



## ZMO-Kolloquium

**“New Perspectives on Gender and Globalization”**

**Thursday, 26 November 2009, 6 pm**

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### **Money and Freedom. Promises and Concerns of Migration among Mothers and Sons, Grooms and Brides in Northern Egypt**

**Lecture by Dr. Samuli Schielke**

Based on recent fieldwork in Egypt and Qatar, this presentation looks at the relationship of gender - especially masculinity - with the issues of migration and social becoming. Migration from Egypt to Europe and the Gulf states is first and foremost about marriage. It is about the need of young men to save the money for a rising cost of marriage in a situation where no wedding takes place without taking into consideration class, education, property and income. It is about the pressure exerted by parents, especially mothers, to sons and prospective sons-in-law to perform in their expected role, capable of making the money that is needed to become a man. It is about the expectations of young women towards a family life in a degree of comfort and in the proximity of their kin. But it is also about young men hoping to escape the high burden of traditional marriage by searching a marriage with a foreign woman. These expectations are a great source of discussion, pressure, hope, and anxiety among young Egyptians, and they have become further complicated by two key troubles related to migration. First is the difficulty to migrate, which makes young men highly anxious in face of the competition by suitors working abroad. Second is the difficulty of returning. The demand to migrate which young men face is also a demand to return after some years with the capital to 'build a life.' And yet this capital can be very difficult to collect abroad, and many migrants find themselves unable to return, which in turn creates new tensions and pressures.

**Dr. Samuli Schielke** (PhD in social sciences, University of Amsterdam 2006) is a research fellow at ZMO. His research interests include everyday religiosity and morality, and aspiration, migration and cosmopolitan imaginaries.

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#### **Next event:**

Thursday, 10 December 2009, 6 pm

Male Sociality Across the Indian Ocean

Lecture by Dr Filippo Osella (University of Sussex, UK)

#### **Venue**

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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und Forschung