



# RePLITO

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## Quarterly Newsletter #1, March 2022

**Welcome to the first issue of our quarterly newsletter!**

Our newsletter provides you with an overview of our latest research activities and publications. It introduces you to the short-term visiting research fellows in the RePLITO project. In addition, every issue showcases one of the collaborative projects with our partners.

In this issue, Julia Strutz shares insights into the digital research-oriented learning formats that RePLITO organizes in collaboration with Off-University and two scholars who are currently based on the island of Lesbos - Nagehan Uskan and Salim Nabi.

Through the hyperlinks, you can go directly to the articles published in RePLITO's digital knowledge archive. We create this dynamic open-access knowledge resource in close cooperation with our partner Off-University. It is a shared space in which we experiment with a variety of academic formats, such as multimedia conversations and collaborative publishing.

**RePLITO's digital knowledge archive** has three different sections:



### **Concepts and Repertoires**

explores conceptualizations, definitions, interpretations and global repertoires of living together

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### **Conversations**

are dialogues about global repertoires of living together

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### **Publications**

presents articles, reports, journals and books emerging from our research on global repertoires of living together

In terms of quality assurance, I would like to point out that every written contribution to our knowledge archive is critically evaluated by two or more members of the RePLITO consortium. Furthermore, we invite scholars from our international cooperation partners to assess the quality of the contribution before it is published.

**We hope you will enjoy reading & browsing through this issue.**

*Nadja-Christina Schneider*

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## Learning together in multilocal settings: RePLITO's cooperation with Off-University

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As a non-university partner of RePLITO, Off-University strives to make academic collaborations accessible to scholars pushed out of academia by right-wing and authoritarian regimes. It also seeks to facilitate new connections between the university and other spaces of activist and artistic research and knowledge production.

Over the past year, Off-University and RePLITO have co-organized an inspiring series of digital research-oriented learning collaborations with a team of scholars and activists on the island of Lesbos. During the summer term 2021, Dr. Nagehan Uskan and Salim Nabi held the online course "Commons and Learning to Live Together" which aimed to "subvert the relation of the academy with the 'field' by bringing the field to the classroom", as the two scholars expressed it. Participants of this multilocal and experiential learning course ranged from inhabitants of the refugee camps on the island, activists in all parts of the world to regular students at Humboldt-Universität. The endeavor to find new ways of expression was continued during the workshop "Visual Storytelling as Resistance", led by Nagehan Uskan (winter term 2021). It analyzed the language used about migration in mainstream media and proposed alternatives in short videos produced by participants from within the migrant community on Lesbos. This series will be continued in the summer term 2022 by the film seminar "Filmmaking in Exile", hosted once again at the Department for Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region at IAAW (HU).

For Off-University, this form of collaboration exemplifies in many ways the benefits and limits of learning and teaching together in an online space. It brought together people who would not have had the chance to meet and cooperate so closely without the seminars. The masterly facilitation by the two scholars created exchange and a depth of conversation that we have seldom witnessed in an online setting. At the same time, access to devices to join online education were very unevenly distributed among the participants. For those having to live in the camps on Lesbos, flash lights were necessary to prepare the readings for class on print-outs. Groups of three or four gathered around computer screens to join the online sessions, as a hybrid format with all participants on the island was impossible because of the Covid regulations. That the seminar happened is therefore a little bit like magic - a magic achieved by the enormous efforts of Nagehan Uskan, Salim Nabi, and everyone who shared their thoughts during the seminar(s) and workshops.



*Julia Strutz*

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# Concepts and Repertoires of Living Together: Overview of entries

(published between July 2021-March 2022)

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## **C**limate Justice – *Sina Carina Rauch*

The concept of climate justice has a history in local and global resistance against environmental and climate degradation as matters of social injustice. Protest action and problem analyses by affected communities and their allies have long called out environmental and climate inequalities and injustices, and driven concept- and movement-building for environmental and climate justice. As a term, climate justice is by now used by a variety of actors ranging from transnational social movements, local activist groups, national to international governmental as well as non-governmental organisations and foundations. (...)

## **H**eritage Diplomacy

– *Nadja-Christina Schneider*

Beyond nationally oriented approaches to social and cultural cohesion, it is interesting to look into emerging forms and key actors of cultural and heritage policies in Asia. As Tim Winter (2015) explains, heritage diplomacy extends beyond the use of culture as a tool for international public and political relations; it can be understood as an arena of governance, one that crosses borders, and becomes politicized as it straddles sectors as diverse as architectural conservation, social development and post-disaster reconstruction. (...)

