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Everyone interested in refugee studies and/or forced migration

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Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology,
University of Vienna
Universitätsstrasse 7, 4th floor
Sitzungszimmer

PROGRAM
ROR-n info session 4 pm
ROR-n lecture series: Juliana Jakoubek (“The Afghan Women´s Association in Munich“) and Seo Yeon Park (“Uncanny politics of anti-refugee sentiments: a dispute over Yemeni refugees in South Korea“)
Film Screening 6.30 pm, Alfoz Tanjour (A Memory in Khaki , 2016) (HS A)

http://www.ror-n.org/
Uncanny politics of anti-refugee sentiments: a dispute over Yemeni refugees in South Korea
Seo Yeon Park (Hanyang University)

Tuesday, 16th of October 2018, 5 pm
Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna
Sitzungszimmer, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

In the summer of 2018, a formidable reaction to strangers in South Korea was staged: actions against the admittance of Yemenis as refugees. From around June, several street rallies and online disputes on Yemeni refugees have ensued, along with an online petition of nearly 700,000 signatures made to the presidential office website. In this talk, I will briefly sketch the historical trajectory of refugee-related policy, practices and public discourses in South Korea and will examine the abrupt anti-refugee, anti-Muslim sentiments concocted by globally circulating Islamophobia, neoliberal instability and affects, and escalating fears over national security.

Seo Yeon Park earned her doctoral degree in Anthropology from University of South Carolina, USA. Her research interests are refugee/migration, politics of affect and visual/multimodal ethnography. She currently teaches at universities in South Korea, and holds a researcher position at the Institute of Globalization and Multicultural Studies, Hanyang University.

ROR-N brings together researchers affiliated with the Austrian Academy of Sciences – namely, Institute for Social Anthropology, Institute for Urban and Regional Studies, Institute for Iranian Studies, Institute for Cultural Studies and Theatre History, Institute for Audiovisual Research and Documentation – and the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Vienna.
This presentation will offer an overview of more than three decades of flight, displacement and resettlement and their impact on the people of Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans have been exposed to experiences as refugees and internally displaced persons - often several times within their lifetime. This had major consequences for the individual Afghan as well as for society at large leading amongst other things to the breakup of former social support networks, alterations of people’s worldviews, and the creation of new social and political relations. Other noteworthy effects are the rapid urbanization processes, the high level of politicization, in particular of the younger generation, and the creation of transnational networks and the use of modern means of communication.

Juliane Jakoubek holds a bachelor’s degree in Educational Science as well as Social and Cultural Anthropology from the University of Vienna. She is currently working on her master thesis in Social and Cultural Anthropology about an Afghan Women’s Association in Munich, which focuses on consultation in refugee accommodations. She received a scholarship from the Austrian National Union of Students that will publish her master thesis. Her latest publication “Return migration to Armenia: Motivations and prospects guiding return and the role of different organizations” appeared at ASSA and is the output of her fieldtrip in Yerevan Armenia in 2015. Her fields of interests are migration, ethnicity and resource extraction in the Middle East.

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F I L M  S C R E E N I N G

A Memory in Khaki
Director Alfoz Tanjour

Tuesday, 16th of October 2018, 6.30 pm
Institute for Cultural and Social Anthropology, University of Vienna
Hörsaal A, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien

Memory in Khaki is a cry out breathe for that which is embattled inside the spirits of individuals who lived under the Syrian oppressive regime. The auteur’s personal narrative is interwoven with those of other Syrian characters who were forced, because of their political beliefs, to leave the country before or after the revolution. The film sheds light on years of silence, fear and terror, and it dives into the stories which were behind the eruption of the Syrian society and the start of its revolution. It is a Syrian account which, by laying out the past, tells the story of the future.

Alfoz Tanjour is a Syrian film director born in 1975. He studied Film Directing at the Academy of Fine Arts in the Republic of Moldova between 2000 and 2004. Alfoz has directed many short films, for instance ‘The End of a Red Balloon’ and ‘A Little Sun’ (Bronze Tanit Award at the Carthage Film Festival in 2008/ Special Jury Prize at the Mons Festival, Belgium, 2009) and numerous documentaries, such as ‘Damascus, City Symphony’, ‘Cola Bridge’, ‘Outside the City’s Walls’, ‘Faraway, so close to Homeland’, ‘Aleppo’ and ‘Wooden Rifle’ (Public Liberties and Human Rights award, Aljazeera International Documentary Film Festival, 2013/ Gold Panda for best production, International Gold Panda Awards for Documentary, China, 2014.)

His latest feature documentary ‘A Memory in Khaki’ has been featured in several festivals around the world and won Best Director award at Malmo Arab Film Festival in Sweden, and Karama’s Feather Award for Best Documentary at Karama Human Rights Film Festival in Amman. Alfoz is living now in Vienna and he is currently preparing for his first feature-length narrative film `Run Away`.

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