

LOST Jour Fixe | July 14, 2017

Contemporary Evidence-Making, the Past and the Future it Implicates

Location:

Re:Work, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Participants:

Amal Fadlalla, Andrea Behrends, Konstantin Biehl, Stefanie Bognitz, Pauline Claudot, Enrico Ille, David Kananizadeh, Laura Matt, Fazil Moradi, Songi Park, Eva Riedke, Richard Rottenburg, Bertram Turner, Timm Sureau, René Umlauf

Topic:

Alan Finlayson (LRB, 18 May 2017) writes: “Modern democracy was an answer to a social and political problem. If they were to function at all, complex mass societies needed to produce information and knowledge about their territories, their resources and themselves. They needed to get that knowledge to the right places, make sure it was understood and then use it to form and implement decisions. Sociology, econometrics, demography, epidemiology – fields of expertise of the sort now derided by both the public and politicians – were part of that. They helped to predict future social problems and could inform political decisions about what should be done in the present to allay them. [italics RR] At the same time, mass democratic institutions such as trade unions, political parties, regional authorities, civic universities and local and national newspapers could generate information and knowledge about local situations and conditions, what could be done to improve things, what was and wasn't working, and could make it known and intelligible to others. They could also scrutinise information and ideas so that decisions might be given legitimacy and, more important, be effectively implemented by people who understood them. Democratic institutions were, in this way, a means of forming, extending and governing our collective intelligence. That, at least, was the theory.”

This workshop aims to work out some aspects that underscore that this was the theory and not the practice, and what the issues are that have perhaps changed at the turn to the 21st century.

Program:

10:30-12:00 h

Science Slam

Humanitarian Activism: the production and circulation of violence narratives | Amal Fadlala

Figuring out 'the state' through situational practices and how these are perceived | Andrea Behrends

Knowledge on the run. Uncertainties in the careers of Kenyan athletes | Konstantin Biehl

Towards an Anthropological Inquiry of Critique and Denial | Stefanie Bognitz

Rhetoric-made and policy-based evidence: an EU H2020 project trying to survive or the political production of research relevancy | Pauline Claudot

Political ecology of date palm cultivation in northern Sudan | Enrico Ille

The Practices of Care: Medical and Psycho-Social Translations of Ebola in Sierra Leone | David Kananizadeh

Human-Wildlife Interactions in Northern Sierra Leone | Laura Matt

From Genocide to Genophilia | Fazil Moradi

New Sensibilities: Dehumanization, Care, Infrastructure | Songi Park

A ceremony that cures – doing 'one's share' in times of HIV/AIDS | Eva Riedke

Decolonizing Modernity | Richard Rottenburg

Contextualizing the anthropology of GLP (global legal pluralism) with STS | Bertram Turner

Als and their impact on knowledge production | Timm Sureau

Learning assemblage - Curriculum development and STS in Africa | René Umlauf

12:00-13:00 h

Forming 4 discussion-groups

13:00-14:00 h

Lunch Break

14:00-16:30 h

Groups present the results of their discussions

- 1) Knowledge production and uncertainty in the relations of humans and non-humans
- 2) Violence, Law and the Nation-State: Embodiment as evidence
- 3) Conceptualizations of Care
- 4) From "decolonization of the mind" to the affordance character of knowledge infrastructures

16:30-18:30 h

Bringing the results together

18:30-19:30 h

Cooking

19:30-24:00 h

**Dinner and conversations about plans and issues
emerging from academic work**