

Workshop

Humiliation and the Struggle for Social Recognition: the Case of Dalits in India

Friday, November 13, 2015

Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt

11.000h – 18.00h, Room No 121

organized by *Martin Fuchs*

The concept of social recognition implies that man as a social being needs mutual acknowledgment while relating to and interacting with others, either individually or collectively. Mutual acknowledgment affirms one's status as a human being. It is a universal requirement and is closely related to ideas and perceptions of self, self-respect and human dignity. Conversely, denial of recognition, by way of humiliation or by being forced into a condition of subordination or marginality, can be detrimental to human self-esteem.

While experiences of non-recognition can be encountered in almost all societies and in all historical periods, in this workshop we will focus on India. The mainstream Hindu society is based on strong caste hierarchies and effective practices of social exclusion, which often find expression in multiple forms of humiliation against low caste members and so called untouchables, or Dalits. However, India is also a prime arena of struggle for social recognition, and especially Dalits have a tradition of fighting degradation and misrecognition.

The workshop is first and foremost meant as a platform to present and discuss current research on the topic of humiliation and recognition with regard to Dalits in different regions of India. However, we also welcome participants who have a more general and / or a comparative interest in the topic.

Programme:

11.00 -11.30h

Welcome and introductory note

Martin Fuchs (MWK Erfurt)

11.30 – 12.30h

Representing Dalit Social World: Humiliation to Salvation

Sanal Mohan (Kottayam, India, z.Zt. Max Planck-Institut Göttingen)

12.30 – 14.00h

Lunch

14.00-16.00h

Smell and the City: Caste as a Spatial-Sensory Order

Joel Lee (Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung, Berlin)

Shame, religious ideology and the aggregation of dissent among Dalits in Central India

Beatrice Renzi (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

Chair: Andreas Pettenkofer

16.00-16.30

Coffee Break

16.30-18.00h

Final Discussion

Chair: Antje Linkenbach