

IPW LECTURES

Reproducing Security Markets. The Household in the Global Recruitment of Security Workforces

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Mittwoch, 6. Dezember 2017, 17:30 Uhr

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Abstract:

This presentation is a feminist political economy exploration into the role militarised households play in broader global recruitment of Nepali workforces in private security. Nepalese security contractors are not only desirable in the global security industry because of their 'martial race' histories — forged through over 200 years of military service on behalf of the British empire, but also because of uneven economic geographies and the seemingly unfettered support their families provide to sustain existing security labour practices. Drawing on ethnographic work with security contractor wives throughout Nepal, this presentation demonstrates the everyday activities women in these communities perform, from making important financial decisions to teaching their children to know and love their fathers. This highlights the entanglements of militarism and global capitalism in shaping the global security migrant family home and reveals the patriarchal and militarised bargains women are compelled to make for sustaining the global security industry.

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