



Einladung  
zum Fakultätsvortrag und GSU-Vortrag von

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# **The Academic Empires: Colonial Legacies and Reproduction of Asymmetries in Organization of International Student Mobility Flows**

**Zeit:** 27. März 2019, 12-13 Uhr

**Ort:** SR 15.25 (ReSoWi: Bauteil F, 2. Stock, im Rahmen des Fakultäts-Forschungsseminars)

### **Zum Vortrag**

International student mobility is often discussed in the context of high-skilled migrations since overseas study could provide first step in individual migration trajectory. The so-called “brain circulation”, a phenomenon created by return of former students or skilled-labour migrants from developed countries into their home countries, reproduces dominance of the core countries over periphery even in absence of direct political control since this phenomenon creates cultural transmission and chain migration effects. This paper seeks to explore the factors responsible for intensity of student migration between different countries. Volume of international student migration in the period 1998-2015 is used to reconstruct the student flows. Historical experience of political dependency is chosen as the most general proxy for probability of massive institutional import since literature on international migrations argues that educational systems and transport infrastructure were often established by the imperial powers to connect the metropolitan centre and the colonies. The evidence supports the hypothesis that contemporary global student migration system is organized along older colonial lines. Our major finding is that, surprisingly, in the two recent decades such cultural-institutional variables have not only retained their significance, but became even more salient.

### **Zur Vortragenden**

Maria Safonova is associate professor at the Sociology Department at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia. Her research interests are in the fields of cultural consumption and production, sociology and history of higher education, and social network analysis. Recent articles: “Legitimacy and economic niches of Saint Petersburg cultural organizations” (Cultural studies, 2018) and “Status cultures, biographic cycles, and generational changes in literary tastes. An analysis of Saint Petersburg public libraries readership” (Journal of sociology and social anthropology, 2016).