



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2017

in Kooperation mit dem Institut für Afrikawissenschaften

Pamila Gupta

Blue Johannesburg

Dienstag 23.05.2017, Seminarraum 3, Institut für Afrikawissenschaften, UniCampus, Hof 5, Spitalgasse 2



Pamila Gupta is Associate Professor at WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research), at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is currently working on a new book manuscript entitled *Ethnographies of Lusophone Decolonization in India and Southern Africa* (forthcoming with Bloomsbury Press).

...kommende Termine

24.05.2017 Patrick Plattet

Teaching ethnographic methods online through multimedia examination of human/animal relations in Alaskan dog-mushing

31.05.2017 Sveta Yamin-Pasternak

Gastronomy at Higher Latitudes: Lessons and Conversations with the Bering Strait Epicures

07.06.2017 Martha-Cecilia Dietrich

Towards an Anthropology of Culpability? Ethnographic Reflections on the Formation of Violent Subjects

In this paper, I am interested in entwining affect, materiality and the diasporic imaginings of an older Portuguese immigrant community as a way to reorient our way of seeing contemporary Johannesburg. I look at certain Portuguese colonial signifiers in the making of its post-apartheid present. It is an experiment of sorts, an alternate format for writing (and visualizing) this city from the perspective of driving (as opposed to walking as De Certeau would have it) and in relation to the literary, ornamental and sensory as forms of infrastructure and affect. I focus on three traces: Portuguese monumentalism—statues and images of explorers Vasco da Gama and Bartolomeu Dias and poets Luis Camões and Fernando Pessoa appear inside church courtyards and in front of sporting clubs; Portuguese styled *azulejo* tilework covers the walls of corner shops and Catholic churches scattered throughout the southern suburbs of Johannesburg (Rosettenville, Turffontein, La Rochelle, Regents Park), and finally the colour blue that fills these spaces and acts as an architecture of memory for many Portuguese living in Southern Africa. Together, these residues potentially allow us to view Johannesburg as very much a Portuguese city that endures, particularly for its thriving diasporic community that is estimated between 350,000-500,000 persons.