



– Institute’s Colloquium –

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(Religious Plurality and its Regulation in the Region’ (RePliR))**

‘Integrating’ refugees into the community: On local challenges, diverging expectations, and everyday struggles

Ever since the announcement of the so-called ‘refugee crisis’ in Germany there have mainly been reports on two extreme sides of the social spectrum presenting movements such as ‘the welcome culture’ and ‘PEGIDA’. By illustrating debates on migration policy, asylum law and the legitimacy of deportations, an insufficient view on the ones to stay has been provided. Now increasingly ‘neu Zugewanderte’ in becoming part of the work force and contributing to the community of solidarity are a focus of research. Likewise there is a growing body of literature on international classes and refugee children researching the effectiveness of language courses and educational offers providing social participation. Thus, understanding recent discourses on refugees in Germany requires an understanding of politics of ‘integration’ in the first place. Which concepts of ‘integration’ are expressed by institutions and how can these be identified? Which expectations go along with different understandings involved in regulating integration of refugees? By which measures are concepts of integration implemented institutionally? Case studies from the years 2015 through 2017 will give an insight into the life worlds of those heavily involved in integration processes on a local level: refugee children and their families, social workers, teachers, and volunteers. In this regard ‘integration givers’ and ‘–experiencers’ will be conceptualized on the basis of narrative interviews, ero-epic conversation, and participant observation to analyze conflict potential and struggles. It will be presented, how ‘being a refugee’ as a social category can be applied as both a status of hardship and privilege by integration experiencers and will be contrasted with integration givers’ perspectives including perceptions of their personal motivation and challenges due to their ambivalent position.

Wednesday, 26th April 2017

4-6 p.m.

Institute of Ethnology

Studtstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Everybody is welcome!