



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

15.05.2024, 17:00 Uhr, Übungsraum (and online)
IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Patrick Naef (University of Geneva)

Resilient Barrios: Criminal Governance and Intimacy in Medellín



Patrick Naef is an anthropologist who has collaborated with various universities, including the University of Geneva, the University of Neuchâtel and the University of California, Berkeley.

His research is grounded in urban studies, with a focus on organized crime, urban violence, and the governance of marginalized neighborhoods. He is currently working on extortion and criminal control in Colombia and Kenya. He has also previously studied post-conflict reconstruction and the nexus between violence and urban resilience. Patrick Naef is also associated with a number of organizations involved in urban development and the defense of human rights in Colombia and Switzerland.

kommende Termine

29.05.2024

Atreyee Sen

Urban Poverty, Public Romance and Violent Moral Policing of Lower-Class Female Youth in Mumbai

19.06.2024

Natashe Lemos Dekker

Withdrawing from the World: Finitude, Alienation, and Everyday Experiences of Aging in Brazil

Criminal governance is defined as the regulation of social spaces and the control of illegal and legal markets by criminal organizations. A large corpus of work in criminology assumes it to be merely a rational and predatory regulatory dynamic. Very limited attention has been paid to the influence of the everyday practices and experiences of residents living under these regimes. Patrick Naef's research draws on a decade of ethnographic fieldwork in Medellín's most violent neighborhoods to explore how *intimacies* shape criminal governance. Exploring the practice of extortion, the resolution of conflict by criminal groups, and the organization of social activities by these structures, it shows how interpersonal relations and interactions, local knowledge and memories, help residents to navigate life in crime-ridden neighborhoods. It unveils a political economy where debts and privileges, kinship and friendship influence the domination of criminal actors, but it also shows how residents make sense of these violent contexts and develop strategies to optimize their security. By examining the 'intimacy of criminal governance', it reveals how violence is embedded in the social fabric of communities living at the urban margins of Colombia. Although the spectacular violence of homicides in Medellín has decreased over the last two decades, everyday violence such as extortion, forced displacement, domestic conflicts and human rights violations is still prevalent. Security in middle- and upper-class neighborhoods has undoubtedly improved, as has the safety of the growing flocks of tourists who visit the city every year. However, residents of marginalized neighborhoods continue to live in the midst of crime and uncertainty, conditions they often describe as 'tense calm'.

Details:

<https://ksa.univie.ac.at/en/department/events/wednesday-seminar/>

