



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2017

Bettina Beer

Changing social inequalities between Wampar: Non-Wampar (yaner) workers in the Markham Valley, Papua New Guinea

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Bettina Beer studierte an der Universität Hamburg Ethnologie und promovierte 1995 mit einer Dissertation zum Thema "Deutsch-philippinische Ehen. Interethnische Heiraten und Migration von Frauen". Die Habilitation erlangte sie 2001 im Fach Ethnologie mit der Habilitationsschrift "Körperkonzepte, interethnische Beziehungen und Rassismustheorien". Bettina Beer führte langdauernde Feldforschungen auf den Philippinen und in Papua-Neuguinea durch, und forschte zu kultureller Diversität im deutschsprachigen Raum. Für ihre wissenschaftlichen Arbeiten erhielt Bettina Beer den Siemers-Preis der Universität Hamburg und ein Heisenberg-Stipendium der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft.

...kommende Termine

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Over the fifty years for which ethnographic data are available, some Wampar households have had significant social relations with non-Wampar (yaner) workers. In the past, such relations sometimes approached a species of adoption. Today, some single yaner men are attached to households and work for food and a place to sleep; in other cases, whole yaner families/households have been given access to land under specific conditions. The resulting spectrum of Wampar-yaner relations ranges from the quasi-familial through what some anthropologists would call 'patronage' relations to something approximating wage employment. This spectrum is considered in the context of an area that has become progressively 'suburbanised' as Lae has expanded physically and economically, and which shows how variable the speed and extent of change in the relations between a centre and its neighbouring hinterland and the people involved can be. Commercial interest in land in the area around Gab-songkeg has led to the negotiations of notions like "landowner/landholder". Some Wampar have sold, leased, and/or re-sold land to middle class outsiders with dependent families) under different legal schemes or without any legal basis. Others let unemployed yaner from remote areas stay on their land. These developments transform pre-existing patterns of inequality between Wampar and add new dimensions to forms of leadership. This is of importance for the understanding of future reconfigurations of inequalities under the impact of large-scale capitalist projects.