



# Wednesday Seminars

WINTERSEMESTER 2017/18

**Robert Rotenberg**

Landscape and Power, Revisited

Mittwoch 08.11.2017, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



**Robert Rotenberg** received his PhD in anthropology from University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has taught at DePaul University since 1979. He is currently a guest professor in IKSA in Vienna.

*His research interests have always been in large cities. The question that guides his research projects is "Do people who live in very large cities think about their world and live their lives differently than people who live elsewhere?" His research has primarily been conducted in Western Europe, particularly in Vienna, Austria and Chicago. He has authored several books and numerous articles on subjects as diverse as household schedules, urban design, landscape architecture, mealtimes, nature in the city, and college teaching.*

## ...kommende Termine

22.11.2017 **Cati Coe**

(in Kooperation mit dem [Institut für Afrikawissenschaften](#))

**Beyond Kin Care? Inscriptions on Aging in Southern Ghana**

Thirty years ago, I began a project on the meaning of the planted environment in Vienna that became a monograph (1995). I wanted to learn how people use language to construct the natural world in this city. The monograph was organized around the succession of discourses sponsored by the dominant political factions in the city since the late 1600s. These political actors patronized garden designs around buildings and in gardens that symbolized their ideals. This connection between landscape and powerful actors, or 'aesthetic governmentality', was controversial among some scholars at the time because it challenged standard approaches to the history of gardens. Within anthropology, the research offered an extended description of how shared values might propagate through an urban population utilizing verbal clichés and institutionally-instilled public practices.

The analysis progressed from a focus on powerful factions governing through gardening to the gardeners expressing their views of nature. Today, anthropologists have rediscovered questions about the ways that nature is understood by people in different circumstances. The residents of Vienna constitute such a circumstance. By returning to conversations with my research partners from 1988-91, I will explore how Viennese gardeners understood the often flexible and shifting boundary between city and nature. I expect to show that they inhabit multiple systems of thought for understanding nature.