

Georg August University of Goettingen

Departmental Seminar in Cultural Anthropology

summer term 2021



Cultural Anthropology at the (East)
European Periphery:

Gender, Nation, Decolonization?

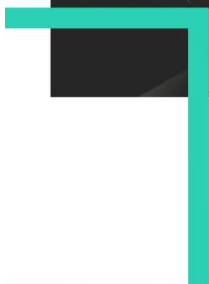
Cultural Anthropology at the (East) European Periphery: Gender, Nation, Decolonization?



What is the relationship between theory and ethnography in cultural anthropology when studying European margins? Could anthropological theory from the margins of Europe be useful for understanding other marginal as well as the more central places differently? This seminar series addresses such questions by offering a broad comparative look on the production of new European margins (UK and Brexit) and on the more established margins in Southeast Europe.

(South)East Europe poses unexpected challenges to the conventional directions of analysis in cultural anthropology. Writing critically about a region that is hegemonically conceived of as 'lagging behind' carries a danger of reiterating classic modernization theory or cultural evolutionist ideas about Europe, civilization, and progress. Following the historical lines of differentiation between ethnographic fieldwork and theoretical writing in the German KAEE, one way out of this conundrum has been to focus on producing solid empirical knowledge, rather than critical theoretical analyses on Southeast Europe. Yet, there is an increasing number of cultural anthropologists who develop sophisticated theoretical analyses on Southeast Europe on the basis of in-depth empirical fieldwork.

This seminar series brings speakers who combine critical theoretical perspectives with ethnographic and historically sensitive research in order to produce new and original knowledge about European margins. The talks will discuss how to study margins, gender, and nation(alism) critically, without reiterating discourses of modernization or Europeanization; what a 'decolonizing perspective' on East Europe might look like, and how to combine critical theory with empirical research when writing about European margins.



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Programme, Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

The meetings will take place online via Zoom. To get the access data please contact Hanna Bömeke by sending an e-mail to h.boemeke@stud.uni-goettingen.de.

21/04 PD Dr. Marketa Spiritova (LMU Munich): Culture of Remembrance – Nationalism – Eastern Europe: Ethnographical Production of Knowledge in Marginalized Research Fields of European Ethnology

05/05 Annual Lecture: Prof. Dr. Cris Shore (Goldsmiths): 'How Did it Come to This?' Brexit, Euroscepticism and the Rise of 'Angry Politics' [Notice the time change: 19:30-20:30 pm!]

19/05 Katrin Kremmler (HU Berlin): Paradoxes of Europeanization: Researching Hungarian Neo-Nationalism Between (German) West-Centrism and Epistemic Double Binds

26/05 Dr. Aksana Ismailbekova (Leibniz Center Modern Orient, Berlin): Native Son and Blood Ties: The Poetics of Patronage in Kyrgyzstan

02/06 Dr. Margit Feischmidt (Hungarian Academy of Arts and Sciences, Budapest): Understanding the Rise and the Mainstreaming of the Far-Right on the European Semi-Peripheries. Ethno-Nationalism, Memory-Politics and the Mobilization of Collective Resentment in Hungary

09/06 MA KAEE Students (University of Goettingen), Presentation of Digital Fieldwork: Humanitarian Landscapes and Civil Society in the Balkans

16/06 Olga Reznikova (University of Goettingen): Between Great Power-Chauvinism and Decolonization: Construction of the "Plain Folks" from the Anti- and Prowestern Position in Russia

23/06 Prof. Dr. Ger Duijzings (University of Regensburg): 'Where Ugly Things Happen Unseen': Urban Marginality in Eastern Europe and What it Tells Us About Europe(an Ethnology)

07/07 Prof. Dr. Katharina Eisch Angus (University of Graz): Covid, Brexit, Cold War. Marginalization and Border Violation in Ethnographic West/Central/East-European Presents

14/07 Prof. Dr. Manuela Boatca (University of Freiburg): Thinking Europe Otherwise: Lessons from the Caribbean