

Departmental Colloquium Series Summer Semester 2023



**The Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology
of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
is pleased to welcome**

Prof. Dr. Janis H. Jenkins
(UC SanDiego)
Monday, June 12th 2023, 6-8 p.m.

“Theorizing Mental Illness as Extraordinary Conditions: Intimate and Social Spheres of Experience”

This presentation is a reflection on fundamental concepts and theories that guide our research on conditions that have been culturally and historically conceived as mental illness. I begin with recognition of the multidimensional features of such conditions in relation to my theoretical formulation for such problems as “extraordinary conditions” (Jenkins 2015). As I elaborate, this formulation takes into consideration the reciprocal productions of conditions of personal distress and conditions of social structural adversity. This formulation is advanced on the basis of three decades of research that my interdisciplinary teams have conducted with adults and adolescents from a variety of culturally and ecologically diverse settings and through a combination of ethnographic, psychiatric, and psychological methods and procedures. While I place an emphasis on the primacy of experience as the starting point for ethnographic inquiry, I also argue for the centrality of struggle across a variety of conditions. Cultural and feminist identification of psycho-political processes that shape intimate and social spheres of experience provide critical foundations for future research directions.

The Departmental Colloquium will take place via Zoom.

<https://www.zoom.us/j/68019162838?pwd=T2FDNHJuMINVaEhCd2VYYWdXeDhRUT09>
Kenncode: 424195

Everybody is welcome!