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**«АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ  
ИСТОРИИ, МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ  
И КУЛЬТУР СТРАН ВОСТОКА»**

**НОВОСИБИРСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ  
ГУМАНИТАРНЫЙ ИНСТИТУТ  
КАФЕДРА ВОСТОКОВЕДЕНИЯ  
НОКЦ "ИНСТИТУТ КОНФУЦИЯ"**

**МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ НАУЧНЫЙ ФОРУМ НГУ  
«НАСЛЕДИЕ»**

**АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ИСТОРИИ,  
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ И КУЛЬТУР СТРАН ВОСТОКА**

**КРУГЛЫЙ СТОЛ**

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университет  
**\*НАСТОЯЩАЯ НАУКА**



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**СЕКЦИЯ 4.  
КРУГЛЫЙ СТОЛ:  
"TOWARDS A PEACEFUL FUTURE - DISCUSSION OF THE  
CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL ISSUES"**

**Alfred Gerstl  
AIES, Vienna.**

**Current Developments in the South China Sea:  
The Impacts of China's Belt and Road Initiative on ASEAN's Unity and Mediating Role  
in the Territorial Dispute**

The South China Sea is not only of crucial strategic and economic importance for East Asia, but also for the rest of the world. Approximately one third of the global trade passes through its waters. Additionally, it is rich in resources (oil, gas, minerals and fish). The main claimants are China and Taiwan as well as the Southeast Asian nations Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. Since 2009, China pursues its interests in a more assertive manner, including the building of artificial islands. However, Vietnam's actions also contribute to a militarization and internationalization of the territorial dispute.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) addresses this dispute regularly since 1992 (Manila Declaration), but so far was unable to promote a resolution. Even though ASEAN and China agreed on the Declaration on Conduct of the Parties in the South China Sea in 2002, a legally binding Code of Conduct (COC) for the South China Sea could still not be agreed upon.

Due to China's rise and its increasing influence in Southeast Asia, there exist the possibility that Beijing uses the economic dependency of smaller nations, notably of Laos and Cambodia, to undermine the required ASEAN consensus. An illustration is the failure of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2012 to agree on a communiqué. ASEAN also failed to directly mention the award of the Arbitration Tribunal in The Hague from July 2016 that mostly supported Manila's position in its legal claims against Beijing. This presentation will examine how China's influence has increased since the announcement of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Southeast Asia in autumn 2013. It also analyzes how BRI affects Southeast Asia strategically and economically, as both the land-based and the maritime silk road pass this sub-region. It concludes with an assessment of ASEAN's strategic and diplomatic leeway towards China.

**Pyotr E. Podalko**  
**Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo**  
**“You and Me”, “He and She”: The so-called “Gender Problem”**  
**In a Modern-Day Japan**

The new, 21<sup>st</sup> century has put such words as “globalization” and “unification” on the agenda in many countries which culture has been long known, and therefore widely accepted by others as “conservative”, or “traditional”. Many societies are now rapidly changing their attitude towards such topics as “women rights” or “equality of both sexes”. Some states are even inventing new terms in this sphere, like Germany, where the well-known definitions of being “male” and “female” were recently joined by the newly invented so-called “third group”, named “other”, for those people who are supposed to have doubts about their own gender identity. But when speaking about Japan, one has to admit that concerning that this country is still keeping her famous status of being very much “traditional” in every meaning of the word.

As it is well-known around the world, Japan is often said to be one of the classical examples of “male-dominated society”, a society bound by tradition. That is the main reason for why change comes slowly to Japan. That also includes opportunities for women in politics and government as well as inequality of women in everyday life or domestic law in many cases. Japan has long operated on the idea that men work outside the home, and women belong in the home, so Japan ranks 164<sup>th</sup> out of 193 countries in terms of women in Parliament and last among the group of seven industrialized nations. Women make up only 9.3 percent of Japan's lower house, compared to 19.3 percent in the U.S. House of Representatives/

In summer 2018, Japanese society was shaken by a big scandal around the long-termed discrimination of female students-to be at the entrance exams in popular universities. After the story has been published by media, a special investigation has been started, just to make it clear how many problems are yet unsolved in that sphere. The report is aiming to explore the so-called “gender problem” in modern-day Japan, it is based on new, modern data and investigates the role functions, cooperation between men and women, changes of philosophy of marriage in modern society and new tasks that people face up when solving these and other problems they have. Special attention is paid to review the new family laws, educational tasks and the general attitude about how and why people must change their traditional lifestyle to survive in modern world.

**Albert van Wijngaarden  
NSU, Novosibirsk, Russia**

**On the necessity of cultural translation: the example of international news media coverage of India.**

Against the individual cases that might be considered as critical issues, this paper address *criticality* in a more theoretical way, and argues for the necessity of critical thinking in all attempts at understanding "the other". This argument will be illustrated at the hand of two examples of ways in which India is often misunderstood when perceived through foreign eyes. By pointing out the cultural specificity behind Indian secularism, and the country's political party system, this paper will show that any superficial attempt at understanding "the other" is bound to fail if one does not first question one's own values and preconditions.