– Institute's Colloquium –

Prof. Dr. Ursula Rao
Universität Leipzig

The Truth of the Error: Making Identity and Security through Biometric Discrimination in India

Since the joint publications of Richard Schechner and Victor Turner, social anthropology has exerted a strong influence This presentation looks at the acts of biometric registration and verification and unpacks the multiple ways in which the body and the appearance of the individual are being regarded, problematized, and questioned during the practices of enrolling India's residents into the Unique Identification project (aadhaar). These practices of trying to fix identity (biometrically) generate a maze of visual, social, and technical information that may not cumulate in a coherent conclusion. Rather than achieving a clear distinction between truth and error, biometric governance makes visible normalized bodies and creates a shadow population of unbiometrifiable persons, thereby significantly impacting individuals' social positions and range of possible identities.

Wednesday, June 6th 2018
6-8 p.m.
Institute of Ethnology
Studtstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Everybody is welcome!