



Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2018

Pamila Gupta

Balcony, Shutter, Door: Baroque Heritage Making in Stone Town (Zanzibar)

Dienstag 12.06.2018, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



Pamila Gupta is Associate Professor at WISER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research), at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She is currently working on a new book manu-

script entitled *Ethnographies of Lusophone Decolonization in India and Southern Africa*.

...kommende Termine

13.06.2018 **Stan Frankland**

**The paradox of the performing
,Pygmy'**

20.06.2018 **18.30 Johannes Neurath**

**Die Ambivalenz der Gabe in einer
komplexen Gesellschaft gegen den
Staat: Ritual und Autonomie der
Wixarika West-Mexikos**

*Das Programm für den Herbst 2018
wird im September bekannt gegeben.*

*Das IKSA wünscht einen schönen
Sommer!*

This paper takes three material objects—the balcony, shutter, and door—that are particular to and characteristic of Zanzibar's ornate past and uses them as a window onto three cultural heritage projects in the making in contemporary Stone Town. I first look at Javed Jafferji's newly renovated boutique hotel (Spice House), with its majestic balconies opening up vistas onto hidden shops and winding alleyways, and which suggest Zanzibar's place as a cosmopolitan metropolis and centre of Indian Ocean trade. Next I focus my lens on Capital Art Studio, using the idea of the shutter (as both a photographic term and window encasement) to think through its father-son proprietors (Ranchhod and Rohit Oza's) documentation of Zanzibar's rich historical past as a British protectorate and its select envisioning of that past sold to tourists by way of quick and cheap black and white offprints. I then turn to a recent initiative to open the small but decorative Princess Salme Museum by a recent Zanzibar returnee named Said El Ged, using its Swahili styled doors to look at this popular figure and writer whose personal story showcases Zanzibar's connected past to Oman and its revolution of 1964 which saw it united with mainland Tanganyika to become the nation-state of Tanzania. Based on recent ethnographic fieldwork at each of these sites (in 2012 and 2015), the idea of the balcony, shutter and door thus open up a way to address the changing politics of cultural heritage making in historic Zanzibar.