

– Institute’s Colloquium –



**The Institute of Ethnology
of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
is glad to welcome**

Saiba Varma (University of California, San Diego)

Wednesday, February 2nd 2022, 4-6 p.m.

The Anthropologist as (Im)Moral Subject? Research Ethics and the Afterlife of The Occupied Clinic

This talk explores ethical questions and dilemmas that arose in the aftermath of the publication of my book, *The Occupied Clinic: Militarism and Care in Kashmir* (Duke, 2020). A social media controversy raised questions about my research ethics based on a single aspect of my positionality—the relationship between my research in Kashmir, a region heavily militarized by India, and my father’s former work in India’s intelligence services. In this talk, I show how fantasies of “full” disclosure/transparency and ethical purity were demanded by social media publics. Instead, I offer an ethnographic account of how we can make space for the complex personhood and ambiguity of lived experience—both our interlocutors’ and our own.

The Institute’s Colloquium will take place digitally and the required information will be announced.

Everybody is welcome!