



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE



**UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG**
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

The Medical Anthropology Forum presents

Towards a Theory of Embodied Value

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How should anthropology theorize "value"? In the Boasian tradition, cultures were seen as unique patterns of values. With the rise of practice theory in the 1960s, the idea of values as shared ethos became problematic: cultural values (plural) seemed incommensurable with exchange-based value (singular). Here I argue that values and value can be brought together within an embodied value theory (EVT). At the core of this new theory of value is embodied life as the ground and goal of valuing. Life values living, and life tries to make the most of life by valuing different possibilities. I show that all valuing rests on comparisons, and that the infinite similarities between different entities can only be decided in pragmatic contexts. I propose that biocommensurations, where at least one entity in a comparison is alive, is the universal form of valuing.

All are cordially invited!

Tuesday, May 4

17:15–18:45 (CET)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/94820308560?pwd=TnRhczF0aEQvcXdwTlJhV2xTQzVCZz09>

Meeting ID: 948 2030 8560

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