



Lecture Series in Social Anthropology

Spring
Semester
2024

Tuesday 21 May 2024 | 4.15 p.m. | Room AND 4.06

Ethnographies of Socionatural Embeddedness: A Political Anthropology of Environment from Morocco to Sudan

Prof. Barbara Casciari (University Paris 8 - LAVUE)

Environmental topics have caught the attention of anthropologists since the early stages of the discipline, yet they have been for a long time relegated to the role of a “background” for understanding socio-cultural issues if not seized through a determinist frame. More recently, anthropologists have played a major role in criticising the “Great Divide” and deconstructing the universality of the Nature/Culture dualism. Despite the relevance of this renewed epistemological approach, fieldwork inquiry remains an unavoidable source for unfolding the embeddedness of socio-natural dynamics in situated contexts. Supported by the contribution of other disciplinary approaches (geography, history, law, feminist studies), the anthropology of environment may also provide a sound critical analysis of processes of “naturalization” and “depoliticization”, fostered by mainstream discourses on “climate crisis” as a main point of contemporary international and national political agendas. In this lecture I will tackle issues of “political anthropology of environment” by drawing an overview of my ethnographic fieldworks. Over a period of about 30 years, I focused my inquiries on socio-natural entanglements among various groups (mainly pastoral societies but also urban communities) in Sudan and Morocco, with shorter surveys in European contexts (France, Italie) and some didactical experiences aimed at reading natures within cultures with students.

Organization:

Department of Social Anthropology
and Cultural Studies (ISEK)
Social and Cultural Anthropology
Dr. Christine Schenk
Andreasstrasse 15
8050 Zurich

Contact:

christine.schenk@isek.uzh.ch

Entrance free of charge.

Subject to change. For details see: <https://t.uzh.ch/1s7>

