

21. Juni 2010

**Dr. Alexander Horstmann, Max Planck Institut zur Erforschung
multireligiöser und multiethnischer Gesellschaften, Göttingen:**

***Flüchtlingsräume und Konversionsräume der Karen im
thailändisch-burmesischen Grenzland.***

English abstract: In the Thai-Burmese borderland, hundreds of thousands of DISPLACED PEOPLE have to re-organize themselves in a hostile environment. In this presentation, I would like to focus on the agency of Karen Christians who far from being passive recipients of humanitarian aid, are active agents of spreading Christianity to the Karen in Thailand and beyond. The presentation is focused on fieldwork with Karen Christian pastors, missionaries and evangelists in refugee camps, border villages and border towns in Northwestern Thailand.

The presentation gives an account of the intimate connection of nationalism (called the „rebellion“) and Christianity and how the Karen „struggle“ is expressed in Christian terms. I focus on the activities of the Karen Baptist convention and their project that entails religious, educational, health and military aspects. The Karen refugees, who are seen as victims who have nothing but their bare lives, become articulate and spiritually powerful messengers of God.

Der Vortrag wird auf Deutsch gehalten.

Wann? Montag, den 21. Juni 2010, 18 Uhr

Wo? Edmund-Rumpler-Strasse 13 - B 117