



– Institute's Colloquium –

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Yogyakarta Street Careers – Feelings of Belonging and Dealing with Sticky Stigma

This presentation focusses on a community of street-related children, adolescents and young adults, who broke away from their families and started embracing life on the streets of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Being unprotected and homeless gave rise to spatial, social and emotional vulnerabilities and negative attributes that strongly affected newcomer children and adolescents. After being mocked and exposed to affective and physical violence during community initiation, their integration into the street-related community shifted their experiences of belonging in terms of uplifted self-esteem and wellbeing. Since emotions play a vital role in transforming the experience of a stigmatized identity, this article illustrates that identity and stigma attunement entails 'emotional promises' of stress relief and 'emotional rewards' by blending in to prevailing community ethos. The case study of a (now) young man's street-related career reveals that affective bonds and community solidarity, but also structural vulnerabilities, stigmatization and afflictions can stick even after 'exiting' the streets despite creative ways of coping and attuning to new (off-street) localities.

Tuesday, November 7th 2017
4-6 p.m.
Institute of Ethnology
Stuttstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Everybody is welcome!