## **K**abir's Bhakti – *Nadja-Christina Schneider*

The renewed interest in a philosophical and moral compass provided by bhakti can also be seen as a response to the rise of majoritarian nationalism and perceived 'crisis' of secularism in India, as well as a search for a new shared basis to form 'deep ties of friendship between diverse groups'. This particularly holds true for the recent 'rediscovery' of 15th-century saint-poet Kabir for whom 'Hindu' and 'Muslim' were not dichotomous categories. (...)

## **K**nowledge Ecologies – *Claudia Derichs*

The conceptual term of knowledge ecologies draws from Boaventura de Sousa Santos, who introduced "ecologies of knowledges" in his book *Epistemologies of the South: Justice against Epistemicide* (2014). Using the term in the sense of de Sousa Santos means to look at concepts with an awareness of their being articulated through different sets of epistemic basics. He not only criticizes the dominant Northern epistemologies, but presents his own epistemological proposal - i.e. epistemologies of the South. (...)

## **M**ahalle – *Julia Strutz*

Mahalle (engl. neighborhood, quarter) denotes the smallest unit of societal organization in the city in much of the geography once subjected to the Ottoman Empire, in parts of Central and South Asia and beyond. Orientalist scholarship singled out the mahalle as an important reason why communities in this part of the world supposedly failed to create cohesive units. However, Mahalle constituted not only a very important repertoire of living together in these diverse societies, it also organized welfare and redistribution. (...)

## **N**ationalism – *Saskia Schäfer*

The concept of nationalism has assumed various positions in different disciplines and fields: in political science, the focus on the state, on institutions, and on civil society, perpetuated rather than questioned methodological nationalism; sociologists transferred the insights of constructedness of nations to other social categories, such as ethnicity, and offered larger comparisons. Meanwhile, anthropologists often found themselves in the predicament of wanting to take the informants' "emic" perspective seriously while acknowledging the genealogical approaches to "etic" outsiders' perspectives. (...)

## **Q**uilombo – *Juliana M. Streva*

Quilombo is a multi-sited concept that encompasses historic and continual movements of decolonial and anti-racist struggles, initiated by runaway enslaved persons in the colonial regime. Both a theory and a practice, the notion of quilombo involves political strategies, embodied memories, and everyday practices of fugitivity and living together, that directly interrogate the Eurocentric definition of 'social cohesion'. Hence, more than a countermovement to survive, quilombo is the radical proposal for coalition and a politics of and for life. (...)

## **R**adical Utopian "Living Together" – *Robert Kramm*

Since antiquity, and arguably discursively rendered more precisely by Thomas More's Utopia in 1516, in every part of the world human beings engaged in what came to be called utopian imagining and utopian community building. For most proponents of utopia, a better "living together" has usually implied to build a better world, hopefully for all, in which political oppression, labor exploitation, gender inequality, and racist as well as sexist discrimination, among other issues, would have been overcome. (...)

## **R**omantic Love in India – *Parul Bhandari*

A sociological and anthropological enquiry into what happens when romantic desires that are more individualistic in nature intersect with conflicting ideals of community/kinship/family duty and identities, leading the couple to not live together, is crucially revealing of the nature of love. The tendency, in these situations, is to declare that the love was not 'strong enough' to overcome societal pressures. Or love is then analysed and described in the context of sacrifice - sacrifice of not living together and/or of ceasing to love. (...)

## **S**olidarity – *Fritzi-Marie Titzmann*

The expression of solidarity can be understood as a core element of living together, through which togetherness characterized by acceptance, mutuality and reciprocity is promoted. However, solidarity can as well demonstrate a unifying oppositional attitude toward political and social conditions. It is frequently evoked in contexts of resistance to the normative order. It is considered an essential motivation for joint action, since it collectivizes what would otherwise remain individual experiences and emotions. (...)

## **U**ntu – *Juliana M. Streva*

Ubuntu is a concept born from anti-racist struggles of African communities, in what became known as South Africa. As a living philosophy, Ubuntu proposes a relational and interconnected approach to the experience of living together, that directly confronts the colonial and neoliberal domains of humanism, (necro)politics and 'social cohesion'. Etymologically, the term ubuntu derives from the Zulu language, that presents variations within Bantu languages, but also finds expression throughout Africa in the multitude of languages and cultures. (...)

