

Contact data and personal information

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 Place of birth: London, U.K.
 Nationality: German

Education

April 2008- PhD candidate, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main
 Provisional title: "Economic Counter-Discourses in Post-Colonial Social and Political Movements: A Look at Normative Transformations and the Formation of Post-colonial Subjectivities in Early 20th Century India"

2000-2006 Magister Artium / MA(with distinction), Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main
 Major: Cultural Anthropology
 Minor: Near Eastern Studies (*Orientalistik*)
 Member of the German National Merit Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
 Intensive language study: Persian (2003 & 2007; 4 months each); Arabic (2003 & 2004)
 Thesis title: "A Matter of Principle: Economy in the Making and Re-making of Modern Society"

1992-1996 Bachelor of Arts, Princeton University, New Jersey (USA)
 Major: Politics (with a certificate in the Political Economy Programme)
 Minor: Economics
 Thesis title: "Between the Idea and the Reality: Neo-liberalism and Instability in Nigerian Development"

Academic employment

June 2011-Present Research and Teaching Assistant, Research Group "Contemporary Discourses on State and Society in the Islamic World" (Principle Investigator, Prof. Susanne Schröter), *Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders"* and the *Department of Cultural Anthropology (Institut für Ethnologie)*, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main

- Organised the international workshop "Islam, Gender, Gesellschaftliche Transformationen: Geschlechtergerechtigkeit durch Demokratisierungen?" [Islam, Gender, Social Transformation: Gender Justice through Democratisation?], 2-3 December 2011, Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Bad Homburg v.d.H.
- Conceptualisation of new third-party funded projects to be carried out by the research group
- Assisted in the preparations for international university partnerships (so far mostly in the preparation of informational and public relations material for the department to be presented to the new partner institution and in the reception of delegates from the respective universities)
- Drew up and finalised the new BA curriculum in cultural anthropology and saw it through the evaluation and accreditation process
- Drew up and finalised the new MA curriculum in cultural anthropology, and currently making preparations for its evaluation and accreditation
- Translated the updated content for the Department of Cultural Anthropology's English-language homepage

- Departmental tasks as needed (teaching, advising students, co-writing/editing/translating grant proposals and book proposals, research tasks for the chair)
- May 2008-May 2011 Researcher, Research Area II “The Historicity of Normative Orders”, *Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”*, the *Department of Cultural Anthropology (Institut für Ethnologie)*, and the *Frobenius Institute*, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main
- Project title: Economic counter-discourses in post-colonial social and political movements
Project supervisor: Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Kohl, Department of Cultural Anthropology
- Conducted independent research on the emergence of economic counter-discourses critical of the British colonial administration and Western modernity in general, focussing in particular on the crystallisation of particular views of culture and religion in the articulation of explicitly post-colonial socio-political imaginaries
 - Acted as speaker of the interdisciplinary group of junior researchers in Research Area II from May 2008 until September 2010
 - Represented the interests and concerns of researchers in Research Area II on the Cluster of Excellence’s young researchers’ council (Mitarbeiterrat)
 - Led research group meetings and communicated results to the research area coordinator
 - Facilitated communication between individual dissertation and post-doctoral projects of Research Area II
 - Conceptualised and organised the interdisciplinary workshop “Normative Orders Between Universality and Particularity” at which young researchers from the disciplines of history, philosophy and cultural anthropology presented initial research results
 - Worked with junior researchers of Research Area II to further develop workshop themes into a coherent book proposal for a collected volume
 - Took on departmental tasks as needed (e.g. assisted in the drawing up of new BA and MA departmental curricula, translated department website into English, etc.)
- Oct. 2007-Apr. 2008 Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin (research and teaching assistant), *Department of Cultural Anthropology (Institut für Ethnologie)*, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main
- Supported the teaching and research activities of the department chair
 - Assisted in conceptualising course syllabi and finding course materials
 - Worked with department chair as his teaching assistant, and provided guidance and support to students preparing presentations and conceptualising papers
 - Supervised exam sessions and assisted in grading coursework
 - Provided intermittent research support as needed
 - Drafted and collated book proposals
 - Organised and supervised extramural student study trip to ethnographic museums in Belgium, the Netherlands and France
 - Acted as coordinator of the modularised Magister Artium curriculum
 - Advised new students and students entering the advanced stage of their studies
 - Served as ‘second examiner’ (Prüfungsbeisitzerin) during department oral MA exams

