Oberseminar

VORTRAGSREIHE DES INSTITUTS FÜR ETHNOLOGIE

Leitung: Martin Sökefeld

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Prof. Dr. Judith Beyer (Universität Konstanz)

How do we listen in anthropology?

Abstract

In my talk I will be speaking about the undertheoretization of listening in our anthropological method's toolkit that has always prioritized seeing (evidenced in the term 'participant observation'). After exploring what anthropology (and adjacent disciplines) have had to say so far about listening, I will draw on insights from my own ethnographic fieldwork in rural Northern Kyrgyzstan, from fieldwork in urban Yangon in Myanmar and from ongoing multi-sited fieldwork in Europe. My aim is to complicate the implicit parallelization of listening and understanding in our anthropological work and to offer a possible way of differently theorizing what is happening when we listen to others. This will involve a plunge into the French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan's teaching on the issue. Next to scrutinizing and complicating the ways in which we listen to others in anthropology, my aim is also to come up with suggestions how to expand our method's toolkit.

OBERSEMINAR

Institut für Ethnologie, LMU München
montags,
16-18 Uhr
Raum L-155
Oettingenstr. 67, 80538 München

www.ethnologie.uni-muenchen.de