# Overview of Conversations

(released between Sep 2021-March 2022)

## Decentering Conceptions of Living Together, a two-day digital workshop

organized by Juliana M. Streva, Kai Kresse and Sérgio Costa in November 2021

Panel recordings available in RePLITO's knowledge archive:

(25.11.2021) **Panel 1:** [Decentering Genealogies of Living Together](#)

(26.11.2021) **Panel 2:** [Performativity, Activism, Praxis](#)

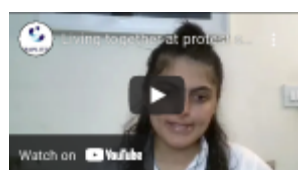
(26.11.2021) **Panel 3:** [Critical Confabulations](#)



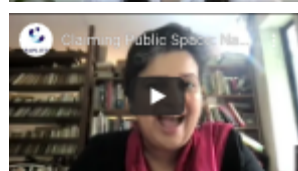
## How to Live Together? Circulations, Practices and Spaces in Indian Contexts, a three-day digital conference

organized by Nadja-Christina Schneider, Fritzi-Marie Titzmann and Fathima Nizaruddin in September 2021

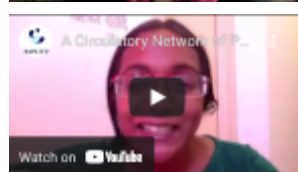
Recorded conversations available in RePLITO's knowledge archive:



**"Living Together at Protest Sites"**, [Fritzi-Marie Titzmann](#) in conversation with [Navkiran Natt](#), an activist involved in the Indian Farmers' protest and co-editor of *Trolley Times*, a multilingual newspaper for the movement



**"Claiming Public Space: Loitering in the City"**, [Nadja-Christina Schneider](#) in conversation with [Shilpa Phadke](#), Professor at the School of Media and Cultural Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai



**"A Circulatory Network of Poetry without Borders"**, [Fathima Nizaruddin](#) in conversation with documentary filmmaker [Shabnam Virmani](#), initiator of the Kabir Project



**"Cinema of Resistance"**, [Shweta Kishore](#) in conversation with [Sanjay Joshi](#), national convenor of Cinema of Resistance (COR), a grass roots film screening collective from India



## Von neuen Korridoren und Seidenstraßen

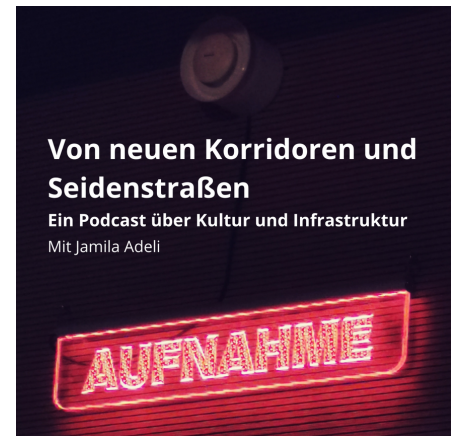
Ein Podcast über Kultur und Infrastruktur

**Jamila Adeli**

*(in German)*

This podcast series is a collaboration between RePLITO and the BMBF-funded joint research project "De:link//Re:link: Local perspectives on transregional (dis-)entanglements".

In this first episode, **Jamila Adeli** is in conversation with **Minh An Szabó de Bucs**, an independent art journalist specializing in contemporary art and the art market in China and Asia.



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## Publications: Overview

(published between Sep 2021-March 2022)

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### **Think Pieces**

#### **Memory Politics and Minority Management in Europe**

*ed. by Hannah Tzuberi and Schirin Amir-Moazami (2022)*

- **"Introduction"**  
(**Hannah Tzuberi** and **Schirin Amir-Moazami**)
- **"'I knew the Africans did not comprehend': Cinema Vérité, Holocaust Memory, and Minority Management on Screen"**  
(**Ben Ratskoff**)
- **"Affective Colonization as Minority Management"**  
(**A. Dirk Moses**)
- **"Minor Citizens? Holocaust Memory and the Un/Making of Citizenship"** (**Sultan Doughan**)
- **"Inclusive Strategies in German Memory Culture? Challenges and Possibilities"** (**Victoria Bishop Kendzia**)
- **"A Paradoxical Equation"**  
(**Sami Khatib**)
- **"Europe's Minority Management Machine"**  
(**Anya Topolski**)

### **Think Pieces**

Memory Politics and Minority Management in Contemporary Europe

*ed. by Hannah Tzuberi and Schirin Amir-Moazami*

**Dr. Juliana M. Streva's** article **"Decolonial Coalitions: Afro-Brazilian Feminisms and the Poetic-Politics of Quilombo"** was published in *Femina Politica* (2021), 2: 93-102.

