

Transnational Memory Cultures, Battlefield Tourism and Reconciliation

Tuesday, 10 April 2018, 12:30–14:00
Seminarraum OAW



Ines Stolpe

In 1939, when Japan and the USSR pushed skirmishes at the Manchukuo border to escalation, a small area amidst the vast Mongolian steppeland turned into a hotspot of international entanglements of North East Asia. Even though almost 80 years have passed since these events, the interest in commemorating the occurrences keeps growing. Evidently, the post-socialist setting not only brings along polyphonic reconsiderations and new assessments of the historical events with an upgrading towards acknowledging them as a “full-scale war”, but also new kinds of protagonists, including battlefield tourists of diverse provenance.

The talk will focus less on the historical events of 1939, but rather on their multi-polar representations today. Drawing on examples from fieldwork, mass media, travel blogs, online-presences, motion pictures and video clips from Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan and South Korea, Mrs. Stolpe shall provide insight into the plurality of motives and socio-logics beyond re-defining the past.

Ines Stolpe PhD., is a professor of Mongolian Studies at the University of Bonn. She obtained her PhD in Central Asian Studies from Humboldt University, Berlin, on the interdependencies of social and spatial mobility in contemporary Mongolia .