

“Imagining as Knowing”

Nov 7-9 2015 A Workshop with Arjun Appadurai (NYU)

The workshop will challenge Eurocentric notions of knowledge from the perspective of the imagination, thereby inquiring into the epistemic boundary between these two concepts. It will thus enable new thought on both cultural and societal speculation and innovation “from below”, as well as the role of migrant, social, and religious as political movements in bringing them about.

The first session of the workshop will take place on **Saturday, November 7, 10 am–12 pm**. Here, Arjun Appadurai will present a short input on this topic which will be followed by a general discussion with the participants.

The second session will take place on **Monday, November 9, 3-6 pm**. Having prepared their inputs in the meantime, between Saturday and Monday, small groups of participants will present questions on the relation between “imagining” and “knowing” drawn from their own research and will have the chance to discuss more research related issues with Arjun Appadurai. After that final session a common gathering for dinner and further talk will be taking place.

Application

All students of the doctoral program “Religion–Knowledge–Discourse” are invited to communicate their interest in participating in the workshop. Other interested doctoral and postdoctoral researchers can apply for participation by sending a short letter of motivation, detailing how their own research interests intersect with the workshop’s focus on Appadurai’s concepts of “imagining” and “aspiring”.

To apply, please contact:

D. Hadrysiewicz (dominika.hadrysiewicz@hu-berlin.de) by – no later than – Nov 2.

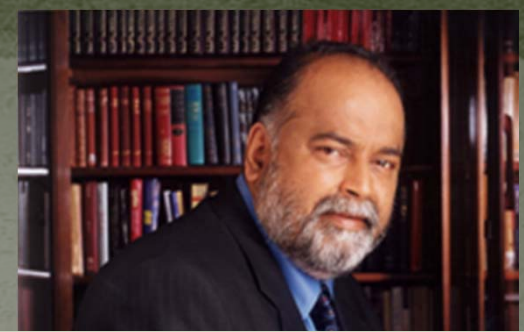
For more information on the workshop, please contact:

Prof. Dr. Regina Römhild (regina.roemhild@hu-berlin.de)

<https://www.euroethno.hu-berlin.de/de/institut/personen/roemhild>

The recommended reading will be sent to accepted participants in digital form.

Further Lectures - In advance of the workshop, Arjun Appadurai will present two public lectures in Berlin:
On **Wednesday, November 4, 6-8 pm**, on “Traumatic Exit, Identity Narratives and the Ethics of Hospitality”
(see: <http://www.bim.hu-berlin.de/de/veranstaltungen/2015/11/04/18-00/berlin-lecture/>)
On **Thursday, November 5, 7 pm**, on “Indian Popular Cinema in the Making of a Decolonized Modernity”
(see: www.hkw.de/de/programm/projekte/veranstaltung/p_121779.php)



Arjun Appadurai is one of the leading anthropologists and intellectuals in the field of critical cultural globalization theory and research. He is Goddard Professor in Media, Culture and Communication at New York University and holds many other international positions.

From his groundbreaking *Modernity at Large. Cultural Dimensions of Globalization* (1996) to the more recent *The Future as Cultural Fact. Essays on the Global Condition* (2013), “imagining” and “aspiring” have been key concepts in Appadurai’s work. He highlights and explores these as social practices on the ground of increasingly pluralized, mobilized, entangled, postcolonial global worlds. Migrant mobilities, social movements, and the hope for other lives as well as the new cultural, political, religious subjectivities they empower, are at the core of his conceptual research agenda for an anthropology of and for the future.

The workshop is being organized by
Regina Römhild, Institute of European Ethnology,
Andreas Feldtkeller and Dominika Hadrysiewicz,
Faculty of Theology
Members of the doctoral program
“Religion–Knowledge–Discourse” (www.rwd.hu-berlin.de)