# Imaginations, Narratives and Mediated Performances of Solidarity and Community

ed. by Nadja-Christina Schneider and Maitrayee Chaudhuri (2021)

- "Imaginations, Narratives and Mediated Performances of Solidarity and Community. An Experimental Exercise in Collaborative Publishing Between Delhi and Berlin" (Nadja-Christina Schneider and Maitrayee Chaudhuri)
- "Living in Oneness? Ravidassia Music Videos as Imaginations of Solidarity beyond Caste" (Dhanya Fee Kirchhof)
- "Images of Resistance: A Qualitative research on memories and narratives of Diasporic Sri Lankan Tamils" (Chandrika Yogarajah)
- "Remembering JNU and the university space as a 'better way' of living together in India" (Anna Schnieder-Krüger)
- "Extending an Indonesian Umbrella: A Case Study of Queer (Trans)national Solidarity by @kamusqueer" (Wikke Jansen); also available in Bahasa Indonesia: "Memperluas Istilah Turunan Indonesia: Sebuah Studi Solidaritas (Antar) Negara dengan @Kamusqueer"
- "Rethinking Solidarity: De(Gendered) Empathy and (Inter)Subjectivity in Rituporno Ghosh's Film" (Debashrita Dey and Priyanka Tripathi)
- "Baudrillard's simulacra and death of solidarity? The case of subalterns in Northeast India" (Suanmuanlian Tonsing)
- "Building Solidarity, Building Connectivities? The Transregional Routes and Implications of the Northeast India Festival in Bangkok" (Domenic Teipelke)
- "Forging solidarities via food: Notes from COVID-19 lockdown in India" (Sampurna Das)
- "Solidarity as a political relation on Instagram during the Indian farmers' protest" (Ananya Bordoloi)
- "Media imaginations of the collective: A subaltern perspective" (Deepa Kozhisseri)



## GAMSzine – Magazine of the Department for Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region

GAMSzine #3 (Dec 2021) offers several insights into RePLITO's research activities:

- "Tejal Shah Queers Ecology" (Bindu Bhadana) (5-8)
- "A report of the conference 'How to Live Together? Circulations, Practices and Spaces in Indian Contexts'" (Nadja-Christina Schneider) (23-25)
- "Commons and Learning to Live Together" (Julia Strutz in conversation with Nagehan Uskan) (35-38)

## Conference Publication

### How to Live Together? Circulatory Practices and Contested Spaces in India

ed. by Fritzi-Marie Titzmann and Nadja-Christina Schneider (2022)

- "Why 'Living Together'? Introduction, Part One" (Nadja-Christina Schneider)
- "Circulatory Practices and Contested Spaces. Introduction, Part Two" (Fritzi-Marie Titzmann)
- "'A Bird at my Window': Communicative Community and Contextualized Visibility" (Max Kramer)
- "Reframing participant and audience: a tactics of circulation in Indian documentary" (Shweta Kishore)
- "Trolley Times: Mediating Solidarity in the Indian Farmers' Movement" (Fritzi-Marie Titzmann)
- "Nari Shakti and the Nation: Visual Imagery and Mediation of 'India's New Daughters' in the Framework of Muscular Patriotism" (Nadja-Christina Schneider), also available at: <https://genderopen.de/handle/25595/2177>
- "'Recognize all Mankind as Equal and One': Punjabi Singer Kanwar Grewal's Circulatory Practices of Oneness and Equality" (Dhanya Fee Kirchhof)

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## RePLITO Visiting Research Fellows at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (IAAW)

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(October - November 2021)

