VORTRAGSREIHE DES INSTITUTS FÜR ETHNOLOGIE

LEITUNG: PROF. DR. PHILLIP SCHORCH

Can anthropology be used as a healing practice? Exploring anthropology as a practice of repair through a research collaboration with a First Nation in Canada

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Abstract

Anthropology as a discipline carries a difficult colonial history, especially in the context of research with Indigenous communities in North America. While this has led some scholars to disengage from collaborating with Indigenous peoples in the area, others are trying to create meaningful collaborations which benefit both the researchers and local communities. This opens up questions of what the challenges and obligations are for non-Indigenous researchers in working with Indigenous communities. Based on a research collaboration with a Canadian First Nations community, this talk examines this question and explores whether anthropology itself could be used as a practice of repair – in repairing broken relationships between the discipline and Indigenous communities, as well as, other broken relations we encounter in the field. To explore this question, the talk will give insights into the PhD project it is based on, which focused on salmon-human relationships in an Indigenous territory on the West Coast of Canada in the 21st century.







Institut für Ethnologie Montag, 20.10.2025 16 - 18 Uhr Raum L - 155 Oettingenstraße 67