

Dokumentarfilm „Angry Spirits“



Dienstag, 24. Juni 2025, 18 Uhr – Eintritt frei

In Kooperation mit Studium Universale

The documentary film ANGRY SPIRITS takes a poetic look at a global challenge: the threat to indigenous peoples from environmental degradation caused by mining and climate catastrophe. The film follows Ainur, a young mother from a herding family who fell into extreme poverty after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Now living in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, Ainur struggles to support her children as a dancer in a strip club.



As she navigates her new reality, Ainur feels unwell, as if haunted by unseen spirits. Disturbing nightmares lead her to consult a shaman, who advises her to return to her ancestral land. This journey compels Ainur to confront the destruction of her once-breathtaking homeland and raises the profound question of how to heal both herself and the environment.

Throughout her travels, Ainur faces the harsh realities of a landscape ravaged by mining, climate change, and escalating water scarcity—forces that fundamentally disrupt the fabric of ecological life. The film skillfully weaves dystopian imagery with documentary moments, creating a layered narrative that reflects the intricate relationship between Ainur's personal struggles and the broader environmental devastation surrounding her.

As Ainur confronts her challenges, she grapples with the anger of nature, fears of isolation and uprootedness, and guilt over her inability to provide for her children as she wishes. Her experiences resonate with widespread economic hardships and moral dilemmas faced by countless individuals in vulnerable situations around the globe. "Angry Spirits" reveals how these personal struggles are interconnected with larger issues, such as the destruction of natural habitats and exploitative systems that deprive local communities of the benefits derived from their own resources. With 43% of Mongolia's land under mining concessions and nearly 30% of its population living below the poverty line, the mass migration to the capital in search of better opportunities often results in the loss of crucial emotional, ecological, and spiritual ties to the land.

Directed by Cambridge anthropologist Iris Pakulla, ANGRY SPIRITS creates a unique visual and associative cinematic universe, offering viewers profound insights into Ainur's psyche while illuminating the interconnectedness and interdependence among diverse life processes at multiple scales.

Im Zuge des Mongolei-Colloquiums hält Dr. Iris Pakulla von 16-18 Uhr den Vortrag „Labouring (In)visibilities: Female Workers in a Gobi Mine“. Der Film wird im Anschluss an das Colloquium gezeigt. Im Mongolei-Colloquium, seit 2013 organisiert von der Mongolistik am IOA, werden aktuelle mongoleibezogene Forschungsprojekte und Praxisfelder vorgestellt. In diesem Forum kommen Forschende, Studierende und die interessierte Öffentlichkeit ins Gespräch.

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich willkommen!

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