

## Quarterly Newsletter #2, June 2022

#### Welcome to the second issue of our quarterly newsletter!

Our newsletter provides you with an overview of our latest research activities and publications.

We are particularly happy to present a freshly released booklet authored by Sina Carina Rauch: **Imagine Living Together in a Climate Just World** introduces perspectives on climate change and climate (in)justice from most affected regions and people. The booklet is structured in five parts and merges perspectives from partners and contacts from three continents of a Berlinbased organization that is working for more world-wide solidarity with actors for social and ecological change and with approaches that contest structures of marginalization in climate debates and movements.

In this issue, you will also find an excerpt from a longer think piece on the crackdown against the **Pamiri minority in Tajikistan**. Through the hyperlink, you can go directly to the full version of this article published in RePLITO's digital knowledge archive.

**RePLITO's digital knowledge archive** has three different sections:



#### **Concepts and Repertoires**

explores conceptualizations, definitions, interpretations and global repertoires of living together



#### **Conversations**

are dialogues about global repertoires of living together



#### **Publications**

presents articles, reports, journals and books emerging from our research on global repertoires of living together

We hope you will enjoy reading & browsing through this issue.

## When the Government doesn't want to live together: Current Repression of Tajikistan's Pamiri Minority

On Monday 16 May 2022, a demonstration began in Khorog, the small administrative capital city of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) in Tajikistan. The peaceful demonstration was in answer to several months of frustration with the Tajikistani Government following the murder by security forces of Gulbiddin Ziyobekov, a young unarmed Pamiri man from Roshtkala District in GBAO. The murder, which took place on 25 November 2021, sparked a peaceful demonstration in Khorog calling for an investigation. The internet was cut-off and security forces opened fire on the demonstrators, killing two and injuring 17 (OHCHR April 2022). The demonstration eventually ended three days later on the condition that 1) a transparent investigation into Ziyobekov's death be conducted, 2) demonstrators would not be prosecuted, 3) military checkpoints in GBAO be lifted, and 4) the internet be restored (Pamir Daily News May 2022).

Since the end of November, the Tajikistani Government has not attempted to maintain its side of the agreement. The investigation has often been stalled by the State Prosecutor's Office, several demonstrators and Pamiri activists have since been detained and sentenced to up to 18 years in prison, in the case of youth leader Amriddin Alovatshoyev (Eurasianet 18 May 2022), Special Forces Officers sit at checkpoints right in the middle of the city with Kalashnikovs and balaclavas, and the internet was only restored after five months in March 2022. In reaction to this, a group of around one thousand young people from Bar-Khorog Microdistrict in Khorog threatened to hold another demonstration if the Governor of GBAO, Alisher Mirzonabot, and the Mayor of Khorog, Rizo Nazarzoda, did not resign by Monday 16 May. The deadline came with no resignations and thus the demonstration began (Pamir Daily News May 2022).

Once again, security forces opened fire on the demonstrators, this time with rubber bullets instead of live ammunition, killing one young man (Eurasianet 18 May 2022). A military convoy was then mobilised and was headed for Khorog but residents of Vomar in Rushan District blocked the road when it reached there on the morning of Wednesday 18 May. Security forces fired at the residents, and unconfirmed social media reports state that mortar canons were used on the residents, who defended themselves with knives and axes. The number of the dead remains unclear but estimates lie in the dozens, and sweeping house-to-house arrests followed (Fergana News May 2022).

Moving further into Khorog, security forces demanded the leader of the demonstrations, ex-military commander and popular community leader Mamadbokir Mamadbokirov, be handed over to them or else they would take him by force. On Thursday 19 May, Aga Khan IV sent a Talika, a letter of great religious meaning, to his followers in GBAO. The Aga Khan urged his followers to not use violence to solve their problems and instead focus on communication and understanding (the Ismaili May 2022). Without hesitation, local religious leaders met with the demonstrators and it was agreed that the demonstration would end to prevent further bloodshed.

The situation appeared to have de-escalated, until the morning of Sunday 22 May when Mamadbokirov was shot and killed by sniper fire (Eurasianet 22 May 2022). The funeral, which took place on Monday 23 May, attracted a large turn-out but most were prevented from attending by military checkpoints between the various neighbourhoods of the city.

