07-23. MÄRZ 2017 – 18.30 Uhr
ÖOG KLUBSAAL
DOMINIKANERBASTEI 6/6
1010 WIEN

EINLADUNG ZUR VORTRAGSREIHE

# Der Mittelmeerraum als Drehscheibe für Flüchtlingsbewegungen

ÖOG-ISA Vortragsreihe zur Fluchtforschung

in Zusammenarbeit mit

Refugee Outreach & Research Network | ROR-n

Koordination und Moderation: Mag.a Sabine BAUER, ISA
Teil III: Europa erreichen? (Reaching Europe?)

23. März 2017

## Prof. Dr. Evthymios Papataxiarchis

### "CONTESTING HUMANITARIAN GOVERNANCE: THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE DISEMIC HUMANITARIAN REGIME IN THE AEGEAN"

In the course of 2015 more than 200.000 refugees entered the EU territory through Skala, a small village community in Lesvos, at the northern Aegean borders with Turkey. As an effect, the place turned into the undisputable epicenter of the 'European refugee crisis' and the front stage of a unique experiment in humanitarian governance involving a multiplicity of actors. In this lecture I will employ the humanitarian experience of this small locality as a vantage point in order to assess the developmental cycle of the humanitarian regime in Lesbos. The shift towards a policy of deterrence and the externalization of refugee management that came into effect by the EU-Turkey agreement in March 2016, after the closure of the Balkan route, exposed the humanitarian regime to its foundational contradictions and initiated a slow process of fission and decomposition. Local tolerance to the trapped asylum seekers has been rapidly diminishing. As the focus of humanitarian governance shifted from rescue to 'protection' and education and as its structure became increasingly bureaucratized, the inadequacies in the offering of 'protection' and the handling of refugees in the camps gave rise to a new round of contestations from 'within', by humanitarian actors as well as by locals. The end of the caring border has eventually undermined the prospects of the disemic humanitarian regime in Lesbos.

Evthymios Papataxiarchis is Professor of Social Anthropology in the Department of Social Anthropology and History of the University of the Aegean. Recent articles based on his work on the 'refugee crisis' include: "Being 'there': At the frontline of the 'European refugee crisis'", Parts 1 and 2, Anthropology Today 32(2): 5-9 and 32(3): 3-7, 2016; "Unwrapping solidarity? Society reborn in austerity". Social Anthropology 24(2): 205-210, 2016; "A big reversal? The 'European refugee crisis' and the new patriotism of 'solidarity'". Current Issues 132-133: 7-28, 2016 (in Greek).