

Einladung zum  
**Tibet-Colloquium**

Dienstag, 4. Juni 2019

18 (c.t.) – 20 Uhr

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**Expanding fortune, strengthening life:  
Animal liberation practices among pastoralists of North  
Eastern Tibet**



Among the horses, yaks and sheep that graze on the rangelands of the Tibetan plateau, some individuals enjoy a special status by virtue of which their owners refrain from selling and slaughtering them. Often marked by five-coloured silk ribbons hanging from their ears or manes, these *tshe thar* (life liberated) animals are excluded from market and community networks of reciprocity and become mediators of fortune and merit. Protecting their lives and keeping them in the herds is a way for pastoralists to act upon the health, longevity and prosperity of both humans and animals.

The ritual liberation of animals from captivity and death is a common practice across Asia. It is practiced by Buddhist communities in the South and South Eastern parts of the continent as a way to accumulate merit, and also by Buddhist and non-Buddhist pastoral groups of North and Inner Asia, who consecrate animals in order to protect the herds and enhance the fortune of the domestic group. In Tibet, *tshe thar* practices have a long history, are characterized by their diversity and currently enjoy great popularity. Based on materials collected over twelve months of fieldwork among pastoralists of Amdo, this paper will present different *tshe thar* rituals and discuss their place in a current context of intensified economic development and state pressures on mobile pastoralism.

**Neuer Ort: Hauptgebäude, Hörsaal VII (1. OG)**

Im Tibet-Colloquium werden aktuelle Forschungs- und Praxisprojekte vorgestellt.  
In diesem Austauschforum kommen Wissenschaftler, Studierende und die interessierte Öffentlichkeit miteinander ins Gespräch.

**Alle Interessierten sind willkommen!**