

ISA ONLINE GUEST LECTURE

# ABSENT PRESENCE

## VISUALISING THE AFTERLIFE OF REVOLUTION

**GABRIELE VOM BRUCK***Associate Professor Em. in Social Anthropology at SOAS*

Focusing on Yemen, the talk explores how (post)revolutionary subjectivities are mediated by photographs that form part of everyday socialities (in relation to the revolution of 1962). It analyses the relationship between visual imagery, agency, and revolutionary violence by focusing on the modalities of remembering that are being created around images of the past, and explores how 'absence' is marked, dealt with, and acknowledged. Centering on the families of the disappeared, revolutionary afterlife is studied through both present and absent (reimagined) images, which reveal the minutiae of personal loss and fractured lives. Rather than focusing attention on the 'event' per se, the paper will consider the resulting burden of remembering its residues and its inscription into the present.



**Gabriele vom Bruck** is Associate Professor Em. in Social Anthropology at SOAS. Her main books are *Islam, Memory and Morality in Yemen: Ruling Families in Transition* (2006) and *Mirrored Loss: A Yemeni Woman's Life-Story* (2018). She is currently working on memory and photography.

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