

Einladung zum Kolloquium

The Queue: Distributed Legality, Bureaucratic Time and Waiting-Work in Migrant Moscow

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The contemporary Russian migration regime is grounded in an artificial shortage of legal labor. For migrant workers from 'visa-free' states of the former Soviet Union, becoming and remaining documented requires mastering the queue as a distinct social and institutional form. Exploring the embodied work of 'occupying the queue' among migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan, this paper seeks to bring an existentially sensitive perspective on migration into conversation with an anthropology of legal time, attentive to the ways in which being 'stuck in motion' emerges through the conjunction of competing tempi of work, life, and legalization. In so doing, it critically interrogates assumptions of 'empty time' in recent anthropological work on waiting.