Venue
Institute of Ethnology
Room 2.4
Studtstraße 21
48149 Münster

Organization
Prof. Dr. Helene Basu
Sub project Ao6 „Social Practices and Media Narratives of Matrimonial Decision-Making in India“

Collaborative Research Centre / SFB 1150 „Cultures of Decision-Making“
Bergstraße 29a
48143 Münster
Tel.: +49 251 83-28336
Fax: +49 251-83-28329
www.uni-muenster.de/sfb1150

Contact
Prof. Dr. Helene Basu
Institute of Ethnology
Tel.: +49 251 83-27311
hbasu_01@uni-muenster.de

Marriage, Law & the State in India
Workshop | 20th July 2016
The workshop will focus on the lived practices of marriage as situations of decision-making, and gathers experts in the area of gender, kinship, and legal anthropology. Prof. Sylvia Vatuk from the University of Illinois at Chicago has engaged in a study of changing kinship, family law and its impact on marriages. Dr. Henrike Donner from the Goldsmiths University of London is an urban anthropologist who explores the interplay of gender, kinship, reproduction of class and consumption.

As the central means to find a suitable spouse, arranged marriages among Indians are still popular social experiences that involve complex processes negotiated among multiple actors. Decision-making is not reduced to individual intentions, but understood as a social practice. By casting light on the cultural contexts of thought, reason, emotion and action, our discussions seek to locate what is ‘valuable’, ‘necessary’ and ‘lawful’ and how it is mobilized in the matrimonial decision-making process. We also explore how media narratives shape and frame matrimonial choices in a culturally-diverse country such as India.

Besides exciting presentations and fruitful discussions, participants shall gain from the shared experiences and insights of these researchers. To put it simpler, the potentials of marriage-related decisions have been demonstrated, but it has yet to be realized and we would like to find out how.

**Programme**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00–09:30</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction of the workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.30–10:15</td>
<td>Marriage Laws and Matrimonial Decisions in Multi-Religious India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Sylvia Vatuk (Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.00–09:30</td>
<td>Presentation of the SFB 1150 and the sub project A06 Social Practices and Media Narratives of Matrimonial Decision-Making in India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof. Dr. Helene Basu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00–11:45</td>
<td>Responses Collective discussions related to the SFB “Cultures of Decision-making” &amp; Project A06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.15–10:45</td>
<td>Framing Matrimonial Decision-Making: Methodological queries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mrinal Pande</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45–11.00</td>
<td>Tea / Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00–11:45</td>
<td>Negotiating marriage between customary law, Islamic norms and ‘modernity’: an ethnographic example of a divorce case from Gilgit-Baltistan, Northern Pakistan Anna-Maria Walter (Researcher &amp; Doctoral candidate at Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45–12:30</td>
<td>Beyond Forever After: Contextualising Marital Decisions in Kolkata Middle-class Families Dr. Henrike Donner (Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30–14.00</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.00–14:45</td>
<td>Concluding discussion &amp; further perspectives on research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wednesday, 20th July 2016**

10.15–10:45 Framing Matrimonial Decision-Making: Methodological queries

Mrinal Pande

10.45–11.00 Tea / Coffee Break

11.00–11:45 Responses Collective discussions related to the SFB “Cultures of Decision-making” & Project A06

11.45–12:30 Negotiating marriage between customary law, Islamic norms and ‘modernity’: an ethnographic example of a divorce case from Gilgit-Baltistan, Northern Pakistan

Anna-Maria Walter (Researcher & Doctoral candidate at Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich)

12.30–14.00 Lunch Break

14.00–14:45 Beyond Forever After: Contextualising Marital Decisions in Kolkata Middle-class Families

Dr. Henrike Donner (Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Goldsmiths, University of London)

14.45–15.30 Concluding discussion & further perspectives on research