

Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Zentralasien-Seminar

Tibet-Kolloquium

Lama Jabb, London

Banditry and Romance in Amdo

This talk discusses the phenomenon of "social" banditry in Amdo prior to the establishment of the People's Republic of China, when there was an absence of an all-pervasive centralised state power. It examines the historical and social conditions under which bandits flourished just before the arrival of modernity in its various forms. Within a stagnant traditional society adventures of popular bandits seemed to be one of the few agencies that questioned and threatened the long established ruling elite. Although their action did not effect systemic changes it shook the complacency of those in power and showed the need and possibility for social change. The talk will show how the social bandits with their popular appeal critiqued the authority and social relations of contemporary society where mobility was non-existent.

The story of Yidak Ke-la, a famous bandit from Sokpo, a Tibetanised Mongol tribe, (today's Henan Xian in Qinghai Province) who lived a very short and adventurous life, will be taken as a case study to demonstrate the role of bandits, their legacy and place in the popular imagination in the Amdo region of traditional Tibet.

The talk will be followed by a movie "Hornig. Beat the Dog" (48 min.) by Tsedup Karko. It portrays nocturnal courtship practised in nomadic communities in Amdo. The film was shot entirely on location in Tibet amongst the director's own tribe, this love story is brought to life by the nomads, none of whom are trained actors, but are the director's family and friends. It provides a rare and valuable glimpse into the life of Tibetan nomads, and may open a discussion on how this courting tradition is in decline now due to socio-economic changes.

Lama Jabb is an independent scholar from London who got a MA in political sciences at SOAS.

Mittwoch, 28. November 2007

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Zinnowitzerstr.)

Alle Interessierten sind hierzu herzlich eingeladen.

