Wednesday Seminars

Lecture Series in Social and Cultural Anthropology

11.11.2026 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Aigerim Muratova (Eötvös Loránd University)
Memory Across the Mountains: Memorial Activism surrounding the 1916 Urkun in Kyrgyzstan

Aigerim Muratova is currently in her 2nd year as a PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Social Research Program at Eötvös Loránd University. Her research focuses on collective memory and memorial activism in Kyrgyzstan. She examines how commemorative practices, particularly memorial marches dedicated to the 1916 Urkun, contribute to the transmission of memory and the construction of collective identities across generations.

Remembering the past is not only a matter of narration but also of practice. In contemporary Kyrgyzstan, as a way of remembering Urkun, the anti-colonial revolt in 1916 against Russian Tsarist forces and mass flight to China, commemorative marches have emerged as an important means of transmitting its memory across generations. Muratova's research focuses on how the marches function as a form of memorial activism and embodied remembrance. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork, it explores how participants engage with the past through collective movement, ritual practices, and shared acts of commemoration. The findings show that memorial marches function not only as acts of remembrance but also as practices that connect personal, family, and national narratives of the past. The aim of this session is to explore how the local initiatives contribute to historical consciousness through physical space and public performance.

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