According to the Tajikistani Government, the events in GBAO are part of an ongoing "anti-terror operation" in order to "secure the safety of citizens and public order" (MIA May 2022). In this article, it will be argued that the Tajikistani Government frames Pamiris as "terrorists" to defame activists and discredit their calls for basic human rights. By examining the State's official narrative on these events in GBAO, it will be argued that existing fears of Islamic extremism and terrorism, connected to the memory of the Civil War, are instrumentalised in an attempt to justify the use of violence, arbitrary arrests, and censorship, all aimed at eradicating any critical voices and political opposition.

The author of this article has security concerns and therefore prefers to remain anonymous.

Read the full article **here** 

#### **URBAN DWELLINGS:**

## Establishment of a new interdisciplinary working group

**URBAN DWELLINGS** is a Berlin based working group which emerged through various collaborations in the framework of the BUA-funded joint research project "Beyond Social Cohesion - Global Repertoires of Living Together (RePLITO)" and RePLITO's cooperation with Off-University. Off-University has its base in Germany and was established for as well as by scholars from Turkey yet addresses itself to threatened academics all over the world.

The working group **URBAN DWELLINGS** brings together researchers of all levels, from different disciplinary as well as personal backgrounds. It allows them to share their theoretical and methodological approaches to the interrelated questions of housing, dwelling, and living (well) together in plural and highly unequal societies. Moreover, it provides a space for them where they can present and discuss their new research as well as publication projects.

In the summer term of 2023, **URBAN DWELLINGS** is going to host its first lecture & conversation series. The series seeks to bring together practitioners, filmmakers and scholars working on questions of affordable housing in times of market-driven construction and lack of building land; architecture and infrastructure that enables humans (and potentially other species too) to live 'well' together - in cities, peri-urban or in rural regions.

Members of the Working Group Urban Dwellings are:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuba İnal-Çekiç (HU Berlin & Off-University)

Dr. Arshi Javaid (FU Berlin & RePLITO)

Dr. İclal Ayşe Küçükkırca (HU Berlin & Off-University)

Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider (HU Berlin & RePLITO)

Anna Schnieder-Krüger (PhD candidate) (HU Berlin)

Dr. Julia Strutz (HU Berlin, RePLITO & Off-University)

Nadja-Christina Schneider











# Concepts and Repertoires of Living Together: Overview of entries

(published between April - June 2022)

## Queering Religion

- Wikke Jansen

When considering marginalized repertoires of living together, the question of queer lives in the context of mainstream religion is particularly illuminating. There has been increased critical attention to the academic tendency to treat religion and religious studies as antagonistic or irrelevant to (the study of) non-normative sexuality and gender. This article offers a brief overview of global contestations to this perceived dichotomy. It offers an introduction to Christian and Muslim contributions to the effort of "queering religion," or the effort to push back, in different ways, against the idea that queerness and religion are intrinsically opposed. (...)

## Vinorities

#### - Schirin Amir-Moazami

The term minority can refer to fractions or groups that construct themselves or are constructed by others as racially, ethnically, religiously, sexually or politically different from a numerically larger group. It can also refer to a state of being minor in the sense of being inferior. Often, the numeric and social dimensions converge. However, ample examples in history and in the present show that minority is not simply a numeric category, if we think for example of the fact that women have frequently been framed as a minority. Moreover smaller groups can dominate and oppress numerically larger ones. Obvious examples are settler colonialism, Apartheid or prevalent privileges of white Americans in neighborhoods with higher percentages of African-American, Native Americans, or Hispanic populations. (...)

## New Wave and Dwelling in New Spaces

- Tuba İnal-Çekiç

"New wave" is the concept to refer to the last wave of migration from Turkey to Germany. Among other European countries, Germany has always been unique due to the earlier bilateral labor recruitment agreement between West Germany and Turkey, which was signed in 1961. Since this first wave of migration, the number of Turkish nationals grew from a few thousand to around 2.75 million people with migration links to Turkey living in Germany by 2020 (Federal Statistical Office undefined). In the light of recent events in Turkey, it is extremely difficult to ignore the brain drain from Turkey to Germany, which is the so-called "new wave" leading us to a renewed interest in the research field. This text aims to explore new wave migrants' repertoires of living and resisting together after a short description of the "new wave" concept. The repertoires are collected from two focus group meetings and six interviews. (...)

