

66th KUASS (Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)

Date and Time: April 3, 2017 (Mon) 15:00-17:00

Venue: #318, Inamori Memorial Foundation Building (3rd floor), Kyoto University

Title:

Beyond the rural-urban divide: Patterns of translocality in postcolonial Namibia

Speaker: Clemens Greiner (GSSC, University of Cologne)

Abstract:

Circular migration and rural-urban linkages shape everyday life in Southern Africa. These patterns of mobility and exchange are deeply engrained in historical experiences, and until today they are critical for securing livelihoods in rural but as well as in urban areas. While many migrants have developed identities that combine rural and urban lifestyles, the rural homes remain the symbolic, social and economic center for many. Based on data from multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in Namibia's rural Kunene region as well as in some urban centers, such as Windhoek and Walvis Bay, I will explore the culture of migration and the resulting patterns of movement, exchange and identity. To enhance a conceptual understanding of these socio-spatial processes, I will introduce a translocal perspective.