

Einladung zum Kolloquium

Cultural Expertise in South Asia and diasporas

Prof. Livia Holden

(Karakoram International Univ. Pakistan, z.Zt. Nantes Institute
for Advanced Study Foundation)

Dienstag, den 10. Mai 2016, 12:00 Uhr c.t.

Geo-Campus Lankwitz

Malteserstr. 74-100, 12249 Berlin

Haus G, Raum 202

Cultural expertise has been used in connection with rights recognition since the early years of legal anthropology. Today cultural expertise is increasingly used in Europe and North America. Country experts with a variety of backgrounds have been instructed with increasing frequency in legal proceedings and in pre-judicial procedures involving members of diasporic communities. In some common law systems the role of the expert witness has expanded for experts to systematically assist the judge when litigants are belonging to minorities; in many systems of civil law, similar roles are played by translators and cultural mediators, including notaries and lawyers. Interestingly, cultural expertise is also used in South Asia for claims that defy mainstream interpretations of rights or are grounded on customs that not know to the general public. Hence, elders' account and anthropologists works become the source of evidence in court. I will introduce some general concepts about cultural expertise, the epistemological questions of the reflection that I propose is necessary today, and will present two cases: the first one concerning cultural expertise in South Asia and the second one cultural expertise in a context of diasporas.