



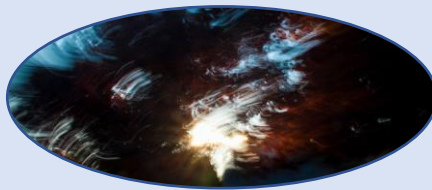
University of
Zurich^{UZH}

ISEK – Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft

South Asia Forum

Lecture Series Spring Semester 2021

Everyone is cordially
invited to participate!



ISEK University of Zurich
Andreasstrasse 15

18th May 2021, 4.15-6 pm

Stefan Binder (University of Zurich, ISEK)

The Ethical Labour of Queer Lives: On moral economies and temporality in Hyderabad

Online only: contact Lindsay Vogt (lindsay.vogt@uzh.ch) or Anina Meier (anina.meier@uzh.ch) for the meeting link

Abstract: In this paper, I bring queer studies into conversation with the anthropology of ethics, as questions around the relationship of social (moral) norms, normativity, and transgression are foundational for both fields of study. By outlining the research program of my ongoing project on queer* lives in Hyderabad, South India, I propose that an ethnographic focus on moral economies and the temporalities of everyday life can help to switch gears in a seemingly intractable theoretical debate, which is itself invested in “anti-normativity” as a moral value or ethical practice. On the basis of a concrete case study from Hyderabad, I seek to demonstrate the heuristic potential of paying closer attention to the expenditure of energy (i.e., labour) that is required of queer* people as they navigate moral ambiguities—rather than abstract ethical problems—in their attempts to “make lives worth living”.

Stefan is senior researcher and lecturer at the Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies (ISEK), University of Zurich. He is currently developing a research project on the political and moral economy of marginal masculinities and queer life in Hyderabad (India). Before joining ISEK, he was part of the DFG priority program “Ästhetische Eigenzeiten” at University of Göttingen (CeMIS), where he worked on a postdoctoral project on the aesthetic production and manipulation of multiple temporalities in the context of Shi'i mourning rituals and media practices in Hyderabad. He received his PhD in 2017 from Utrecht University with an ethnographic study on lived atheism and secular activism in Telugu-speaking South India, after graduating in Religious Studies, Cultural Anthropology, and Indology from University of Munich.