



Vortrag:

**State, Islam and Muslim Identity:
The Central Asian Muhajirun
in Afghanistan & Across the Soviet Border**

Frau Dr. Vera Vesela

(Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic)

This presentation explores the histories of the Central Asian muhajirun who ran away from the Soviet persecution in the 1920s and 1930s to Afghanistan, and their relatives and neighbours across the border who stayed to live under the Soviet regime. This presentation subordinates the questions of resistance to different set of questions about the state, Islam and Muslim identity in this period. The research argues that while the establishment of the communist state in Central Asia had come into conflict with the Muslim identity, the reaction of people was not necessarily anti-state.

The presentation is based on multi-sited ethnographic research carried out by the author in Afghanistan and Central Asia between 2007 and 2009; particularly the oral histories of muhajirun's descendants in Afghanistan, their relatives across the border who lived under the Soviet regime, and the oral histories of religious personalities that chose to hide and/or stay in Central Asia in the period. The presentation reaches beyond the territorial or state-centered borders and conceptual categories that are commonly used to study the history of Islam, state, and Muslim identity in the region.

Vera Vesela holds her PhD from the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts at Charles University in Prague. She was visiting fellow at Harvard University, Institut Français d'Etudes sur l'Asie Centrale and Moscow State University. In 2007-2008 she lived and worked in Afghanistan.

Ort: Zentralasien-Seminar der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Invalidenstraße 118, 5. OG, R 507

Zeit: Donnerstag, 13. November 2014, 18 Uhr c.t.

Alle Interessenten sind recht herzlich eingeladen.