

For a long time, sociology assumed that one core feature of modern societies would be a growing effectiveness of egalitarian norms; this hope has also shaped the debate on globalization. Today, it is clear that this kind of success can not at all be taken for granted. Also, it cannot even be secured by a formal institutionalization of such norms (e.g. in legal form, and in public bureaucracies); as the neoinstitutionalist sociology of organizations has shown, this kind of institutionalization can easily lead to egalitarian norms being implemented in a purely 'ceremonial' way. Hence, in order to explain the social effectiveness or ineffectiveness of egalitarian norms, a crucial question is how, and under what circumstances, such norms actually gain local plausibility. In order to find out why this sometimes happens, one strategic research object are the processes through which egalitarian protest movements emerge or break down (or fail to get off the ground in the first place). This applies, in particular, to movements in the so-called global South, and especially to the precarious mobilizations of the non-privileged: In these cases, the relevant problems of explanation, as well as the relevant social mechanisms, can be seen much more clearly. In our workshop, we'll discuss case studies on egalitarian movements in the global South and its border zones - as well as contrast cases where hierarchical structures have so much local plausibility that critical mobilizations are almost impossible. We would like to discuss questions such as: When and how are grievances articulated via egalitarian categories? Which roles do protest movements play in these processes? Which theoretical concepts are particularly useful for grasping how egalitarian norms gain, or fail to gain, local plausibility?

University of Erfurt
Max Weber Centre
for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies

UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT

International Workshop

The local plausibility of egalitarian norms: Perspectives from the global South and its border zones

March 26–27, 2018 | Erfurt, Steinplatz 2



PROGRAMME

Monday, March 26

Max-Weber-Kolleg, room 805 (7th floor)

- 13:15 | **Welcome**
- 13:30-14:15 | **Andreas Pettenkofer (Max-Weber-Kolleg):**
The improbability of egalitarian activism:
Some problems of explanation
- 14:15-15:30 | **Juhi Tyagi (Max-Weber-Kolleg):**
Class-building through non-violence: How the Maoist movement sustained itself in Telangana, India
- 15:30-16:00 | **Coffee Break**
- 16:00-17:15 | **Janna Vogl (Max-Weber-Kolleg):**
“We shall rise like ocean waves”:
Petitions to a women’s sankam in a Tamil village
- 17:30-18:45 | **Michael P. Young (University of Texas at Austin):**
How did DREAMers become un-deportable in the United States?
What the activism of the undocumented-immigrant youth can teach us about how social movements can advance egalitarian norms.
- 20:00 | **Dinner**

Tuesday, March 27

Max-Weber-Kolleg, room 805 (7th floor)

- 9:30-10:45 | **Mallarika Sinha Roy (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi):**
Governing generations:
Legacies of social movements and youth politics in postcolonial Bengal
- 11:00-12:15 | **Benjamin Bunk (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul):**
“Só lixo” – Just waste. Brazilian waste-pickers initiatives and the local politicization of global norms in unequal spaces for self-formation processes
- 12:15-13:15 | **Lunch**
- 13:15-14:30 | **Rimi Tadu (Max-Weber-Kolleg):**
State socialization of non-state people in the eastern Himalayan highlands: Zomia after-state
- 14:45-15:45 | **Concluding discussion**

Funded by the *Forum for the Study of the Global Condition* and *Kolleg Research Group Religious Individualisation in Historical Perspective*

If you want to participate, please register with dekanat.mwk@uni-erfurt.de

ORGANISATION

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