

## **Whose "decolonization" is it?**

### **A critical view from ethnohistoric, ethnographic, -linguistic and museum studies in Latin America on a current concept (Workshop, 25. – 27.02.2020)**

Venue: BASA (Ground Floor), Dep. for the Anthropology of the Americas, Oxfordstr. 15, 53111 Bonn

Organizers: Dr. Antje Gunsenheimer (University of Bonn, Dep. for the Anthropology of the Americas) and Dr. Justyna Olko (University of Warsaw, Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity)

#### **Basic ideas of the workshop**

Originally understood as the political process of independence movements in colonized territories, these days 'decolonization' and 'decoloniality' is a frequently used concept in the social sciences and the humanities. Their focus is mainly on processes of 'intellectual decolonization' between Europe/USA, e.g. (the broader 'North') and previously colonized states in Africa, Latin America, Asia, etc. (the broader 'South') or they analyze and reflect on decolonization processes of marginalized communities within modern multicultural nation states with asymmetric power relations (e.g. indigenous peoples in Latin America).

Research projects in our disciplines have already made substantial experience with the inclusion of local communities into planning and implementation of research goals. Other projects just stumble by chance into an interactive process with local communities and their interests. In regard of those observations, the workshop poses the question "Whose decolonization is it?" in order

- to reflect critically on the understanding of "decolonization processes" in our disciplines (anthropology, ethnohistory, archaeology and museum studies),
- to discuss the interface between academic views of decolonization and local efforts of empowerment (enhancing factors, obstructive factors), how to embrace local actors and community-driven research?
- to summarize which lessons (negative and positive) can be learned from ongoing research projects
- to identify what it needs (desiderata) to include 'decolonizing' perspectives/goals into our concepts of research projects and associated engaged activities
- to identify common future prospective research topics and implementation forms (planning and realization, cooperations with local communities, fostering networks, empowerment strategies, etc.)
- to define convincing arguments for stake holders and funding agencies to support innovative research cooperations and additional costs.

Interested students have to register via e-mail with Dr. Antje Gunsenheimer (antje.gunsenheimer[at]uni-bonn.de).