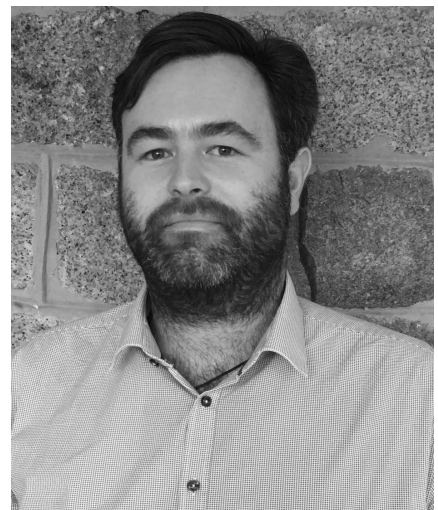
### Dr. Robert Kramm

Host at IAAW: Prof. Dr. Claudia Derichs,  
Transregional Southeast Asian Studies

Robert Kramm is Freigeist Fellow (VW Stiftung) in the School of History at LMU Munich. At LMU, he is the principal investigator of the research group "Radical Utopian Communities".

On October 27th, 2021, Robert gave a lecture in the framework of our RePLITO Visiting Fellows Lecture Series:

**"A Global History From the Margins:  
Communal Life in the Twentieth Century"**





(October – December 2021)



## Dr. Parul Bhandari

Hosts at IAAW: [Dr. Fritzi-Marie Titzmann](#) & [Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider](#), Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region (GAMS)

Parul Bhandari is a sociologist from Delhi, specialising in the study of marriage, family, gender, class and inequalities in contemporary India.

On November 17th, 2021, Parul gave a lecture in the framework of our RePLITO Visiting Fellows Lecture Series:

**“In Togetherness and as Apart:  
Love, Marriage and Family in Contemporary India”**

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(January – March 2022)

## Wikke Jansen

Host at IAAW: [Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider](#), Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region (GAMS)

Wikke Jansen is going to defend her PhD thesis on “Queer (Im)mobilities: Activism, Religion, and Everyday Life among Queer Indonesians” in July 2022. She was a doctoral fellow at the Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies (BGSMCS) and holds an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from Leiden University.

On February 9th, 2021, Wikke gave a lecture in the framework of our RePLITO Visiting Fellows Lecture Series:

**“Ambiguous (Im)mobilities: Activism, Religion and Everyday Life among Queer Indonesians”**



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(February – April 2022)

## Dr. Arshi Javid

Host at IAAW: [Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider](#), Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region (GAMS)

Arshi Javid is a post-doctoral critical residency fellow at Freie Universität Berlin. Her post-doctoral project looks at the everydayness of life between Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits before 1989, in the old city of Srinagar.



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# Teaching activities in the framework of RePLITO (summer term 2021 and winter term 2022)

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## Summer term 2021

### ***Commons and Learning to Live Together: A Radical Intervention in Migration and Refugee Studies from Lesbos, Greece***

Project seminar

**Dr. Nagehan Uskan & Salim Nabi**

A cooperation between Off-University & RePLITO, hosted at the Department of Gender and Media Studies for the South Asian Region (GAMS), HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

### ***Memory politics and minority management in contemporary Europe***

Lecture series & seminar

**Prof. Dr. Schirin Amir-Moazami & Dr. Hannah Tzuberi**, FU Berlin, Institute of Islamic Studies



### ***Zukunftsentwürfe des Zusammenlebens: Konzepte, künstlerische Interventionen, mediale Utopien***

Project seminar

**Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider**, HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

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## Winter term 2021/22

### ***Radical Thinkers from Améfrica Ladina: Anti-Colonial Theories and Practices***

Seminar

**Dr. Juliana M. Streva**, FU Berlin, Institute for Latin American Studies

### ***Global Repertoires of Living Together***

Research Placement

**Dr. Juliana M. Streva & Prof. Dr. Sérgio Costa**, FU Berlin, Sociology Department/Institute for Latin American Studies

### ***Mahalle/mohalla/mahalla: On a transregional urban repertoire of living together***

Seminar

**Dr. Julia Strutz**, HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

### ***Repertoires of Living Together: Solidarität, Protest und digitale Medien in Südasien***

Seminar

**Dr. Fritzi-Marie Titzmann**, HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

### ***Konzepte und Repertoires des Zusammenlebens in Indien***

Research Seminar

**Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider**, HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

### ***Wer ist 'wir'? - Sprache, Politik und 'living together'***

Research Seminar

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Derichs**, HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

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## **Workshops and Conferences (June 2021 - Feb 2022)**

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**June 6**

### **On Nationalism (internal workshop)**

Organized by **Dr. Saskia Schäfer**

Participants in this workshop were encouraged to share and discuss their own draft articles or a relevant text on the topic of nationalism.

