

– 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. Scott M. Youngstedt (Saginaw Valley State University)**

**Wednesday, June 9th 2021, 4-6 p.m.**

Traditional Healing in Niamey, Niger

In this presentation, I explore traditional healing in the context of medical pluralism that includes biomedicine and Islamic medicine in Niamey, Niger. My examination of the careers of traditional healers who use and sell plant medicines addresses a central paradox: There is high—perhaps rising—demand for traditional medicine, while simultaneously no other occupation in Niamey is stigmatized as charlatanry to the degree that traditional healing is stigmatized. I analyze the strategies that traditional healers deploy to generate trust in their integrity and knowledge, and the efficacy of their medicines. In addition, I offer a demographic profile of traditional healers, discuss the ways that they learn their craft, and consider the types of health problems that they diagnose as well as the types of medicines that they recommend and sell. Throughout the analysis, I also consider choices made by clients in their quests for health. I draw from five months of ethnographic research conducted in 2017, 2018, and 2019. This includes structured interviews with 42 traditional healers in ten neighborhoods of Niamey and a long interview with the Board of Directors of l’Association des Tradi-Praticiens du Niger (ATPN).

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

**Everybody is welcome!**