Additional university employment

- 2001-2010 Translator of scholarly texts from German into English (journal articles, volume contributions, conference talks, grant proposals, project reports, etc.)
- 2003 Helped organise the international conference “Perspectives of Power: Christianity in Indonesia”, convened by Susanne Schröter, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt
- Summer term 2002 Teaching assistant, Department of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology; coordinated and supervised a field research practical course in urban anthropology (course taught by Gisela Welz, Professor of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology)

- 2001-2002 Student research assistant, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt
- 2001 Helped organise the international conference “Land Rights and the Politics of Belonging in West Africa” (convened by Carola Lentz, Professor Department of Cultural Anthropology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt) and translated/copyedited the resulting collected volume contributions

Languages: English, German, Persian/Farsi, French, Arabic (modern and classical, Egyptian colloquial), Spanish

Research Foci: Colonial India, 18th/19th century Britain, British empire, contemporary Iran; multiple modernities, anthropology of capitalism/(neo-)liberalism & economic discourse, constructions of culture & religion in post-colonial socio-political movements, imagination & socio-political transformation, aesthetics & politics, history of anthropology & anthropological theory, historical anthropology

Courses Taught

Career Perspectives for Cultural Anthropology Graduates, Department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Frankfurt/Main, summer term 2013

Introduction to Research Methods, Department of Cultural Anthropology, University of Frankfurt/Main, summer term 2011

Religion and Politics in Historical Perspective: The Twelver-Shia Past and Present, Department of Religion, University of Münster, winter term 2011-2012

Articles / Edited Volume Contributions

Rieck, Katja (forthcoming): “Religionsästhetik, Imagination und die Politisierung des Fortschritts in Indien, 1870-1920“, [Engl: Politicizing Progress: religious aesthetics, the imagination and the quest for Indian sovereignty, 1870-1920], in: Lucia Traut and Annette Wilke (eds.): *Imagination im Kontext der Religionsästhetik*. Critical Studies in Religion/Religionswissenschaft (CSSRW). Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Papers presented

“History, genuine or spurious? History and anthropology after the Crisis of Representation”, paper presented at the biennial conference of the German Anthropological Association as a contribution to the workshop “Ethnology, Social Anthropology, History”, Vienna. 13-17 September 2011.

“Was Evans-Pritchard wrong? Reflections of an anthropologist among political philosophers”, paper presented at the Department of Anthropology Research Colloquium, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main, 15 May 2011.

“The particularisation of political economy in colonial India: from the critique of British ‘moral and material improvement’ to the formation of a post-colonial normative order”, given as part of the interdisciplinary workshop “Normative Orders Between Particularity and Universality”, Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 19 July 2010.

“Appropriating colonial narratives of justification? Nationalist imaginings of a post-colonial India”, held at the Department of Anthropology research colloquium, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 8 November 2009.

“Appropriating progress? Radhakamal Mukerjee’s vision of post-colonial India as village-writ-large”, held at the biennial conference of the German Anthropological Association as a contribution to the workshop “Local Modernities? Articulating transnational ideas in South Asia”. 30 September 2009.

Workshops / panels convened

Workshop (co-convenor: Dr. Patrick Desplat, University of Cologne): “Is Islam the Solution? Uncertainty and Disquiet in the Everyday Lives of Muslims”, European Association of Social Anthropologists Conference “Uncertainty and Disquiet” / Incertitude et Inquiétude”, Paris, 10-13 July 2012.

Workshop (co-convenor: Dominik Müller, Goethe-University/Frankfurt): “Negotiating Islam: Between Culture and Religion, held at the bi-annual German Anthropological Association Conference “Wa(h)re Kultur? Kulturelles Erbe, Revitalisierung und die Renaissance der Idee von Kultur”, Vienna, 14-17 September 2011.

