

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2014 - 2015**

Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm

**Venue:**

Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin-Nikolassee

Please register  
at the following address:  
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**Annual Theme: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on  
Urban Marginality in Africa, the Middle East and Asia****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, January 26th, 2015, 5 pm****„They Thought that We Were Criminals“:  
Sports and Urban Marginality in Addis  
Ababa, 1920s to 1970s****Lecture by Katrin Bromber (ZMO)**

From the 1920s onwards, modern sports became an essential feature of urban life in Ethiopian cities. Especially the capital Addis Ababa saw the emergence of a lively athletic scene, with soccer and boxing often appearing as 'problem children'. Taking a closer look at these two kinds of sports between the 1920s and 1970s, the presentation discusses the places where they were trained and performed, the negative aspects which were initially attributed to boxing and soccer as well as the difficulties both athletes and sport enthusiasts met as a result. From an urban studies' point of view, the Addis Ababa case is especially interesting, since it was purposely built as a multi-centered city. Thus, also in physical geographical terms it might challenge our understanding of urban marginality both in the social and physical sense.

**Katrin Bromber** is senior researcher at ZMO, Berlin. She received her Ph.D. in African Linguistics from the University of Leipzig (Germany) and her habilitation degree in African Studies from the University of Vienna (Austria). She currently works on sports and citizenship in Ethiopia. Katrin Bromber co-edited with Birgit Krawietz and Joseph Maguire the book *Sport Across Asia: Politics, Cultures and Identities* (Routledge 2013). Her articles on Ethiopia include in 2013 "Muscularity, Heavy Athletics and Urban Leisure in Ethiopia, 1950s-1970s", *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 30(16), 1915-1928; "Improving the Physical Self: Sport, Body Politics, and Ethiopian Modernity, ca. 1920-1974", *Northeast African Studies Journal* 13(1), 71-99 and in 2014 with Birgit Krawietz, Petar Petrov, "Wrestling in Multifarious Modernity", *The International Journal of the History of Sport* 31(4), 391-404.

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