



– Institute's Colloquium –

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Fish Trading in Batang: Some Observations

The paper presents some observations of fish trading in Batang, northern Java. It aims for a preliminary characterisation of the different groups of traders currently active at the Batang fish auction place and their interaction. Batang traders with different specialisations employ a shared vocabulary of scarcity, the price mechanism and market failure to formulate contrasting accounts of challenges and success, fair and unfair practices, pure and impure incomes. The paper suggests how histories of interpersonal relations in Batang can help us understand the contrasts. It aims to show how, in the almost daily interactions of the traders with each other and with fishers and buyers at the auction, a 'market' emerges whose dynamics differ significantly from those that the textbook economic vocabulary used by the traders appears to point to.

on Wednesday, 18th of June 2014

4-6 p.m.

Institute of Ethnology

Stuttstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Everybody is welcome!