

**Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Zentralasien-Seminar**

Tibet-Kolloquium mit XINJIANG Fokus

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“Go West Young Men”: Post-1949 Han migration to Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Han migration and settlement in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China is a hotly debated issue among the Xinjiang scholars and within the region itself. While it is often discussed using statistical data as a large-scale historical process, I argue in my talk for a more differentiated view of Han migrants. I demonstrate that in the popular discourse the Han are distinguished into numerous categories like Profit-Driven Migrants, Border Supporters, Qualified Personnel, Educated Youth, and others. Accordingly, I suggest that Han migrants to Xinjiang should not be understood as a homogeneous category of participants in a singular state project intended to establish state control over the region. High return rates demonstrate that state attempts to make Han settle in Xinjiang are only partly successful, and that migrants follow their own strategies when situation permits, rather than fulfill the government's plans. On the other hand, though very diverse, the sheer numbers of Han migrants do change Xinjiang culturally, spatially, demographically and economically. In my talk I will reflect on what processes Han immigration triggers among the Xinjiang Uyghur and the role of migrants in making Xinjiang more “Chinese.”

The talk will be based on data collected during a ten-month period of fieldwork in 2011-2012 that focused geographically on the district of Aqsu, in southern Xinjiang.

Mittwoch, 08. Januar 2014

18.00 Uhr c.t.

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507 (S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)