employed by Kyrgyz pastoralists. Key tasks:

- Conducted training courses in SEAGA (PRA) research methodologies, with a local research team of Sociologists
- Co-ordinated SEAGA (PRA) research and fieldwork among Kyrgyz pastoralist communities, to ascertain pastoralists' risk management strategies
- Conducted interviews with: kolkhoz directors, livestock experts, regional level politicians, and other key informants
- Synthesised key research findings and made strategic recommendations to FAO and Kyrgyz Ministry For Agriculture, Livestock Department

Apr - Sep 1999 **Educational Computing Manager, Aga Khan Humanities Project, Dushanbe, Tajikistan**

Managed the creation of a computer-based *Ethics Game*. The *Ethics Game* places Central Asian citizens within locally-specific, but routine ethical decision-making scenarios, via an interactive multimedia application. Key tasks:

- Conducted in-depth needs assessment, into educational needs, at university and secondary school level
- Liaised with the Directors of regional universities and institutions to ensure that the application was embedded, appropriately, in a wider body of Social Scientific and Humanities literature/texts

Jul '97 - Apr '99 **Analyst (Technology Competency), Andersen Computing, Manchester Office**

BHS (Process/Change Management)

- Conducted sociological research into the working habits of client staff
- Recommended changes to optimise work-flow processes
- Conducted participatory training sessions to establish improved work-flow processes

LANGUAGES:

- English (Fluent)
- Dari spoken (Intermediate). Written (non-existent)
- German (Beginner - Intermediate)
- French (Intermediate)