



The Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST), established in 1994, is a Research Center of the University of Duisburg-Essen, dedicated to both research and graduate education on East Asia. With more than 10 professorships and 40 scholars from different disciplines in the social and economic sciences, most of them third-party funded, IN-EAST is one of the largest university institutes committed to contemporary East Asian studies in Europe.

Under the auspices of *University Alliance Ruhr* (UA Ruhr), IN-EAST has recently combined forces with Faculty of East Asian Studies at Ruhr-University Bochum to establish the *Alliance for Research on East Asia Ruhr* (AREA Ruhr) in order to expand and strengthen research on East Asia. Other research collaborations involve the *Käte Hamburger Kolleg on Global Cooperation Research*, the *Competence Field "Metropolitan Research"* and the *Main Research Area "Transformation of Contemporary Societies."* IN-EAST is a member of EastAsiaNet, a network of leading European research schools with a well-developed social-science focus on East Asia.

IN-EAST stands out as an innovative institute in the German landscape of language-based studies of non-Western regions, drawing inspiration from Anglo-American area studies. The institute applies theories and research perspectives from the social science disciplines to East Asian studies. The IN-EAST chair holders cooperate closely in research and teaching. Two large cooperative projects join researchers across IN-EAST together to analyze current issues of East Asia and to train the successor generation:

**The Research Training Group 1613 "Risk and East Asia"** is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). It aims to understand how large processes of economic, political and social institutional change play out in East Asian national and regional contexts. Participating researchers examine the impact in China, Japan and Korea of market transformations, social organization, central-local interactions and transnationalization processes on shifts in the responsibility for and governance of risks from states to markets, from public to private bodies, and from collective to individual actors.

**The IN-EAST School of Advanced Studies** – funded by a €6 million grant of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) – is a joint project of researchers at the Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST) and of colleagues from other faculties and research networks at the University of Duisburg-Essen. It aims to explore processes of innovation in East Asia from a multidisciplinary perspective. The School's research agenda is to examine how processes of innovation pervade society as a whole. Individual research activities

converge on electric mobility and urban systems as inherently interdependent topics. Beyond East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) as the prime region under scrutiny, the research shall also yield wider global insights and stimulate innovative approaches to interregional comparisons.

The researchers joining forces under the roof of IN-EAST have in recent years worked together in a series of large scale research and research-training enterprises on institutional issues (change and emergence of institutions, institutional patterns of risk shifts, institutional foundation and facilitation of innovation, etc.). They have in these ventures developed a deep understanding of the evolutionary forces driving institutional change and the strong interdependence of institutions in all spheres of life, be they economic, political, or social. These activities have focussed on the societies of East Asia (here understood as China, Japan, South Korea), their extraordinary dynamism in recent decades, and their substantial influence far beyond their own geographic territories. This rising trend causes IN-EAST researchers to move beyond the nation-state as a unit of analysis. Joint research targets both intra-regional processes of institution-building as well as the emergence of East Asian actors as global players. To assess the drivers of this global shift, research at IN-EAST observe changes in actors' conceptions of their national role and their vision of the world order.

IN-EAST is, accordingly, poised to concentrate its future research activities on appraising, from a transnational perspective, processes of institutional change in East Asia and interactions between East Asia and the rest of the world. Emerging national and sub-national institutional arrangements are increasingly found to be reciprocally linked to "outside" phenomena. It is urgently necessary to explore and understand transnational dimensions of institutional change as well as issues of institutional fit and mismatch between (national, subnational) and foreign (national, supranational) institutions and institutional arrangements. While interrelated processes of institutional development tend to abound in antagonisms and countervailing forces, they do furnish transnational platforms of converging knowledge bases, ideas, and norms systems. Time adds a further dimension of complexity, for synchronic and a-synchronic patterns determine institutional (co-)evolution in terms of isolated, mutual, competitive or antagonistic interaction.

Life cycles of institutional emergence and transition (pop-up institutions), institutional transplants, travelling knowledge and catch-up growth development, shall be scrutinized within social and political spheres, economic sectors and business fields yet to be determined. The resulting synthesis shall serve new theory building within and across disciplines.

IN-EAST's distinctive approach and its focus on multiple actors and across discipline borders, contributes substantive new insights on urbanization, social policy, technological change, new production systems, as well as transregional security issues.

Detailed information about the institute are provided in English and German at: [www.in-east.de](http://www.in-east.de)