**Sep 28-30**

### **How to Live Together?**

### **Circulations, Practices and Spaces in Indian Contexts**

Organized by **Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider, Dr. Fritzi-Marie Titzmann & Dr. Fathima Nizaruddin**

Cooperation partner: Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (IRGAC)

The manner in which diverse circulations including that of bodies, objects, ideas and cultural material have historically shaped social spaces in South Asia has been a topic of scholarly discussion. Is it possible to use this understanding of circulation to make sense of the situation in contemporary India where under a competitive authoritarian regime specific networks create proliferations around divisive notions of identity that mark certain sections of the population as outgroups? If so, what circulatory possibilities exist in terms of repertoires of living together that can create different kinds of proliferations to provide frameworks for peaceful coexistence? The three-day conference focused on these questions and engaged with existing formations, movements and networks in India whose work contain such possibilities.



**to the conference booklet**

Nov 26-26

## Decentering Conceptions of Living Together - Latin American and African Perspectives

Organized by **Dr. Juliana M. Streva, Prof. Dr. Kai Kresse & Prof. Dr. Sérgio Costa**

In revisiting and re-thinking ideas of 'social cohesion', the two-day workshop "Decentering Conceptions of Living Together: South American and African Perspectives" organized in November 2021 by RePLITO aimed to rethink the classical scholarship on social cohesion by exploring multiple intellectual traditions and discursive practices from the 'Global South', understood not merely as a geopolitical zone, but as a frame to investigate the various undersides of modernity. The workshop was carried out as a webinar in three languages (English, Portuguese and Spanish) and translated simultaneously.

 **to the recorded sessions**

Dec 6

## Diasporic Knowledge

Organized by **Prof. Dr. Elad Lapidot** (Katholische Akademie Berlin), in cooperation with RePLITO and **Dr. Hannah Tzuberi** (FU)

Last decades have seen the rise of "diaspora" as a central category or *Denkfigur* for critical thinking of contemporary politics, culture and society, which calls into question dominant nation-state models. The conference sought to examine, more specifically, the epistemic foundations of diaspora by exploring conceptually and historically the meaning(s) of diasporic knowledge, whereby "knowledge" includes not only theoretical but also practical and existential forms of knowing.

 **[https://intellectualdiaspora.org/diasporic-knowledge\\_conference/](https://intellectualdiaspora.org/diasporic-knowledge_conference/)**

Feb 21, 2022

## Living Together in Multilingual Societies: International Mother Language Day 2022 at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

*A one-day digital event, organised in the framework of "Beyond Social Cohesion – Global Repertoires of Living Together (RePLITO)", funded by the Berlin University Alliance*

Organized by **Prof. Dr. Nadja-Christina Schneider**

International Mother Language Day was established by UNESCO in 1999 to promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education. "Living Together in Multilingual Societies" was the theme of this year's program at HU's Institute for Asian and African Studies. Authoritarian nationalism and language politics, linguistic diversity and social cohesion, as well as the role of poetry and literature in protest movements were three focal points of the event. International guests included renowned violinist Iskandar Widjaja (Germany/Indonesia), writer and poet Meena Kandasamy (India), and activist & diplomat Ronny Kareni (New Guinea/Australia).

 **to the recorded panels**

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# Upcoming Lecture Series

## (summer term 2022)

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### Global Repertoires of “living together” - Critical and decolonial perspectives

Lecture series & seminar

Organized by **Prof. Dr. Schirin Amir-Moazami** (FU Berlin, Institute of Islamic Studies), **Dr. Salma Siddique** (HU Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies) & **Dr. Juliana M. Streva** (FU Berlin, Institute for Latin American Studies)

Further information will be published at <https://replito.de/>

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#### Imprint

#### RePLITO Quarterly Newsletter No. 1, March 2022

Newsletter of the joint research project “Beyond Social Cohesion - Global Repertoires of Living Together (RePLITO)”, funded by the Berlin University Alliance in the framework of the Main Call Exploration Projects Social Cohesion

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