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!