



Urban Studies Seminar 2017–2018 Annual Theme: Urban Spaces of Leisure, Arts and Sports

Monday, 6 November 2017, 5 pm

Leisure Matters: Perspectives from African Studies

Lecture by **Katrin Bromber** (Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient)

Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33
14129 Berlin

In cooperation with:



How does the concept of leisure, which is based on Eurocentric notions of time, space, and work inform realities in Africa? How does it influence the ways in which we study these realities? What does leisure, as a conceptual gateway, allow us to see? During the last three decades, research on “modern” leisure activities such as cinema, sports and other forms of leisure, first and foremost, in urban African centers produced a substantial body of very interesting case studies on the subject. Furthermore, these studies have generated new questions and conceptual ideas about temporalities. They often reveal competing notions of leisure ranging on a continuum from simply doing nothing to forms of useful recreation in one and the same place. The lecture will look at these conceptual debates as well as some of the case studies from Africa – past and present – which informed them. Thus, it will make an attempt to productively discuss leisure in relation to specific forms of colonialism, the post-colony and recent neo-liberalist tendencies.

Katrin Bromber is senior researcher at the Leibniz-Institute of Modern Oriental Studies in Berlin. She holds a Ph.D. in African Linguistics from the University of Leipzig and a habilitation (extended Ph.D. without supervision) in African Studies from the University of Vienna. Since 2009, she works on the history of sports in Ethiopia and the Arab Gulf States. Her publications concerning sports include *Sport Across Asia: Politics, Cultures and Identities* (Routledge, 2013) which she co-edited with Birgit Krawietz and Joseph Maguire. With regard to Ethiopia, Katrin Bromber published on Sports and Modernity, Ethiopian Wrestling, the History of Stadium Construction, Heavy Athletics, and Sports and the YMCA in journals such as the *International Journal of the History of Sports* or *North East African Studies*.