

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften

Zentralasien-Seminar

Tibet Colloquium

Amrei Vogel, IAAW - HU Berlin

Transformations after Death: Practices and Perspectives in a Dolpo Community in the Himalayas



Cremation with ritual participants in Tsho, Dolpo (@Amrei Vogel, 2017)

Amrei Vogel will present her research on ritual performances and social perspectives in the context of death in a Himalayan highland community in Nepal in which a Tibetan language is spoken. The specific foci are rites of cremation and the various accompanying processes of transformation: First, there are external, visible transformations which are performed in order to induce – secondly – internal transformations in regards to the state of the deceased person's consciousness that, according to the local understanding, shall take a particular path after death. Third, the rites serve to enable transformations for the mourning community, being in the process of rearranging lives after the loss of a family and community member. The research frames these changes in relation to the actual ritual actions performed at each stage of the death- and mourning rites, relying on participant observation and on ritual texts of the g.Yung-drung Bon tradition practiced in the village. Furthermore, recent economic changes and infrastructural developments such as the growth of tourism and new means of communication are considered as they cause significant changes in the setting, and also lead to adaptations of the ritual practices.

Amrei Vogel is graduating at the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University in Berlin. Her research is based on five months of ethnographic field study within a Dolpopa community in Nepal. Besides her academic work, she is also involved in social projects in Nepal and India; she spent long periods of time in both countries, mostly in rural communities.

Dienstag, 22. Januar 2019

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)