



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

INSTITUTE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

COLLOQUIUM SERIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Public Lectures

‘No humanity’: Crime, Conversion and Dissent in urban Kenya

On the northern peri-urban outskirts of Nairobi, young men who have spent their lives eking out a living through petty crime and drug-dealing ‘in the street’ reflect upon the injustice of their experience in Christian tones. While lamenting God’s unknowability, they criticise the moral deficiencies of the country’s politicians, claiming such figures possess ‘no humanity’. In the context of Kenya’s recent wave of anti-government protest, the connection between Christian moral ideas and political action requires reappraisal. In contrast to an anthropology of Christianity focused on questions of personal ethics, this paper explores how life experience and Christian humanism combine on the economic margins to form a ‘tradition of dissent’, islands of moral knowledge that spur political action at critical junctures in history.

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**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5th**

17:00 c.t. – 19:00 c.t.

LOCATION: CATS Seminar Building (4010),
Lecture Hall (010.01.05), 1st Floor