

Discussion

Tuesday, 17 December 2019, 5 pm, ZMO

Temporary People: Making Space in the Gulf

A discussion with author **Deepak Unnikrishnan** (New York University Abu Dhabi).

Moderation by **Lorenzo Casini** (University of Messina).

Readings by **Diana Gluck** (FU Berlin, ZMO).

Deepak Unnikrishnan is a writer from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) whose work has won various awards, including the inaugural Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing for his book "Temporary People". His book comprises linked stories about the different experiences of migrant workers and residents in the UAE, where foreign nationals make up over 80 percent of the population. All foreigners are eventually required to leave or secure yet another visa, as there is no set path to naturalization. His writing gives an insight into the multilingual environment of Abu Dhabi, as well as the psychological effects of living for extended periods in a state of transience. One of his stories which was later incorporated into the book is available online in Guernica magazine, entitled "Gulf Return". Educated in the United States, Unnikrishnan first taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is currently a lecturer in the writing program at New York University in Abu Dhabi.

Lorenzo Casini is Assistant Professor of Modern Arabic Literature at the University of Messina, Italy. He has researched extensively on the themes of modernity, occidentalism and migration in the Arabic novel. His most recent focus of research is the new generation of authors from the Gulf.

Organization:

Antía Mato Bouzas and Lorenzo Casini

