



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
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INSTITUTE OF
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COLLOQUIUM SERIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY
Public Lectures

Dancing Hanoi: sharing places and practices in hip hop

Prof. Sandra Kurfürst

Department of Social and Cultural
Anthropology/Global South Studies Center,
University of Cologne



In this talk, I focus on young hip hop artists and their engagement with the urban built environment. Young people in late socialist Vietnam practice the dance styles of breaking, popping, locking, waacking and hip hop dance, all locally summarized under the term “hip hop culture”. Leading a dancing life often means not to comply with social expectations as well as facing the precarity of labour. Nonetheless, youth in Hanoi continue to follow their passion for dance, some desiring to become professional dancers. I understand hip hop culture in Hanoi as community of practice, in which a common repertoire, norms and values are shared (Lave and Wenger 1991). In this context, I will discuss the terms of belonging and politics of place within the hip hop community. Overall, I am interested in youth’s aspirations and desires embodied in dance and their interactions with the material infrastructure of the city.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28
17:00 c.t. – 19:00 c.t.

LOCATION: South Asia Institute, Lecture Hall (010.01.05), 1st Floor