



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

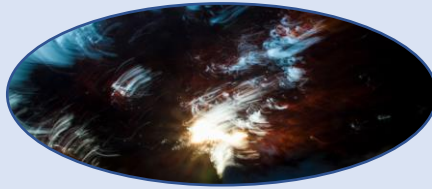
ISEK – Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft

South Asia Forum

Lecture Series

Autumn Semester 2020

Everyone is cordially
invited to participate!



ISEK University of Zurich
Andreasstrasse 15

13th October 2020

Sarbani Sharma (University of Tübingen, Social Anthropology)

Motifs of Crisis: (Re)Eventualizing the Floods, Occupation and Climate Change in Kashmir

ISEK, Andreastrasse 15, Room 4.06, 4.15-6pm.

Abstract: The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest political disputes in South Asia. As a researcher, one continuously oscillates between time in which Indian and Pakistani states discuss the 'Kashmir dispute' and the real time of living a life through the interminable violence in Kashmir. While the contestations over linear narration of history or debates on authenticity of historical events to explain the contemporary Kashmir have been much discussed, not much has been theorised about how intersection of violence, climate change discourse and environmental disasters emerge and are experienced in contemporary Kashmir. In this presentation, I engage with the event of 2014 floods in Kashmir valley that had devastating impact on life and business in the valley.

I further this project by asking, what is anthropologically arrived at while I eventualize a singular event of a man-made environmental disaster of a flood in 2014, when the community's lives has been eternally locked in systemic incarceration and punitive castigation in an occupied territory? It is in this pursuit that I attend to understand the living of a life in Kashmir when, apart from the recurrent social, economic and political violence events that caricature the social of Kashmir, a sudden unanticipated environmental disaster folds into the other interminable events of crisis. I ask, what epistemological questions can be addressed when we attempt to '(re)eventualize' an event of flood? Can a man-made natural disaster that is imagined to be another punctuation in the long series of events of crisis that calibrate life in Kashmir, tell us something about the creative emergences that sustain lives while being strangulated between a dysfunctional extractivist state and a police state?

Sarbani Sharma is a political anthropologist who works on itineraries of political aspirations and articulations in Kashmir. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Tübingen. She is currently working on her book manuscript that analyses the entourage of the word Azadi in the everyday lives of the people of Kashmir. Her writings have most recently been published with the Contributions to Indian Sociology and Political and Legal Anthropology Review (PoLAR).