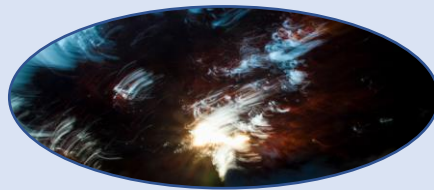




South Asia Forum

Lecture Series Spring Semester 2022

Everyone is cordially
invited to participate!



ISEK University of Zurich
Andreasstrasse 15

8th March 2022, 4.15-6 pm

Kumud Rana (University of Zurich)

Re-thinking transnational queer and feminist solidarities: Gendered inequalities in the LGBTI+ movement in Nepal

ISEK, Andreasstrasse 15, Room 4.06 and Online
(contact lindsay.vogt@uzh.ch for link)

Abstract: Feminist critiques of NGO-isation as depoliticisation and neo-liberal co-optation of feminist activism have evolved since the 1990s to acknowledge that the 'NGO form' has also been a crucial site of feminist interventions in the global South. This is true for places with limited resources for social justice movements, where available resources are allocated to NGOs through development aid. My paper critically analyses the basis on which trans/national feminist and queer solidarities have been extended to emerging social justice movements by taking a case study of three lesbian NGOs in the LGBTI+ movement in Nepal. I map the national and international networks of these NGOs to juxtapose this onto the resources available to each. I argue that differential access of organisations to resources are governed by organisational identities and the exclusive nature of transnational feminist and queer solidarity networks, emphasising the need to re-think and re-imagine transnational feminist and queer solidarities in contexts where such solidarities might collude with neo-imperial projects of development.

9th March 2022, 4.15-6 pm

Surinder S. Jodhka (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

Neo-liberal Democracies and Rural Futures: Making Sense of the Farmers' Movements in India 2020-21

Online only (contact lindsay.vogt@uzh.ch for link)

Abstract: In June 2020, the government of India enacted three new laws that were designed to open the farming sector to increased commercial engagement. Though not stated explicitly, this also implied a doing away with state support to agriculture and the existing regime of support price for food grains. The new legislation was intended to fundamentally reorient the regulatory framework of Indian agriculture. However, this was done without any consultations with Indian farmers or their unions. Almost unanimously, farm leaders rejected the new laws and saw in them an attempt by corporate interests to take away their lands and make their livelihoods even more precarious. Beginning with localised protests in Punjab, their movement went through several phases, including a year-long sit-in on the borders of the national capital, Delhi. The laws were finally withdrawn in November 2021. Focusing on Punjab and Punjabi farmers, I provide an understanding of this surprisingly massive response to the new laws. I underline the need for a context specific historical and sociological understanding of agrarian cultures rather than a pre-scripted teleology that takes the end of agriculture and rural lives for granted.