



Wednesday Seminars

WINTERSEMESTER 2017/18

Stephan Hochleithner

Displacement as Enclosure. Socio-economic transformation amidst ongoing armed conflict in eastern DR Congo.

Mittwoch 11.10.2017, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



Trained in Social Anthropology at the University of Vienna, Stephan Hochleithner received his PhD in Political Geography at the University of Zürich, and is currently involved in a project on temporary and incomplete enclosures at the University of California Berkeley. His research interests mainly circle around spatial aspects of socio-economic activities and structures; around the crossroads of material and social realms. Questions of access to resources and topics from political ecology theoretically inform Stephan Hochleithner's strongly ethnographic empirical approach. Regionally, his fieldwork and general research experience ranges from urban settings in Europe to rural settings in Central/East (DR Congo, Uganda, Tanzania) and Southern Africa (RSA, Namibia, Botswana).

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The eastern provinces of the DR Congo have been affected by violent conflict for the past 30 years. This presentation looks at the effects of displacement caused by armed conflict in a part of this region. The main argument put forward is that forced displacement can in its spatial dimension be understood as a temporary form of enclosure, which transforms reciprocity-centered socio-economic structures towards an exchange-value-based system that facilitates a capitalist mode of production. The focus will be set on DRC's Beni territory in general and on the city of Oicha in particular, where a large number of IDPs lives in so called host arrangements. Building on ethnographic material and a quantitative survey, three sets of socio-economic relations —access (to land), re-/production, and distribution— will be examined and set into historical context to identify displacement-induced changes in land-use patterns and their consequences, allowing to draw parallels between forced displacement and other forms of accumulation by dispossession.

...kommende Termine

DI 17.10.2017 Joost Fontein
am [Institut für Afrikawissenschaften](#)

Political accidents and unfinished death in Zimbabwe