

Tibet Kolloquium

Dr. Giulia Cabras, FU Berlin

“Whether it's Tibetan or Chinese, what we have in our hearts is Buddhism”:

The Wutun community in Amdo Tibet



Speakers of Wutun live in a village of the Rongwo river valley (Tongren county, *WT Reb gong*, Qinghai province, People's Republic of China). This community constitutes an emblematic example of the linguistic and cultural convergence that characterizes Amdo Tibet.

Officially recognized as part of the Tu nationality (a group that includes mostly Mongolic-speaking people living in Qinghai and Gansu provinces), Wutun are descendants of Han Chinese garrisons and speak a Sinitic language. However, they show a high degree of Tibetan influence in their local language (called by the community *ngandehua* 'our language'), religious and cultural practices, as well as in their narratives about the origins of the community.

The lecture discusses some elements of the language, history, and material culture of the community, exploring dynamics of identity construction as well as its linguistic and cultural maintenance.

Giulia Cabras (PhD in Language sciences, Institut des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, 2016) is currently DAAD guest researcher at the Department of Turkology at the Freie University. Her research engages questions of sociolinguistics and language contact in Northwest China, such as Uyghur-Chinese code switching and multilingualism in Amdo.

Dienstag, 29. Mai 2018

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, **Raum 507**