



## Mongolei-Colloquium Online

25. November 2020, 12-15 Uhr (mit Videos)

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### On the Cultural and Social Significance of *Airag* in Mongolia – and beyond

*Airag* (Mongolian айпар) is fermented mares' milk, a slightly alcoholic drink and one of Mongolia's traditional dairy products. It is also found in other parts of Central Asia where it is widely known as *kumys* (for example in Kazakh: қымыз). However, the Mongolian traditional methods and rituals belong to the most notable cultural possessions, and in 2019, the "Traditional technique of making *Airag* in Khokhuur and its associated customs" was inscribed on UNESCO's "Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

In this talk we explore the importance of *airag* culture in Mongolians' social life. We focus on traditional and local methods of production, consumption as well as symbolic roles as a health-giving, pure and beneficial drink in the daily lives of herders. We also introduce some religious and ceremonial rituals concerning *airag*. The presentation is made with special reference to Saikhan *sum*, a pastoral area of Bulgan province in Mongolia. We will discover what makes Saikhan *sum* unique in producing a national 'brand' of *airag*, and discuss the economic role of *airag* in the lives of rural herders and on the markets nationwide. The research is based on interviews with representatives of *airag* producers, the speaker's firsthand experience as an inhabitant of Saikhan district of Bulgan province, and related written materials.



**Das Colloquium findet live via ZOOM statt.**

Die Zugangsdaten erhalten Sie nach Anmeldung.

Bitte per e-mail anmelden über Herrn Carsten Friede: [momocf@uni-bonn.de](mailto:momocf@uni-bonn.de)

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

**Alle Interessierten sind herzlich willkommen!**