



berlin graduate school
muslim cultures and societies

From the Field to the Paper

Workshop held at Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies, Altensteinstraße 48

Preparatory Meeting:

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 5pm-6pm (prior to the colloquium)

Introductory Session:

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 2pm-4pm

We will determine the dates of further sessions after the introduction. Depending on the availability and number of participants we are planning to have four more sessions for the semester.

Organiser:

Ruth Streicher

Participants:

Primarily third-year doctoral researchers of the BGS MCS. Doctoral researchers from other cohorts who are in the writing process after coming back from field research are more than welcome.

Format:

Regular meetings throughout the semester

Readings:

The main obligatory readings are the written texts produced by fellow doctoral researchers. We will also share different resources on writing during the introductory session.

Requirements:

The course is mainly designed for PhD researchers who have undertaken field research and are willing to discuss their own written chapters or papers.

Credit Points:

2

Application:

The deadline for application is September 30, 2013 (via e-mail to r.streicher@fu-berlin.de).

Contact:

For any queries or questions, please contact Ruth at r.streicher@fu-berlin.de

Workshop Outline:

You have just returned from your field research carrying bags full of notes, photographs and other material? Back to Berlin, the cold autumn weather reminds you that you will now actually have to sit down *writing* your thesis, and connect some of this material with analytical concepts? You feel overwhelmed, and your perpetual staring at the computer screen mainly reminds you of the fact that time is running? This course is designed to provide a space for fellow PhD researchers to share and discuss their next steps after returning from the 'field', mainly focusing on how to produce written drafts that productively connect what is schematically divided as 'field-' and 'deskwork'.

Building on a successful previous concept, the course has two aims:

One, it serves to create a secure space for PhD researchers to try out and write up some first conceptual analyses of their material and get direct feedback by their peers. Thus in the main part of the course, all the participants will be required to share some draft written work and constructively review the work of their colleagues.

Two, it involves other researchers for sharing tools and techniques that might support PhD researchers in the writing process. Every session will therefore also engender a thematical part where we will invite post-doc researchers or other experts to share their experiences and discuss the process of writing concerning different topics and materials. Questions that we choose to discuss might involve: How to analyse pictures from the field and weave them into the written text? How to deal with difficulties of translation? But also: what to do if my stacks of material keep filling up but the first written draft document remains empty?

In sum, the course serves to assist PhD researchers in analytically communicating field research in form of writing. The written results should not be seen as additional work but will hopefully constitute the ground material for a written thesis.