

Guest Lecture

Felix Girke, University of Konstanz

Ethnicity, identity and recognition in the cultural neighbourhood of Southern Ethiopia

Felix Girke discusses bondfriendship, identification and stereotypes within the cultural neighbourhood of southern Ethiopia with examples from the Kara, a group of agro-pastoralists who live on the banks of the Omo River. Bondfriendship as institutionalized friendship across ethnic borders is characteristic for the region and can be regarded as an icon of cultural neighbourhood. Bondfriendship in its ideal type is an extraordinary positive and pacifying social relation with its features of friendliness, reliability and helpfulness, and serves to express mutual recognition. However, a degree of inequality remains, as not everybody is deemed good enough to be a proper bond friend. The presentation will be accompanied by the screening of the film:



Morokapel's Feast

The Story of a Kara Hunting Ritual

by Steffen Köhn and Felix Girke

FELIX GIRKE is post-doctoral fellow at the Center of Excellence 16: "Cultural Foundations of Social Integration" at the University of Konstanz. He worked on the Kara of southern Ethiopia, with a special focus on interethnic relations, exchange, decision-making, and warfare. His current research focuses on the politics of cultural heritage in contemporary Myanmar. Prior appointments include the Universities of Mainz and Bielefeld, as well as the Max-Planck-Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle/Saale.

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