

in die Praxis umzusetzen. Besonders am Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften ist es essenziell, Kolonialgeschichte und Machtdiskurse intersektional kritisch zu beleuchten.

Als Arbeiterkind und Kind geflüchteter Eltern war die Universität für mich zunächst ein sehr hierarchisch akademisch geprägter und weißer Ort, an dem ich als migrantisiertes und rassifiziertes Arbeiterkind vor unterschiedliche Herausforderungen gestellt wurde und weiterhin bin. Der GAMS Bereich sowie RePLITO streben an, Machthierarchien aufzubrechen und das akademische Zusammenarbeiten zwischen Studierenden, Professor:innen, Promovierenden und wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter:innen zu fördern. Dabei werden unterschiedliche Arten von Diskriminierung und Rassismus in keiner Form geduldet.

Ich bin sehr motiviert, weiter mit Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider an meiner Promotionsforschung zusammen zu arbeiten. Durch die Nichtverlängerung ihres Vertrags und dadurch drohende Auflösung des GAMS-Bereichs ist dies allerdings nicht möglich. Das Ende des intersektional-feministischen GAMS-Bereichs und der Weggang einer so wertvollen kritischen Professorin am IAAW wie Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider, die sich stets für ihre Studierenden interessiert und einsetzt, wären somit auch ein großer persönlicher Verlust für mich.



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#### CHANDRIKA YOGARAJAH

is an independent documentary filmmaker and researcher. She holds an MA in Modern South and Southeast Asian Studies from HU and is currently preparing her PhD research. In her work, Chandrika focuses on the Sri Lankan Tamil or Eelam Tamil diaspora and on Queer Tamil history and visual cultures. During the next three months, she will conduct an explorative study on the Queer Tamil diaspora in Berlin for the RePLITO project.

*» GAMS made me feel that academia can be a space where innovative ideas about social justice can actually develop and thrive, rather than an ivory tower or echo chamber. It is why I wanted to do research in the first place; to contribute to societal debates about pressing problems in an informed and critical way. «*

As former Ph.D. student at the GAMS department (I defended in July 2022), I have benefited immensely from the amazing group of people it houses under the leadership of Nadja-Christina Schneider. Words such as diversity and interdisciplinarity, which in our current academic climate are sometimes wielded a little too eagerly, have acquired true meaning for me during my time at the GAMS department.

As an anthropologist working on gender and sexuality in Indonesia, I have benefited immensely from the exchange with colleagues who not only differed in terms of their disciplinary angles – from media studies and history to film studies and global studies – but also in their geographical region. The many workshops, colloquiums, and collective publications I have participated in with the GAMS team have provided me with constant opportunities for learning and critical reflection on my own work.

Perhaps equally importantly, throughout the Ph.D. process, the supportive and collegial atmosphere of the department made me feel that academia can be a safe and friendly space as well as a space where innovative ideas about social justice can actually develop and thrive, rather than an ivory tower or echo chamber. This element has helped me to remember why I actually wanted to do research in the first place – to contribute to societal debates about pressing problems in an informed and critical way – an attitude I have carried with me into my new post doc position at the visual and media anthropology department at the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies. The focus on interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, and global connectedness of the GAMS department and its insistence that because no cultural phenomenon can be studied in isolation, no scholar can do their work in isolation, have been formative to my approach to academic scholarship.

It is because of this that the prospect of Prof. Schneider's position being discontinued and the concomitant closure of the GAMS department has come as an immense shock and disappointment. The departure of Prof. Schneider would mean the loss of not only an innovative, engaged, and passionate scholar, but also a dedicated, supportive, and inspiring supervisor and teacher.

The GAMS department and all its unique qualities are, in my opinion and that of many others, a direct reflection of Prof. Schneider's scholarly and personal contributions and efforts during her time at the IAAW. I firmly believe retaining her position as head of the department would be an irreplaceable contribution to the future of the IAAW as a progressive, interdisciplinary, and relevant scholarly institution.



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