#### **Overview of Conversations**

(released between April - June 2022)

#### **Living Together Multilingually**

International Mother Language 2021 at IAAW

organized by Nadja-Christina Schneider

International Mother Language Day was established by UNESCO in 1999 to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education. LIVING TOGETHER IN MULTILINGUAL SOCIETIES was the theme of this year's program at Humboldt-Universität's Institute for Asian and African Studies (IAAW). Authoritarian nationalism and language politics, linguistic diversity & social cohesion, as well as the role of poetry and literature in protest movements, were three focal points of the event. International guests included renowned violinist Iskandar Widjaja (Germany/Indonesia), writer Meena Kandasamy (India), and the activist and diplomat Ronny Kareni (New Guinea/Australia), among others.

**INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY** 

LIVING TOGETHER
IN MULTILINGUAL
SOCIETIES

Institute for Asian and African
Studies
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
February 21, 2022

Several recorded sessions are available on RePLITO's YouTube channel:

**Living Together in Multingual Societies: Welcome and Introduction (Nadja-Christina Schneider)** 

Live Performance of the Song "Indonesia Pusaka" by Star Violinist Iskandar Widjaja (with an introduction by Esie Hanstein)

Multilingual practices in a refugee camp (Lesbos, Greece) (Hadis Yakubi, Mehdi Darif & Nagehan Uskan)

**Queer languages/heteronormative oppressions - Notes from Indonesia (Wikke Jansen)** 

Expressing merdeka - talking language, identity and (artistic) activism in West Papua's liberation (Sydney Noemi Stein and guest Ronny Kareni)

Protest Lyric: Poetry and Music in the Context of Indian Protest Movements (Fritzi-Marie Titzmann, Monika Freier and students: Emily Engler, Devina Khurana, Peggy Maeyer, Ngoc Lin Mai & Lila Miran)

Multilingualism on the ground: A round trip through Botswana (Linda Gerlach & Christfried Naumann)

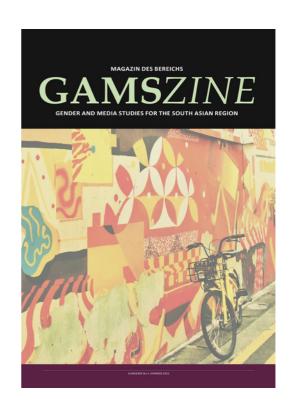
#### **Publications: Overview**

(published between April - June 2022)

#### GAMSzine No. 4, Summer 2022

#### **Living Together Multilingually**

GAMSzine (properly pronounced with a soft ; or ž) is the biannual magazine of the Department of Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region (GAMS) at IAAW, ed. by Nadja-Christina Schneider



Call Me in Your Language. An Escape From Living Apart Together by Reyazul Haque (pages 5-7)

The Symbolic Meaning of Cyrillic Mongolian and Classical Script by Ganchimeg Altangerel (pages 9-11)

When a Script Disappears by Nadja-Christina Schneider (pages 13-16)

*In Between Multilingual Complexity and Monolingual Unity in Botswana* by Linda Gerlach & Christfried Naumann (pages 17-19)

**Poetry and Music in the Context of Indian Protest Movements** by Fritzi-Marie Titzmann (pages 21-23)

**Expressing merdeka Through Music. Artistic Activism in West Papua** by Sydney Noemi Stein & Ronny Kareni (pages 25-28)

Queer Languages and Heteronormative Oppressions in Indonesia by Wikke Jansen (pages 29-31)

**Small Dictionary for Living Together in a Refugee Camp** by Hadis Yakubi & Nagehan Uskan (pages 33-35)

**A Moving Picture** by Salma Siddique (pages 41-43)

What Was Left Behind in the Mohalle by Arshi Javaid (pages 47-50)

**From Regional Scholar at Risk to Transregional Researcher. A Story of Homelessness and Homemaking** by iclal Ayşe Küçükkırca (pages 53-54)

On Cross-Identification in the Netflix Malayan Film Minnal Murali by Jenson Joseph (pages 59-60)

#### **Publications: Overview**

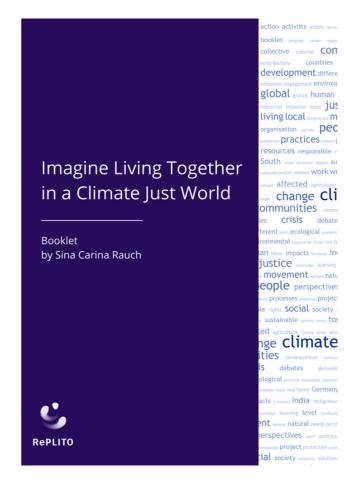
(published between April - June 2022)

#### Imagine Living Together in a Climate Just World

This booklet invites the reader to "Imagine Living Together in a Climate Just World" with perspectives on climate change and climate (in)justice from most affected areas and people and their allies. In a world wherein people are unequally affected by and responsible for multiple social and ecological crises, it merges

- perspectives from partners and contacts from three continents of a Berlin-based organization that is working for more world-wide solidarity with actors for social and ecological change;
- with perspectives from activists and initiatives in Germany that contest structures of marginalization in climate debates and movements.

