



ZMO-Kolloquium Winter Term 2014/2015

Thursday, October 30th, 2014, 6 pm

Emotional Translation. Conceptual History beyond Language

Lecture by **Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau** and **M.A. Imke Rajamani**

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Conceptual history is a wonderful tool for writing the history of emotions. Analyzing how a community used emotion words at certain times and in certain places allows an understanding of specific emotion knowledge without being trapped by universalism. But conceptual history is also an inadequate tool for writing the history of emotions. Its focus on language fails to capture meanings that can be derived from emotional expressions in other media, such as paintings, music, architecture or film. The lecture suggests expanding conceptual history beyond language by including the body and the senses as epistemic categories. It invites to focus on two processes of emotional translation: first, how emotions emerge through and contribute to the translation between reality and its interpretation. And second, how translation processes between different media shape and change the meanings of emotion concepts. The approach will be exemplified by looking at translations of the monsoon season into emotional experiences of love, longing and romance.

Prof. Dr. Margrit Pernau is Senior Researcher at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Berlin. She studied History and Public Law and received her doctorate in 1991. 2007 she was promoted to professor with a study on "Plural Identities of Muslims in "Old-Delhi in the 19th century". Beside the history of emotions her areas of interest include modern Indian history, the history of modern Islam, historical semantics, comparative studies, and translation studies.

Imke Rajamani (M.A.) studied literature and media cultures, history and musicology in Hamburg and graduated with a Magister-thesis on "Orientalism in German Bollywood Discourses" in 2011. She is now pursuing her PhD as a stipend holder of the German National Academic Foundation at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development with a project on the angry young man and the conceptual history of anger in popular Indian cinema. The project combines her research interest in South Asian media cultures, in particular Hindi and Telugu cinema, with the theoretical endeavor of integrating methodologies from Media Studies into Conceptual History.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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