



# Wednesday Seminars

SOMMERSEMESTER 2017

in Kooperation mit dem Institut für Afrikawissenschaften

**Georg Klute**

*Political Orders in the Making: a comparative study of emerging forms of political organisation from Libya to Northern Mali*

Mittwoch 21.06.2017, 17.00, HS C, IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock



*Georg Klute is interested in the emergence of forms of political power and organisation in Africa. In order to overcome the negative qualifications employed within the 'failed state' debate, the concept of 'heterarchy' is applied; it seems appropriate to describe the*

*differentiated and fluctuating distributions of power-foci in many African countries. Research is conducted on the one hand in two borderlands (Egypt-Libya; Algeria-Mali), and on the other in West-Africa (mainly Guinea-Bissau). Borderlands are believed to be a setting in which the emergence of (new) local forms of power, incl. their 'interlacement' with national and international state power, can be observed.*

## ...kommende Termine

28.06.2017 **Bettina Beer**

**Changing social inequalities under the impact of large-scale capitalist projects: Non-Wampar (yaner) workers in the Markham Valley, Papua New Guinea**

**Das Herbstprogramm erscheint Ende September 2017, wie immer auf unserer Homepage unter:**

[http://ksa.univie.ac.at/wednesday\\_seminars](http://ksa.univie.ac.at/wednesday_seminars)

The current political developments in Libya and northern Mali represent nothing less than the renegotiation of the post-colonial political order. The toppling of authoritarian regimes in Libya and the subsequent disintegration of Libya in post-revolutionary camps and regions, the continuing Tuareg rebellion in northern Mali, accompanied by the rise of transnational Islamist and Jihadist forces have led, among other things, to the fragmentation of state structures, to more heterogeneity in politics, and to the emergence of non-state power groups. In order to understand these processes the paper proposes three theoretical concepts: heterarchy, (historical and present) connectivities in northwest Africa, and the importance of local actors/locality. The first concept of heterarchy is a recent one, responding to the rapid development of political orders on the African continent and elsewhere within the last twenty years. The concept points at central traits of current political (state and non-state) orders, namely the mutable as well as unstable intertwining of state and non-state orders and the plurality of competing power groups. The second concept of connectivity (across states and borders) in northwest Africa is a newly re-discovered topic, perceiving state borders (and the Sahara desert) not as barriers, but as transitional spaces. It allows a better understanding of recent political developments and their historical roots. The concept local actors/locality is well rooted in political anthropology and has lately also been discovered by political science. It underlines the importance of the local in negotiation processes and struggles over what political order to establish. The paper argues that a great deal of order is produced by local and regional political actors and power groups in northern Mali and Libya leading to heterarchical figurations with connectivities that transgress the territories of states.