

Einladung zum

# Mongolei-Colloquium

am Donnerstag, 25. April 2013

18 (c.t.) – 20 Uhr

Oyuntuya Shagdarsuren (ZEF, Universität Bonn)

**Extralegality and Collective Action in Access to Land:  
The Case of Artisanal Gold Mining  
in Rural Mongolia**

Land privatisation reforms are presently contentious with traditional land rights (land in Mongolia was historically commonly owned) and even more controversial with recently introduced mining rights. This tension is more evident with artisanal mining activity due to the lack of legal rights to the land they mine. Artisanal mining is also associated with many social and environmental problems. One of the solutions in current policy is to formalise artisanal mining by issuing land permissions for the purposes of developing formal economy of the country, reducing poverty and strengthening the rule of law. However, this process is not easily implemented in practice. Evidence suggests that artisanal miners have little interest in obtaining legal land rights. Property rights are only one of the different ways of managing natural resources, unfortunately, the one that also brings along questions of further inequality, social injustice and requires shifts from traditional social system to market-based relations.

I would like to present and discuss my doctoral research proposal which questions the current policy approaches and aims at exploring the worldviews of artisanal miners and institutions that govern and legitimize their access to land in the absence of law. This bottom-up ethnographic perspective studying local social order in rural Mongolia seeks to understand what the miners' resistance to legal land titles means in a broader socio-political context. The specific focus will be on how artisanal miners are able to collectively organize access to land for which they have no legal rights. Guided by social science theories the study aims at bringing out artisanal miners' voices and make their contribution to the economy more visible.

**Ort: Universität Bonn, IOA**

**Abteilung für Mongolistik und Tibetstudien**

**Regina-Pacis-Weg 7 (Gebäude des Ägyptischen Museums)**

**RAUM 3.008 (Dachgeschoss)**

**Alle Interessierten sind willkommen!**