Einladung zu der
Ad. E. Jensen-
Gedächtnisvorlesung
2024

Prof. Dr. Andrew Apter
University of California (UCLA)
Historical ethnography and the ritual archive

Jeweils montags
16.15 bis 17.45 Uhr

Raum 1.801/1.802
im Casinogebäude

Campus Westend
Goethe-Universität

Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1
60323 Frankfurt am Main

Telefon+49 (0)69 798 33050
frobenius@em.uni-frankfurt.de

www.frobenius-institut.de

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The general theme of my lectures engages the generative crossroads of anthropology and history, an interdisciplinary relationship with its own distinguished history evidenced by the illustrious genealogy of articles on the topic that have emerged since Evans-Pritchard’s signal Marrett Lecture delivered in 1950. Based largely on my own experience bringing anthropological methods to Afro-Atlantic historical ethnography over the last two decades, I explore the possibilities of using rituals as archives for unlocking repressed historical memories and the pasts which they reenact. Whereas “fetishized” forms of ritual invocations and representations of the past provide standard fare for anthropological reflection, few studies meet the far greater challenge of determining the pasts which rituals manifest, or what I pose as the deceptively complex problematic of “what actually happened.” How are “actual” pasts ritually archived and accessed? How can we account for their generational transmission through performative genealogies predicated on ritual surrogation? And how do we transform them into historical narratives without doing violence to their culturally specific epistemological frameworks? These are some of the questions that I will pursue in my lectures.

03. Juni
My Life in the Forest of Spirits

10. Juni
An Operating Manual for the Ritual Archive

19. Juni
The Ritual Archive in Yoruba Culture

26. Juni
‘Yoruba Culture’ in the Frobenius Archive

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Zum Sekttempfang nach der Eröffnungsveranstaltung am 03. Juni 2024 laden wir Sie in das Foyer des Casinogebäudes herzlich ein.