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East Asian Economy and Society



Tseten Zöchbauer

Transnational Identities and Notions of “Home”: Tibetans in Exile

Chair: Fiona Seiger, PhD

- Open for Attendance without prior Registration -

Thursday, June 18, 3:00 – 4:30pm

Seminar room OAW (2I-O1-05), Hof 2, AAKH Campus

The events of 1959 have prompted large numbers of Tibetans to leave their homeland and follow the 14th Dalai-Lama into exile in India. Many others have found refuge in Nepal, Bhutan, as well as in other parts of the world. With the movement of an estimated 150 000 people out of Tibet and the loss of political sovereignty in the territories claimed by diasporic Tibetans, struggles for political, religious, and cultural survival span across the borders of several countries. Diasporic Tibetans have started to organize politically and form a de-territorialized nation while simultaneously living, and in many cases holding citizenship, in other countries. Under these conditions, how do Tibetan identities form or change, and how are notions of ‘home’ and the ‘homeland’ conceptualized?



Tseten Zöchbauer was born in Tibet in 1959. From 1961 to 1964 she lived in the Tibetan Children Village in India as a refugee. In 1964, Ms Zöchbauer was sent to Switzerland where she was taken care of by foster-parents. Ms Zöchbauer lives in Vienna since 1988, where she founded the Tibetan Community Austria (TGÖ- Tibeter Gemeinschaft Österreich) in 1990 and Save Tibet Austria in 1994. Ms. Zöchbauer opened the Tibet Restaurant in Vienna in 1998, and in 2010 the Gallery HeART of TIBET. Ms. Zöchbauer is a professionally trained psychiatric nurse as well as event and corporate manager. Since 2013, she focuses on facilitating the integration of Tibetan asylum seekers in Austria.