

Einladung zum Kolloquium

Ethnomusicological Research in the Pamirs

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The Pamir mountain range straddles the borders of modern Tajikistan, China, Afghanistan and Pakistan. While the region has been the subject of research in numerous fields, including geography, religious studies and anthropology, and has long been of interest to explorers and especially to the nations that supported their missions, it has been relatively little studied from the perspective of ethnomusicology. This presentation will first introduce ethnomusicology as a field, providing examples of the kinds of questions ethnomusicologists ask, and the methods used in ethnomusicological investigation. I'll also introduce the broad themes of my own research: "music and moral being," the relationship of the musician, as an individual, to what he or she is performing, and how the listener reads character of the musician into the performance. Then I'll summarize the contributions from ethnomusicology and related fields to the study of the Pamirs. With this background in mind, I will provide a survey of musics from the Pamir regions of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Xinjiang, China. The purpose of this is to understand how religion, language, and geographical access promote musical similarity, and political and ethnic boundaries militate against them.