In working out common concerns and suggestions of these protagonists for a more social and climate just world, the booklet offers starting points to engage in processes of conversations on why climate (in)justice matters to whom, and what we can do from our respective positions to move towards enacting a climate just world.



1- Introduction: Imagine Living Together in a Climate Just World 2 - Actors and Knowledge Holders for Change: Introducing the Protagonists of this Booklet 3 - What is Climate (In)justice? Global Climate Change Consequences from Different Local Perspectives 4 - Unsustainable Practices of Living Together as Global Climate Change Causes 5 - Sustainable Practices of Living Together for Moving towards Climate Justice

#### Liberal-secular power and the traps of muslim integration in Western Europe

Schirin Amir-Moazami (BJS - The British Journal of Sociology, 24 May 2022)

Throughout the last decades, integration programmes in Western Europe have centrally revolved around debates on Muslim populations and the institutionalization of Islam. The concept of integration has become a master paradigm with which to structure plurality of immigration societies across Western Europe. Critically reflecting this inflation, this article argues that the integration of Muslims is animated by a contingent liberal-secular matrix through which the sovereign state, in close connection with civil society, is enabled to decide what counts as proper and improper religion. Integration directed toward Muslims as a "religious minority" is therefore indicative of the very problems that it purports to resolve. (...)

Read the full article here

## New Team Member Dr. Razak Khan

(associated project member)

Dr. Razak Khan is a research fellow at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Göttingen University. He works on connected minority histories of South Asian Muslim and German Jewish communities in Germany and India.



#### **Consuming Diversity. Migrant Food Histories and Eating Together in Berlin**

This project emerges from my archival and research work on the archives of South Asian Muslims and their connected histories with Germans in interwar Berlin. The search for Indian history in German archives led to state archival institutions and affective memory sites and places of connection. Apart from intellectual bonds forged in the University, it was often bookstores, cafes, restaurants, mosques, and graveyards in Weimar era Berlin that connected migrant intellectuals with other communities, including Iranians, Afghans, Arabs, and Germans. My contribution to the RePLITO project aims to bring this history into conversation with the anthropology of emotions and politics in contemporary Berlin. It does so by focusing on migrant food and restaurants as historical sites for social cohesion and critique. I plan to focus on the history of migrant food histories and contemporary stories of food, emotions, and politics of exile and belonging. My focus will be on South Asians, particularly the Afghan refugee community in Berlin.

## Lecture Series, Workshops and Conferences (summer term 2022)

#### **Global Repertoires of "Living Together": Critical and Decolonial Perspectives**

organized by Schirin Amir-Moazami (FU), Salma Siddique (HU) and Juliana Streva (FU)

In this lecture series RePLITO members and invited international guests explore different facets of "living together" from critical and decolonial perspectives. The main goal of the series is to present and discuss ongoing research with students, colleagues and a wider public. The lecture series's central aim is to recall knowledge archives and repertories of living together that have been marginalized by past colonial interventions or by present imperial formations. Speakers look into popular and academic debates on multiple meanings of living together and related concepts of personhood, of the human beyond the social or of community.



#### **International Workshop** (07 - 08 July, 2022)

#### What is to be human? Engaging the possibilities of living together

organized by Mahmoud Al-Zayed (FU Berlin)

Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Islamwissenschaft. Fabeckstr. 23-25. 14195 Berlin

Academy in Exile, Critical Thinking Program

Freie Universität Berlin



#### The Human Question

Public lecture

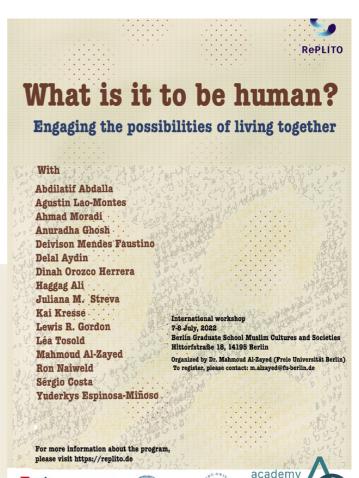
Friday, 8 July 2022, 18.00 Uhr Freie Universität Berlin, Auditoriu Hörsaal 1b, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin

