

Einladung zum

Mongolei-Colloquium

am **MONTAG**, 02. Juli 2018

18 (c.t.) – 20 Uhr

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The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Trucker: Mongolian men on the road and in Los Angeles' Koreatown

Since 1980 the United States of America's trucking industry has seen: a growing number of **independent truckers**, de-unionisation, and stagnating wages. In this presentation, I consider **how Mongolian men living in Los Angeles took these seemingly lonely McJobs as wayfinders** and constructed lifeworlds that they felt granted them freedom.

Several thousand Mongolians dwell in Los Angeles' Koreatown—a densely populated neighbourhood of only a few square kilometres—and many of them are **involved in different roles in the logistics industry**. While I discuss a number of them, at the centre of my account is **Lucky—a long-distance trucker**. Inspired by a US tradition of examining questions of masculinity, nationality, and freedom through accounts of **life on the road** I describe a five-day trip that Lucky and I made from the nation's Pacific Coast to its Midwestern heartland and back again.

By means of this narrative, I **explore the lifeworlds that Lucky and his Mongolian colleagues have created through their acts of wayfinding**. In the process, I touch on issues as varied as faith, Native Americans, and casinos, while always returning to the key question of male Mongolian-Angelenos construction of, and quest, for freedom.

Neuer Ort: Hauptgebäude der Universität Bonn Hörsaal XII

Im Mongolei-Colloquium, seit 2013 organisiert von der Mongolistik am IOA, werden aktuelle Forschungs- und Praxisprojekte vorgestellt.
In diesem Austauschforum kommen Wissenschaftler, Studierende und die interessierte Öffentlichkeit miteinander ins Gespräch.

Alle Interessierten sind willkommen!