



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2018

Cora Bender

Sovereign Health: Native North American Medical Practices in a Globalized World

Mittwoch 16.05.2018, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



Cora Bender is a socio-cultural anthropologist specializing in Media, Medical Anthropology and Native North America. Based on long-term field work, her dissertation exploring Upper Midwest indigenous media and knowledge culture was awarded the

Frobeniuspreis for excellent ethnographic research and published as *„Die Entdeckung der indigenen Moderne“* (2011). She held positions in Frankfurt and Bremen, and has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Texas, at the Heidelberg Cluster of Excellence „Asia and Europe in a Global Context“, and at the LMU Munich. Currently, she teaches at the Graduate College „Locating Media“ in Siegen. Among other titles, she co-edited *„Schlangen-ritual. Der Transfer der Wissensformen vom Tsu'ti'kive der Hopi bis Aby Warburgs Kreuzlinger Vortrag“* (with T. Hensel and E. Schüttelz), Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 2007, and *„Handbuch der Medienethnologie“* (with Martin Zillinger), Berlin: Reimer, 2015.

...kommende Termine

23.05.2018 **Dominique Casajus**

The Tuareg alphabets, their contemporary use and their history: an overview

Most approaches addressing contemporary medical practices of Native North Americans are either rooted in a critique of modernity or aim at modernization. Working with the central concepts of "risk" and "vulnerability", this kind of non-reflexive and problem-oriented research focuses on the precariousness of contemporary Native American life, on risky lifestyles and dangerous behavior.

That leaves a lot of space to wonder. Apart from putting themselves "at risk" with their "behavior", what do native people actually do when it comes to medicine? How do they do what they do, and to what ends? What do they think about what they do? – And how can anthropology address this doing epistemologically?

What benefits would the discipline gain from an approach that substitutes the term "behavior" with the term "practice", and looks at how these practices constitute the field of medicine in native north America? In my talk, I will use ethnographic examples from tribal communities in the American Upper Midwest to show how much more complex and subtle the relationship between tribal sovereignty and cooperation in medicine can be today.