



## Afrikanistisches Kolloquium

Freitag, 21.06.2024, 12-14 Uhr,  
Campus Westend, Seminarhaus SH 2.103

### Angelika Mietzner (Köln)

#### Comfortable in Hapa. Complex encounters in a women's workspace in Tiwi, Kenya.

In a small German-run women's project in Tiwi, women earn a living by making handicrafts. In this rural workspace, women - migrants and locals - navigate a precarious life of loss, struggle and renewal. The phrase "Huko ni nyumbani. Comfortable ni hapa", overheard during a discussion with these women in January 2024, captures the essence of the research: the juxtaposition of 'home' and 'comfort' in a transient yet critical space of belonging and survival.

The women's workspace serves as a microcosm of daily encounters characterised by conflict and solidarity. These interactions, influenced by overarching power dynamics and personal histories, shape the social structure within the group, integrating or rejecting new members and thus constantly redefining their collective identity.

My presentation will focus in particular on the concepts of 'nyumbani' (home), 'hapa' (here) and 'comfortable' to explore the meaning of these concepts for the women involved.

Through individual stories and broader socio-cultural analysis, this presentation aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how Tiwi migrant women construct a sense of home and identity in a fluid and often challenging environment.

Angelika Mietzner ist wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin am Institut für Afrikanistik und Ägyptologie an der Universität zu Köln. 2018 wurde sie im Fach Afrikanistik mit einer Arbeit zu „Cherang’any. A Kalenjin Language of Kenya“ habilitiert. Derzeit arbeitet sie an einem Projekt an der kenianischen Südküste.

Fachbereich 09  
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