



Gastvortrag

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„Mediating the Global Finance Crisis“

The New York Times traced the origins of the global finance crisis, the concatenating effects of the toxic paper produced by the finance industry, and debates over re-regulation of the banking sector. In this paper I ask how ‘global’ was the crisis that this newspaper reported, which politicians, bankers and experts were reported, and how were ‘Wall Street’ and ‘New York City’ related to the world economy? To answer these questions, I analyse 32,000 words of text captured from The New York Times on-line database using the key words ‘global finance crisis.’ This text comes from early 2009 when an interventionist Obama Government faced an emerging world economic crisis. Analysis of the geographical and economic imaginaries used reveals the newspaper’s framing of the finance crisis in terms of specific geographies of national economies. The crisis is seen as an American problem with American solutions. As the global economic crisis emerges, other finance companies, nation states and regions are declared to be in trouble. Nevertheless, key roles are ascribed to experts and politicians in only a few cities. Rather than report an integrated world economy, a global finance industry, or a network of global cities in crisis, The New York Times reports the economic health of particular national economies and national enterprises, and the interventions being made by national governments. I discuss the work done by this newspaper’s framing of the crisis.

Dr. Gordon Winder is a geographer with interests in the historical experiences of industrialization, urbanization, environmental transformation, globalization and imperialism. Born in New Zealand, he gained his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, and worked at the University of Auckland, before moving to the LMU-Munich in 2008. He is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Auckland’s School of Environment, and a member of the editorial board of The Journal of Historical Geography. His recent research is on historical geographies of the news and news agency. The central focus of this research is on the ways narratives of distant disaster have changed in North American newspapers over the course of the twentieth century.

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