



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2017

Patrick Plattet

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

Mittwoch 24.05.2017, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Patrick Plattet is a cultural anthropologist at the University of Alaska Fairbanks who carries out collaborative research projects with rural communities in Northern Kamchatka (Russian Far East) and on the Alaska Peninsula (Southwest Alaska). His work in Kamchatka focuses on reindeer herding and big-game hunting, and how these subsistence activities have been ritualized in the past and up to the present. A main theme is the exploration of syncretic worldviews that have emerged in Kamchatka since the 18th century at the interface of Shamanism and Russian Orthodoxy. In Alaska, Plattet has recently led the DEER study (uaf.edu/deer/), which documents the ethnohistory and ethnoarchaeology of reindeer from 1905–1950 and explores the legacies of herding on the Alaska Peninsula. The DEER study also contributes to broader discussions in circumpolar pastoralism, including human-animal relations, migration, mobility and global markets.

This presentation introduces SELIN (Self-Induced Learning Infrastructure), an e-learning application developed at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, by a team of cultural anthropologists and computer programmers. SELIN is unique among existing e-learning pedagogical models because it is designed specifically for teaching inductive reasoning through active observation. It allows for the creation of courses that privilege the observation of empirical data, the mastery of inductive reasoning, and the creation of bottom-up theoretical constructs.

One new SELIN course is currently under production at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Entitled "Human-Animal Interaction in Alaskan Dog Mushing", this course offers new insights into human-animal relationships through a multidisciplinary focus on dog mushing and sled dog racing, two related activities that are performed and valued in many regions of the circumpolar North.

My presentation gives a first glimpse into the new course on dog mushing and discusses how the SELIN platform and its course content have potential to enhance distance education.

...kommende Termine

31.05.2017 **Sveta Yamin-Pasternak**

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

18:30 07.06.2017 **Martha-Cecilia Dietrich**

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