

Beyond Guidelines: The Question of Ethics in Transregional Research and Knowledge Production

Workshop | 28 June 2023, Venue: Forum Transregionale Studien, Wallotstraße 14, 14193 Berlin

EU guidelines for the social sciences highlight the need for ethical research designs when working with human subjects, emphasizing the protection of personal data, the power asymmetries that accompany research in what (as per these guidelines) is called “resource poor settings” and – notably to a lesser extent – potential political or social risks for research interlocutors in different countries. In this workshop, the BEYONDREST working group would like to open up a conversation looking at research ethics – especially in transregional research – both in methodological and conceptual terms. Among the topics we would like to discuss are questions of disclosure and non-disclosure, the dynamics of off-the-record remarks in different institutional and political settings, and differential vulnerabilities that shape knowledge production in often unanticipated ways.

After short interventions by Birgit Meyer, Anne-Marie McManus, and the BEYONDREST team, we invite the participants to a joint reflection on their experiences – be it within fieldwork settings or during data analysis and the writing process.

The workshop is organized by the ERC-funded research project [Beyond Restitution: Heritage, \(Dis\)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge \(BEYONDREST\)](#).

Program:

- 10:00-10:15 Welcome by **Banu Karaca** (Forum Transregionale Studien / BEYONDREST)
- 10:15-12:00 Presentations & Discussion
- Birgit Meyer** (Utrecht University): Transregional and Anthropological Research Under Current Ethics Regimes: Some Observations
- Anne-Marie McManus** (Forum Transregionale Studien / ERC project SYRASP): The Ethics of Producing Knowledge on Incarceration and Forced Disappearance in Syria, in Berlin
- Çiçek İlengiz** (Forum Transregionale Studien / BEYONDREST): Working With “Off The Record”
- 12:00-12:45 Lunch Break
- 12:45-14:00 Wrap-up Discussion

Bios:

Çiçek İİengiz works at the intersection of memory studies, the politics of emotions and critical heritage studies. In January 2023, she joined the research project BEYONDREST as a postdoctoral researcher working on her research project “Inheriting Anatolia: Representation, Knowledge Production and Imagination”. For more information, see her [profile](#).

Banu Karaca works at the intersection of political anthropology and critical theory, art, aesthetics, and cultural policy, museum and feminist memory studies. She is Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded project “Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST)” and researches how dispossession and loss have shaped the scholarly and legal knowledge production on art in Turkey and beyond. For more information, visit her [profile](#).

Anne-Marie McManus is Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded project [SYRASP](#) on contemporary narrative and cultural practices on incarceration in Syria, hosted by the Forum Transregionale Studien. Trained in comparative literature, she is also drawing on anthropological approaches for the SYRASP project, which is developing collaborative methods and ethics for knowledge production with cultural actors and former prisoners in Europe. For more information, visit her [profile](#).

Birgit Meyer (PhD Cultural Anthropology, 1995) is Professor of Religious Studies at Utrecht University where she directs the program [Religious Matters in an Entangled World](#). For more information, see her [profile](#). Currently she is a fellow (April-June 2023) in the Multiple Secularities Research Group at Leipzig University.