

Einladung zum

Mongolei-Colloquium

Donnerstag, 10. November 2016: 18–20 Uhr

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Transborder Love and Hate: migration, trade and kinship in visa free regime between Mongolia and Russian Buryatia

Marking the second anniversary of the visa free regime between Mongolia and Russia (which came into effect in November 2014), I will reflect on the various consequences of the “open borders” upon kinship, worship, romance, labour, trade and small-scale smuggling, along with new ways of relating to distance, spatial mobility (between Ulaanbaatar and Lake Baikal) and to Mongol-speaking space beyond the state borders. I ethnographically foreground narratives from multiple field sites about movement of people, emotions and things between Mongolia and Buryatia in particular, and how ethnic space of Buryats, Barga Mongols and Khamnigans is being reshaped by new transborder dimensions – with the result that the notion of *nutag* (homeland) for many was redefined.

Other issues to discuss are some controversial aspects of economic and social relations concerning transborder water pollution, migrating forest fire (*tüimer*) and infections, atmospheric pollution by smog and dust, and diminishing wildlife, which became a site of rising public controversy and heated blame-game between Mongolia and Russia. However, the new transborder reality has demonstrated that visa free regime despite presenting opportunities also brought additional complicities and tensions (security, crime, corruption). To my mind, the “open borders” regime between Mongolia and Russia didn’t reduce problems of threat and stress (how it was believed two years ago), in fact it just effectively exposed and unmasked longstanding problems of the Russia-Mongolia borderlands.

Ort: Universität Bonn, IOA

Abteilung für Mongolistik und Tibetstudien

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

Alle Interessierten sind willkommen!