



Einladung ZMO–Vortragsreihe „Islam und Gesellschaft in Zentralasien“

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2010, 5 p.m.

Re-Islamization in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: A Case Study of Kyrgyz Funeral Customs

Lecture by **Dr. Elmira Kochumkulova**

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
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Registration/Anmeldung:
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Kyrgyz cultural practices, especially funeral customs, are closely tied with Kyrgyz history, a nomadic way of life, spiritual worldview, and oral tradition. With the adoption of Islam, the formerly nomadic Kyrgyz incorporated many beliefs and practices into their existing value system. Until today, Islamic, native spiritual beliefs and practices co-exist in everyday Kyrgyz life without contradicting each other. Of the traditional Kyrgyz life cycle rituals, funerals present rich and unique source of information for understanding the identity, and local forms and contextualization of Islam in Kyrgyz society.

The lecture will provide an overview of the structure and essential aspects of a Kyrgyz funeral such as the erecting a yurt, killing a horse, women's singing of lamentations (qoshoq), men's out loud crying (ökürüü), distribution of gifts of clothes (ölümtük kiyit) to relatives who wash the deceased body, burial, and subsequent memorial feast offerings (qırqı, jıldıq, ash) to honor the deceased spirit (arbaq). The presentation is combined with photographs as well as video-excerpts of a Kyrgyz funeral and memorial feasts from the Aksı region of southern Kyrgyzstan where Dr. Kochumkulova conducted her ethnographic research.

Dr. Kochumkulova is a scholar specializing in the nomadic cultures and oral traditions of Central Asia, and is a Research Associate at the University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. She received her BA and MA from the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, and her Ph.D. from their Interdisciplinary Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle in 2007. She has several publications on Islam and Nomadic Heritage in Kyrgyzstan.

Moderation: **Dr. Sophie Roche, ZMO**

The lecture will be held in English

Die neue Reihe konzentriert sich auf die soziale und kulturelle Rolle des Islams in der Region. Sie beschäftigt sich mit dessen Vielfalt und Dynamik im postsowjetischen Zentralasien. Sie fragt nach dem Verhältnis von Staat und Religion sowie nach der Bedeutung des Islams für die Herausbildung eines Nationalbewusstseins. Damit bietet die Reihe die Möglichkeit zum Austausch von Vorstellungen und Meinungen zur Region und leistet gleichzeitig einen Beitrag in der Debatte über die Vielfalt islamisch geprägter Kulturen und Gesellschaften.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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