



Invitation

Tuesday, July 31st, 2012, 6 pm

The Anxiety of Development: Megaprojects, Ethnic Identity, and the Politics of Place in Gwadar, Pakistan

Lecture by Hafeez Jamali

Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

In this presentation, Hafeez Jamali will explore the social geography of anticipation, desire, exclusion, and control being generated as a result of Baloch fishermen's entanglement with the Pakistani government's plans for developing a large commercial seaport in the small coastal town of Gwadar. In dialogue with Norbert Elias' concept of figuration and the centrality of experience in generating social forms, this presentation describes how development, transnationalism, and ethnic identity are configured on the ground. It is based on ethnographic encounters that foreground the lived experience and imaginations of fishermen from *Med* kinship group who occupy a subaltern position within the local status hierarchy. On the one hand, the promise of becoming modern citizens in the future mega city incites new desires and longings among the fishermen that facilitate their incorporation into emergent regimes of labour and entrepreneurship. On the other hand, the Pakistani military's has tightened its control of the local population by establishing a *cordon sanitaire* around Gwadar Town. This new geography has disrupted the local fishermen's embodied experiences of place and intimate forms of sociality and introduced elements of exclusion, fear, and paranoia. By interrupting the fishermen's expectations of their rightful place in the city, it compels them to think alternate ways of confronting the state's development agenda, including violent protest and armed struggle.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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Hafeez Jamali is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin and a Visiting Research Fellow in the Crossroads Asia Competence Network at ZMO Berlin. His research focuses on the anthropology of globalization and development, the history of Indian Ocean Trade, and the politics of identity and place in Balochistan (Pakistan). His doctoral research examines how Pakistani government's investment in mega development projects such as transnational gas pipelines and commercial ports has affected the lives and transformed the political attitudes of local Baloch people.