

Tibet Kolloquium

Modern Education and a Literary Tradition:

A Comparative View on the Development of Modern Uyghur and Tibetan Literature

Dr. Michal Zelcer-Lavid



In 1949, illiteracy among both the Uyghurs and Tibetans was similar to that throughout China, and stood at 90%. Since then the rate of illiteracy in Xinjiang has shrunk considerably (4.4% in 2015), while in Tibet it has remained the highest in China (37.3% in 2015). These figures can explain the difference between the small volume of books and journals published annually in Tibet and the extensive literature that appears yearly in Xinjiang. A major reason for the high literacy rate and the emergence of thriving modern literature in Xinjiang is the system of modern education that developed in the region in the late 19th century. In contrast, in Tibet the religious conservatism of the Buddhist elite prevented the introduction of modern education, while religious education was reserved mainly for monks. By comparing the influences of modern education on the creation of literary traditions I examine the continuity of Uyghur and Tibetan cultures in the context of contemporary China.

Dr. Zelcer-Lavid is a postdoc researcher at the Central Asian Seminar of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Sep. 2016-Sep. 2017). She is a lecturer at the Multidisciplinary B.A. Program (Liberal Arts) in Bar-Ilan University and Sapir Academic College in Israel. Her research focuses on nationalism and ethnic identity in Tibetan and Uyghur literature in China.

Dienstag, 27. Juni 2017

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, **Raum 507**