



– VORTRÄGE AUSWÄRTIGER GELEHRTER –

**Auf Einladung des Instituts für Ethnologie
der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität**

spricht

Dr. Willem Vogelsang
International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden

am Mittwoch, den 18.12.2013, um 16:00 Uhr

zum Thema

**A cultural advisor with the Dutch and American
military forces in southern Afghanistan, 2008-2010**

**am
Institut für Ethnologie
Stadtstraße 21, 48149 Münster
Raum STU 105 (2.10)**

Zu diesem Vortrag sind alle Interessierten herzlich eingeladen.

A cultural advisor with the Dutch and American military forces in southern Afghanistan, 2008-2010

Dr Willem Vogelsang*

From mid-2008 until early 2011, I worked for the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Dutch/Australian, and later with the American/Australian Task Force in Uruzgan, southern Afghanistan, as their cultural and regional advisor. Having worked in and on Afghanistan as an archaeologist, historian, journalist, museum curator and army officer since the late 1970s, I was confronted with the enormous intercultural problems between a mainly very conservative Afghan population on the one hand, and the Western forces and diplomats/foreign aid workers on the other. Compounding the problems were the internal differences of the Afghans themselves, but also among the foreigners. In my talk, which will be very personal, I will try to sketch my work in Afghanistan, give a brief introduction to Afghanistan's recent dramatic history, the ups and downs of our work, the Afghans' perception of the foreign presence, the differences between the many foreign groups working in southern Afghanistan, try to look ahead at the future of this country, and propose some lessons that could, and indeed should be learnt.

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