

## **Insides and Outsides of the ‘Caring Ideal’: Caring Mothers and Absent Children in Tajikistan**

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In the last two decades, triggered by multiple global crises (demographic, ecological, economic, migration etc.), the topic ‘Care’ has received a lot of attention in all humanities and social science. In the context of institutional change in post-socialist states researchers speak of a ‘transformation of care-regimes’ by which they mean the changing nature of social security provision while the countries adapt to capitalist modes of production. In the realm of care, the transformation leads to a re-organization of care relations and practices between public and private care arrangements and is specific for each country and cultural setting.

This lecture traces the reconfiguration of vital care between family and state arrangements in Tajikistan, one of the former soviet countries in Muslim Central Asia. A woman’s role in Tajikistan is primarily defined through her reproductive work within family and household or, in other words, as a caring mother and housewife. Labor migration, as one expression of economic transformation, intervenes significantly into the existing caring ideals and people’s abilities to conform to caring obligations. After providing a short introduction into the emerging theories of care, the lecture explores in which ways new political and economic circumstances manifest themselves in the caring lives and practices of women who entered their reproductive life phase. The focus will lie on the changing patterns of family care provision and emotional outcomes of an accentuated mother-child relationship.

**Date:** Monday, 14.11.2016

**Venue:** South Asia Institute, Room Z10

**Time:** 13.15 – 14.45