EINLADUNG ZUR VORTRAGSREIHE

Der Mittelmeerraum als Drehscheibe für Flüchtlingsbewegungen

ÖZG-ISA Vortragsreihe zur Fluchtforschung

in Zusammenarbeit mit

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.