

**Urban Studies Seminar  
2014 - 2015****Twice a month,  
Mondays 5 pm - 7 pm****Venue:**Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33  
14129 Berlin-NikolasseePlease register  
at the following address:  
Dr. Nora Lafi  
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Phone: (+49) (0) 30 80307- 0**Annual Theme: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on  
Urban Marginality in Africa, the Middle East and Asia****Chaired by Prof Ulrike Freitag and Dr Nora Lafi****Monday, April 13th, 2015, 5 pm****Urban Uzbeks at the Margins of Osh**Lecture by **Aksana Ismailbekova** (ZMO)

In this paper I ethnographically examine the impact of inter-communal conflict of Uzbek and Kyrgyz inhabitants in the city of Osh, as well as their distinct ways of adapting and rearranging their lives in the aftermath of the Osh conflict, and the social reproduction of boundaries and space. My focus is on how this constitutes a solution in the conflict and why some parts of the urban context have become places of ethnic division between Uzbek and Kyrgyz and other parts not. Of course, this does not mean that spatial segregation did not exist previously, but the conflict certainly exacerbated this division further. Consequently, ethnic segregation helps certain cohorts to avoid one another and to prevent potential skirmishes in the future. My analytic framework combines identity-based conflict analysis with the security paradigm in order to analyse the result of the conflict rather than its causes. In the aftermath of the conflict, both the physical and social mobilities of Osh-based Kyrgyz and Uzbeks intensified and pushed the most affected parts of the city further towards ethnic segregation. However, this division was the result of a lack of alternatives since the political and economic resources of both ethnic groups have weakened.

**Aksana Ismailbekova** is a post-doctoral researcher at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, and is a member of the competence network Crossroads Asia Project 2011–2014. She received her PhD in social anthropology from Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She has conducted research on conflict, marriage, patronage, kinship, and everyday politics in rural Kyrgyzstan.

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