

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2015 - 2016****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, January 11th, 2016, 5 pm****Urban refugees in Kuala Lumpur: living  
a life in limbo****Lecture by Gerhard Hoffstaedter** (University of Queensland)**Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm****Venue:**Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin-NikolasseePlease register  
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Malaysia houses the largest urban refugee population in Southeast Asia. Mainly ethnic minorities from Myanmar seek protection in Malaysia, which is not a signatory country to the UN refugee convention or protocol. Everyday realities for refugees are dictated by class and ethnic identity as refugees seek to make a life for themselves and their families in legal limbo. Ethnographic material from Rohingya, Tamil and Chin communities will illustrate the contradictions and minor realities refugees carve out for themselves in spite of insufficient support and often debilitating rent-seeking.

**Gerhard Hoffstaedter** is an anthropologist at the University of Queensland. Currently he is researching urban refugees in Malaysia. His first book entitled *Modern Muslim Identities: Negotiating Religion and Ethnicity in Malaysia* is published by NIAS Press. He is co-editor of a volume on human security and Australian foreign policy as well as one on Urban refugees. He is also course director for World101x: Anthropology of current world issues, University of Queensland's fifth edX massive open online course.