

– Departmental Colloquium – Summer Semester 2021 –
“Refugees: Constructions of displacement, loss and healing”



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

Prof. Susan Rasmussen (Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston)

Wednesday, July 7th 2021, 4-6 p.m.

Loneliness and Travel in Tuareg and Anthropological Perspective: Challenges and Insights in the Study of Emotions in Cultural Encounters

Professor Rasmussen explores the impact of travel on wellness and illness, specifically, the relationship between loneliness and mobility, dispersion, and return in social, economic, and political upheavals and cultural encounters. Data are based on this anthropologist's field research in Saharan regions of Niger and Mali, West Africa, among the Tuareg, who speak Tamajaq, are predominantly Muslim, and practice persisting but disrupted semi-nomadic herding, caravanning, gardening, artisanry, and labor migration. The focus is on narratives and cases of travelers and their loved ones at home who have experienced loneliness, local cultural meanings of loneliness, the consequences of expressing this emotion, and ways of coping with it. This ethnographic case study suggests the need to explore diverse ways of experiencing, expressing, recognizing, and treating loneliness and other emotions across cultural settings. More broadly, there is also discussion of the challenges and insights in the study of personal experience and expression of sentiments in cultural encounters.

The Departmental Colloquium Series will take place online. Information about online access will be announced in due course.

Everybody is welcome!