Organized by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Zayed (Freie Universität Berlin)

For more information about the event, please visit https://replito.de







This workshop engages with various conceptions of the human and their implications to the possibilities of 'living together'. It sets out from the premise that the way we conceptualise the human as a model of being human has a defining role in the possibilities and the dynamics of living together, or any other social relation; and notions of political togetherness like friendship and solidarity are unthinkable without engaging the concept of the human being as the maker of such forms of relations. The primary aim is to rethink the human and unsettle the Euro-modern, centripetal concepts of human that occludes other conceptions of being human in the world. Parallelly we dwell upon the disparity of what the human ought to do and what the human actually does. We further ask: how does one methodologically negotiate with the question of 'What is it to be Human?' while navigating through the varied domains of experience of being human, analytically mapping out a variety of linguistic, social, anthropological, philosophical, theological routes that invest the concept of the human in terms of a consciousness that is both contingent to history and at the same time ahistorical in nature? What are the relations between the conceptions of the human and the intersubjective sociality and the possibilities of living together? Is it possible to arrive at a truly universal understanding of the human and planetarily-sensitive human ethics that help us tackle the pressing problems that all human and nonhumans face on a planetarily scale? Leading scholars and thinkers/philosophers from various disciplines are invited to deal with such questions in the hope of jointly developing new approaches and methods that help us navigate the major questions raised in the workshop.

Berlin University Freie Universität

# LIVING TOGETHER LOOKING APART

28.9.2022 - 30.9.2022

Venue: Oyoun (Lucy-Lameck-Str. 32, 12049 Berlin)

The three-day academic and artistic gathering will focus on the representational strategies, practices and histories of living together in the so-called multicultural and multi-ethnic societies in the Global South and within Europe. We are particularly interested in approaches that are concerned with aesthetics, images and iconicity, to explore how looking becomes closely intertwined with living.

#### **PROGRAM OUTLOOK**

Wednesday, 28th September:
MINORITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

Thursday, 29th September: (RE)IMAGINING DOMINANCE

Friday, 30th September:

**ICONOGRAPHIES OF RESISTANCE** 

Lectures, Roundtables, Workshops, Poetry & Screenings

#### **CONFIRMED SPEAKERS**

Schirin Amir-Moazami, Freie Universität Berlin

Faisal Devji, University of Oxford

Rosalia Engchuan, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Angélica Freitas, Poet, Pelotas

Adelaide Ivánova, Poet, Recife

Mallika Leuzinger, German Historical Institute London

Barbara Marcel, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Nahed Samour, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Saskia Schäfer, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Nadja-Christina Schneider, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Salma Siddique, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Prarthna Singh, Photographer, Mumbai

Juliana Streva, Freie Universität Berlin

Fritzi-Marie Titzmann, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Hannah Tzuberi, Freie Universität Berlin

Nagehan Uskan, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

and more

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RePLITO

Organised by Salma Siddique, Juliana Streva, Fritzi-Marie Titzmann and Hannah Tzuberi on behalf of "Beyond Social Cohesion: Global Repertoires of Living Together" (RePLITO) funded by Berlin University Alliance (BUA). In collaboration with:







### **Upcoming Lecture & Conversation Series**

(summer term 2023)

The lecture & conversation series **DWELLING TOGETHER - Urban Housing, Neighborliness** and **Multi-Local Homemaking** seeks to bring together practitioners, filmmakers and scholars working on questions of affordable housing in times of market-driven construction and lack of building land; architecture and infrastructure that enables humans (and potentially other species too) to live 'well' together - in cities, peri-urban or in rural regions. We aim to discuss research findings that inquire the topic from a spatial perspective and look into, for instance, living and temporary homemaking on the university campus; dwelling together in rapidly changing neighborhoods, or multi-local living arrangements/living-apart-together within and across regions or national borders.

Organised by the interdisciplinary working group Urban Dwellings: Tuba İnal-Çekiç, Arshi Javaid, İclal Ayşe Küçükkırca, Nadja-Christina Schneider, Anna Schnieder-Krüger, Julia Strutz

Further information will be published at https://www.replito.de/working-groups

#### **Imprint**

## RePLITO Quarterly Newsletter No. 2, June 2022

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