



Mongolei-Colloquium Online

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

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MNU, derzeit Lektor Mongolisch, IOA, Abt. f. Mongolistik und Tibetstudien

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

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!