



WESTFÄLISCHE
WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT
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Geschäftsführender Direktor

– VORTRÄGE AUSWÄRTIGER GELEHRTER –

Auf Einladung des Instituts für Ethnologie
der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität

spricht

Sanderien Verstappen
(Ph.D. candidate at the Amsterdam Institute of Social
Science Research, University of Amsterdam)

am Mittwoch, den 11.12.2013, um 16:00 Uhr

zum Thema

Making a safe place
Transnationalism of Charotar Sunni Vohra Muslims
in central Gujarat (India) and the United Kingdom

am

Institut für Ethnologie
Stadtstraße 21, 48149 Münster
Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Zu diesem Vortrag sind alle Interessierten herzlich eingeladen.

Die Rektorin
der Universität
Prof. Dr. U. Nelles

Der Dekan
des Fachbereichs
Prof. Dr. J. Heidrich

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Making a safe place

Transnationalism of Charotar Sunni Vohra Muslims in central Gujarat (India) and the United Kingdom

Sanderien Verstappen

Ph.D. candidate at the Amsterdam Institute of Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam

Middle class Vohra Muslims in the region of Charotar in central Gujarat feel at home in a region where the majority of the people classifies them as not belonging. When they settle abroad, how do they develop feelings of transnational belonging towards this 'home region', and what kind of individual and collective engagements do they develop to transform it? To understand these processes, it is necessary to understand constraints and opportunities in both the 'migrant-receiving' and the 'migrant-sending' society. The migrant-receiving context shapes migrants' formation of identity and (political) mobilisation to a large extent, but the migrant-sending region also presents particular constraints and possibilities for transnational engagement. This last point is particular relevant if migrants are derived from religious minorities in their home region.

This research project takes up the intellectual challenge to look at the world through a 'transnational lens' by analysing transnational lives from a multi-sited perspective, both in the migrant-sending and in the migrant-receiving society. It takes a multi-scalar approach, scaling transnational studies 'down' to the regional and local level, and scaling regional studies 'up' to the global. The project more specifically contributes to discussions on the relation between transnationalism and processes of transformation in migrant-sending regions. It makes a contribution to this literature by looking closely at the link between geographic mobility and class mobility, in a community that has been subject to socio-cultural and political marginalisation in spite of its economic positioning within a relatively wealthy provincial middle class.