

Departmental Colloquium Series Winter Semester 2022/23



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

Friedemann Yi-Neumann M.A. & Maliheh Bayat Tork
(Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)

Wednesday, January 25th 2023, 4-6 p.m.

“On the Materiality of (Forced) Migration (MatMig)*. Ethnographic and Museum Insights of a Collaborative Research Project”

The MatMig research project attempted to understand the relationship between humans and things in the context of migration and forced migration. The project’s ethnographic fieldwork started in Friedland Transit Camp in Lower Saxony, an initial reception center for refugees and other migrants. The project team studied the complexity of human-thing relationships coming from this place, which is a vital hub of migration to Germany. Issues like expectations for the future associated with items, things and social positions or dispossessions played a role in the research. Interlocutors used and understood the material in unlike ways related to migration experiences and home. Ethnographic results were presented on a public website; this website was an inherent representative but also a reflexive part of the research process. The project yielded publications (e.g., *Material Culture and (Forced) Migration* UCL, 2022) and an exhibition *Moving Things* (Forum Wissen, 2022/23). In this lecture, the researchers will provide an overview of the project, its different (thematic) fields and results and provide further food for thought.

*The MatMig Project is a cooperation between the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Göttingen, the Museum Friedland and the Berlin-based exhibition agency “Die Exponauten. Exhibitions et cetera.”

The lecture will take place online.

Everybody is welcome!