



# Critique In/Of Anthropology?

Subseries of the Wednesday Seminars

## Julia Eckert

*The truth in our politics, the politics in our truths*



**Julia Eckert** is Professor for Political Anthropology at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and co-editor of „Anthropological Theory“. Her research interests are the transnationalisation of legal norms;

the anthropology of crime and punishment; changing notions of responsibility and liability; security and citizenship. In her current research she explores the temporal and spatial dimensions of conflicting narratives of legal responsibility, and their implication for the delineations of polities, membership and mutual obligation.

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**(HS C, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor)**

Critique is inherent the anthropological endeavour in as much as it questions the constitution and possibility of all ways of being. The possibility of critique, of course, implies and necessitates the possibility of truth. Anthropology needs to recuperate a concept of truth without abandoning its commitment to the critique of knowledge as such. Anthropology's hard fought sensitivity towards the situatedness of knowledge does not necessarily imply incommensurability (which can only engender relativism). Rather, it can be employed for the project of critique: If we can understand modes of being as possibilities of human life, critique is the capacity to see the world as it is, how it has come to be the way it is, *and* how it could be otherwise. This equips us for perceiving other possibilities for now.

For more information on the series see:

[http://ksa.univie.ac.at/wednesday\\_seminars](http://ksa.univie.ac.at/wednesday_seminars)