

Vortrag im Oberseminar

Montag, 13.06.2022

18 - 20 Uhr, Raum L-155

Tim Pöhlmann, M.Sc.

(University of Cambridge)

**Men Who Shout at Goats:
Slaughter and the Cultivation of 'Lost' Land in São Jorge Island**

This talk focuses on forms of excess violence against nonhumans. Among (male) Azorean islanders, practices of fishing or slaughtering goats often comprise insulting and deriding the animals involved. Understanding this surplus of force means considering various ways of relating to nature (*natureza*) as shaped by ideas of masculinity, fear of decline, and conceptions of the household. In Fajã, the site of my fieldwork, most villagers are deeply concerned with local depopulation, a predicament primarily articulated in terms of changing environment. They speak of increasingly overgrown land plots as "lost" (*perdido*) and perceive the sight and feel of vanishing property as fundamentally distressing. In this context of demographic decline and poverty, the morally overloaded notion of making an agrarian livelihood affects the concept of *natureza*. I argue that the skilled male labour of converting entities understood as "natural" into valuable products of the household, is both a process of generating men's sense of self-worth and a site where male destructive potential can come to the fore.

Oberseminar

**Institut für Ethnologie
Oettingenstraße 67, 80538 München**

www.ethnologie.uni-muenchen.de