Panel (convenor/chair): “Culture against Capitalism: Post-colonial Emancipations and the Ambivalences of the Market“, held at the international graduate conference of the Frankfurt Research Center on Post-colonial Studies “Colonial Legacies, Post-colonial Contestations: Decolonizing the Social Sciences and Humanities”, Frankfurt/Main. 16-18 June 2011.

Organisation of the interdisciplinary Workshop “Normative Ordnungen in der Spannung zwischen Partikularität und Universalität” [Normative Orders between Particularity and Universality], sponsored by the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 10 July 2010.

Workshop (co-convenor: Sebastian Schüler, University of Münster): “Imagining Disorder, Engendering Change”, held at the bi-annual conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) “Crisis and Imagination”, Maynooth (Ireland). 26 August 2010.

Workshop (convenor/chair): “Universal Claims – Particular Justifications”, held at the annual international graduate conference “Norms in Conflict” of the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 4 December 2010.

Workshop (discussant): “The Foundation of Norms through Conflict”, held at the annual international graduate conference “Norms in Conflict” of the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 4 December 2010

Workshop (co-convenor: Dominik Müller, Goethe-University/Frankfurt): “Engaging Social Change: Imagination and Appropriation in a Glocalised World”, held at the bi-annual conference of the German Anthropological Association “Anpassung – Anverwandlung – Camouflage“, Frankfurt/Main. 2 October 2009.

Conferences attended

“Critique or Islamophobia? Critical Engagements with Islam in Comparative Context”, workshop hosted by the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders, University of Frankfurt, 7 June 2013.

“Uncertainty and Disquiet” / Incertitude et Inquiétude”, biennial conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Paris, 10-13 July 2012.

“Imagination – Ästhetik – Religion” [Imagination – Aesthetics – Religion], workshop hosted by the Working Group Religious Aesthetics, German Association of Religious Studies (Arbeitskreis Religionsästhetik der Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft), University of Münster, 17-19 May 2012.

“Islam Gender Gesellschaftliche Transformationen: Gendergerechtigkeit durch Demokratisierungen?” [Islam, Gender, Social Transformation: Gender Justice through Democratisation?], Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften, Bad Homburg v.d.H., 2-3 December 2011.

“Wa(h)re Kultur”, biennial conference of the German Anthropological Association, Vienna. 14-17 September 2011.

„Imagination als Critical Term in den Religionswissenschaften” [Imagination as Critical Term in the Study of Religion], conference hosted by the Working Group Religious Aesthetics, German Association of Religious Studies

(Arbeitskreis Religionsästhetik der Deutschen Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft), University of Münster, 17-19 June 2011.

“Norms in Conflict”, 2nd annual international graduate conference of the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”. Frankfurt/Main, 3-5 December 2010.

“Justice and/or Peace”, 3rd annual international conference of the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Frankfurt/Main, 18-20 November 2010.

“Crisis and Imagination”, biennial conference of the European Association of Social Anthropologists, Maynooth (Ireland). 24-27 August 2010.

“Normative Orders between Particularity and Universality”, workshop organised by Research Area II “The Historicity of Normative Orders, Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 10-20 July 2010.

“The Formation of Normative Orders in the Islamic World”, conference organised by the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 7-9 May 2010.

“Anpassung-Anverwandlung-Camouflage” [Adaptation-Appropriation-Camouflage], biennial conference of the German Anthropological Association, Frankfurt am Main. 30 September – 3 October 2009.

“Narratives of Justification—Legitimation and Narrative Understanding”, 2nd annual international conference, Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders, Frankfurt am Main. 13-14 November 2009.

“The Formation of Normative Orders”, 1st international conference, Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders, Frankfurt am Main. 14-15 November 2008.

“70 Years of Iranian Anthropology”, Iranian Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, Kerman (Iran). 3-8 March 2007.

“Anthropological Perspectives on Iran: The Millennium and Beyond”, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University/Frankfurt. 30 September-2 October 2004.

Memberships / affiliations

European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde* (DGV) [German Anthropological Association], Frankfurt Research Center for Post-colonial Studies (FRCPS)