



ZMO-Colloquium Winter Term 2016/2017

Thursday, 15 December 2016, 5 pm

Non-Western Humanitarian Aid in the 20th Century: Reflections and Examples from India and Egypt

Double Lecture by Dr **Maria Framke** (University of Rostock) and Dr **Esther Möller** (Leibniz Institute of European History)

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Humanitarianism is often understood as a 'western' concept that contains both, the diffusion of ideas and the provision of aid from the 'west' to a passive 'rest'. In the last decade, however, research has started to focus increasingly on humanitarian initiatives of non-western individuals, groups and organizations. This research addresses, among others, the question of non-western encounters with travelling 'global' humanitarian ideas and models and the latter's interaction with local traditions and practices in times of crises. The presentation adds to this new strand of research by examining Egyptian and Indian humanitarianism after 1945. By focusing on Indian initiatives during the partition and on the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent in the 1950s, the presentation explores the organizations' complex aims, attitudes and motives for aid provision. While discourses of 'humanity' seemed, at first hand, to have constituted a common thread amongst these organizations, changing points of reference to provide humanitarian relief – from the perspective of religion to the concurrent developments of internationalism and nationalism – are also visible. Finally, the presentation asks whether their work followed common humanitarian principles, such as impartiality and neutrality.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Maria Framke is a historian of modern South Asia, specifically focusing on the themes of history of politics, humanitarianism, international relations and ideologies. She is currently a lecturer in history at the University of Rostock, Germany. She is working on her habilitation project "South Asian humanitarianism in armed conflicts, 1899-1949".

Esther Möller is a research associate at the Leibniz Institute of European History in Mainz, Germany. She is particularly interested in the history of the relations between Europe and the Arab World, namely Egypt and Lebanon, in the fields of humanitarianism, (post-)colonialism and education. Her habilitation project is entitled "Struggling for a new international humanitarian order. The Egyptian Red Crescent 1948-1973".