



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

08.06.2022, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Stefan Leins (University of Konstanz)

The Work of Financial Market Experts: A Cultural Approach.



Stefan Leins is assistant professor in anthropology at the University of Konstanz. He is interested in theories of capitalism and works on commodity trading, supply chains, financial analysis, forecasting

practices, Islamic finance, socially responsible investing, the history of economic knowledge and the narrative dimension of finance. His first book *Stories of Capitalism: Inside the Role of Financial Analysts* was published by the University of Chicago Press in 2018.

Understanding and anticipating market movements plays a critical role in current capitalist activity. Through the assessment of the present and the engagement in the unknowable future, financial-market participants create financial opportunities. At the heart of this process is the work of financial experts who claim to provide 'thorough analyses' of market movements. In this talk, I will describe how financial analysts deploy various techniques to formulate financial-market predictions. On the basis of ethnographic data collected during two years of fieldwork in the financial analysis department of an internationally operating bank, I illustrate how analysts capitalize on 'feeling', individualized strategies and narration to come up with explanatory narratives about possible future market scenarios. I argue that financial analysts use such techniques to construct meaning in an environment of radical uncertainty. Their work as experts in finance helps financial-market participants think of their investment practices as not simply 'speculative', but based on reason.

kommende Termine

15.06.2022 **Chandana Mathur**

A Strike to Remember: Ethnographic Reflections on the Conditions of Possibility for Labour Resistance in the U.S. Heartland.

22.06.2022 **Madeleine Reeves**

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