

Podiumsdiskussion Ethno-Symposium

Welcome + Summary of the topic

Statement of Organizers Team

- Why did you organize the symposium "Widerstand, einfach gemacht...".?

Rules of Discussion

- language:
 - > "everyone can talk in the language he or she feels comfortable; as we have participants not speaking german we have organized a whisper translation"
- fishbowl and structure:
 - > "after 2 sets of questions towards the podium, the discussion will be opened for everyone; answering means taking position on a free seat on the podium; to open up a new free seat a person of the remaining podium has to get up and offer a new free seat"
- communication goal:
 - > "Please note that listening is just as important as talking. Let's assume we are all speaking with good intentions and try to avoid offending each other on a personal level. This discussion is not about finding truth but about opening up perspectives on how we can look at this institute. We might be experts in theoretical abstraction and knowledge about "the others" places, people and so on - but at least today, now and here, let us please try to speak for ourselves and not for the others."

Thanks to participants

Time slot: 10 minutes

1 Question

-> Deniz, Aditi

Racism, sexism, ableism and classism are structural issues, that affect and form politics, identities, institutions and - of course - academical debates throughout the world. The ways in which they marginalize people's lives are complex and often overlooked or even denied by those whose privilege it is not to experience them on a daily basis. Often - and we should all know this very well as anthropologists - the most difficult to understand is the role oneself plays in reproducing the logics by which others are oppressed.

Ms Yonucu, Ms Saraf, as women of color you have experienced the institutional life of universities in many places of our world in a way many of us sitting here have not. As academics you have become expert in understanding and critically analyzing the structural inequalities I have mentioned. If you now look at this institute and compare it to other academic places you have worked in - how do you reflect and analyze this

place?

Time slot: 20 minutes

2 Question

-> Sökefeld, Treiber

Within the last years a lot has changed in the way academia is organized, financed and legitimized. Neoliberal reforms, like Bologna, have increased academies dependency on private capital. Bureaucratic evaluation measures have been introduced to value the effectiveness and quality of universities and their departments. Institutional services like for example the accreditation of this institute by the company **XXX** have been outsourced and privatized. Disciplinary rule - towards students as well as lecturers have increased - and rights for self organization and workers protection have been diminished.

On a global scale more students study, more researches are conducted, more papers are published, more money is channeled in academic institutions than ever before. But on a local scale, here in this university, in this institute of anthropology, in this room, we probably all know very well, that quality and quantity is not the same.

Mr Sökefeld, Mr Treiber as once students, now lecturers and head of this institute you have experienced this history of restrictions but probably also the possibilities and the agency left within the space of this institute. Can you share with us your experiences and reflections of the changes that have occurred? Is there a space of agency left for this institute?

Time slot: 20 minutes

3 Question

-> open

I hope we have now all got a picture of where this place comes from and the status quo in which we are working and studying here and now. Of course some things have changed positively for example through the students movements in the 70's, through feminist emancipation, through the discourses about writing culture and post colonialism and so on... but much has also stayed the same or even worsened.

In my opinion, if we keep following the business as usual, we might endlessly read, write and discuss about marginalization and oppression, without ever acknowledging, that we are caught in a system reproducing the oppression we analyze on a theoretical level. To me, the current state of affairs, the direction in which it develops leads to the wrong way. Therefore - and not everyone might agree with this opinion - I see resistance to the business as usual of our studying and working as necessary and unavoidable. With that I do not mean to stupidly provoke or disturb one another's work, but to ask critical questions and organize ourselves towards goals that we perceive as meaningful. This leads me to the last set of questions. After these questions I will keep quiet and wait for you to comment or ask.

Can this institute be a place of resistance? And if yes how could we resist? How would you critically analyze, reflect and act to make another kind of university possible?

Time slot: 40 minutes