

Tibet Kolloquium

Navigating Lhasa's Beautyscape:

Gender, Aspiration and Social Distinction in Young Professional Tibetan Women's Everyday Aesthetic Self-Making Practices



Drawing on seven months of anthropological fieldwork in 2014-15, this talk examines practices *of* and aspirations *for* aesthetic self-making as they are embedded into the everyday lives of young professional Tibetan women in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region in China. Starting from the observation that Lhasa has seen an unprecedented growth of the beauty service sector since the early 2000s, Anne Kukuczka's research on young professional Tibetan women's aesthetic self-making practices aims to tackle the question of how broader socioeconomic transformation processes (re)shape urban residents' everyday lives and experiences from an intimate and actor-centered perspective. She will discuss the protagonists' meaningful choices and interpretations of new body and beauty practices in their entanglement with negotiations over social distinction, gender, and morality. The question of how to be(come) a modern Tibetan women in contemporary Lhasa, Anne Kukuczka argues, is a deeply embodied one as women navigate manifold options of how to engage in creating beautiful gendered bodies in a growing urban beautyscape.

Anne Kukuczka is currently finishing her Master degree in Social- and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research interests include the anthropology of gender and body, urban anthropology and processes of globalization.

Dienstag, 18. Juli 2017

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, **Raum 507**