



NEWSMAIL | DECEMBER 2022

Research projects, publications and events

Dear Members and Friends,

Winter has come and it's time for some good news about our network's activities including some interesting new publications by Ahmad Moradi, Ivan Rajković, André Thiemann and Larissa Vettters.

Congratulations to Sofía Ugarte, who was awarded the British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant; to Ivan Rajković who has received the Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities Grant of the Austrian Academy of Sciences; and to Anna Žabicka, who was awarded a Marietta Blau Grant, which she spends at the University of Iowa (see more details below).

In terms of research, I can report that Marlene Persch has returned from fieldwork on prison officers in Ghana and that Ivan Rajković, Quirin Rieder and (soon) Saskya Tschebann have set off for their fieldwork in, respectively, Serbia, Pakistan and the US.

I hope I'll get a chance to see Anna and Saskya in the US while I'm spending the winter and spring term at Stanford as Distinguished Visiting Austrian Chair.

Our member Ivan Rajković is co-organising a workshop, "[Energy transition and environmental contestation in the Balkans](#)", on 12 and 13 December 2022. And for those of us who are also AnthroState members, it's worth putting Klāvs Sedlenieks's discussion of *The Dawn of Everything* on 2 February on our calendars.

I hope you all have a relaxing winter break and a good transition into another vibrant year of research and reflection about Care and State!

Please send any comments and suggestions or announcements you would like to share to cast.ksa@univie.ac.at

NEWS

[André Thiemann](#) has a new position as a postdoctoral researcher at the [Department of](#)



[Ecological Anthropology](#) (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences) – congratulations!



[Letizia Bonanno](#) accepted a new post-doc position at the [Kent and Medway Medical School](#) – congratulations!

AWARDS



[Sofía Ugarte](#) was awarded a British Academy / Leverhulme Small Research Grant for the project "The Reproductive Life of Pensions". Through long-term ethnography and biographical interviews, the project aims to explore the impact of retirement insecurity and privatised pension systems among older adults and within intergenerational dynamics of care and social reproduction in urban Chile.



[Anna Žabicka](#) received the Marietta Blau Grant. The scholarship allows her to continue her PhD research project "Aging, care, and imagined futures in rural Latvia" with research stays at the University of Iowa (US) and the University of Oxford (UK) in 2023.

[Ivan Rajković](#) is a guest researcher at the Institute for Philosophy and Social Sciences (University of Belgrad) from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023. His stay is funded by the Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities (JESH) Grant of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. During his stay, he will work on his project "Whither ecopopulism?"



"CrossArea: Extractivisms in Comparison" (University of Kassel) and at the School for Climate Justice in Belgrade.

Energy transition and popular environmental mobilizations in the Balkans". He's doing field research on environmental mobilisations in the Balkan mountain in Serbia. At the core of this study is how ageing and environmentalism are entwined, and what kind of politics of life emerges when environmental politics meets depopulation. During this year, Ivan has also presented his research at the conference

PUBLICATIONS

Ahmad Moradi: (Dis)abling Sacrifice. Hierarchies of Loss, Brotherhood and Veterans' Classification in Iran

In: *Sociologus. Journal for Social Anthropology* 71 (2): 129–151.

This paper examines how disabled Iranian and Afghan ex-combatants oppose hierarchies among veterans and demand welfare benefits in Iran by mobilising a state-propagated sacrificial reasoning that defies economic calculations and encourages pan-Islamic solidarity. I show how the scope of veterans' benefits are conditioned by the biometric assessment of disability and migration policies, which in turn produce different classifications of war veterans and perpetuate civic inequalities. I address how struggles to secure benefit entitlements, which involves questioning the multiple 'ordering' of disability in state institutions, have made it possible for both Iranian and Afghan ex-combatants to contest the state's exclusionary care practices. Building on the anthropological literature on biological citizenship, I contribute to an understanding of the relation between disability and citizenship acts, in which appealing to sacrificial reasoning provides a counterweight to legal, medical, and national boundaries of deservingness, and enables both citizens and non-citizens to stake claims to social equity.

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Sociologus, Volume 71, Issue 2, pp. 129–151
Dauker & Heintze, Berlin

(Dis)abling Sacrifice: Veterans' Classification in Iran

*By Ahmad Moradi**

Abstract

This paper examines how disabled Iranian and Afghan ex-combatants oppose hierarchies among veterans and demand welfare benefits in Iran by mobilising a state-propagated sacrificial reasoning that defies economic calculations and encourages pan-Islamic solidarity. I show how the scope of veterans' benefits are conditioned by the biometric assessment of disability and migration policies, which in turn produce different classifications of war veterans and perpetuate civic inequalities. I address how struggles to secure benefit entitlements, which involves questioning the multiple 'ordering' of disability in state institutions, have made it possible for both Iranian and Afghan ex-combatants to contest the state's exclusionary care practices. Building on the anthropological literature on biological citizenship, I contribute to an understanding of the relation between disability and citizenship acts, in which appealing to sacrificial reasoning provides a counterweight to legal, medical, and national boundaries of deservingness, and enables both citizens and non-citizens to stake claims to social equity.

Keywords: Iran, care, citizenship, disability, Shi'a foreign fighters, sacrifice

1. Introduction

Are authorities who always talk of sacrifice not ashamed of how they are treating us? Have they ever seen the problems of veterans with less than twenty five percent disability status?

Moradi was injured in 1985 during a military operation in Shalimchah, an area located in the southeast of Iran, where many of his friends were killed in the war against Iraqi forces. I knew Moradi from my weekly visits to Tehran's central cemetery during 2015 and 2016, where disabled war veterans with less than twenty-five percent disability status had a regular informal get together. I found

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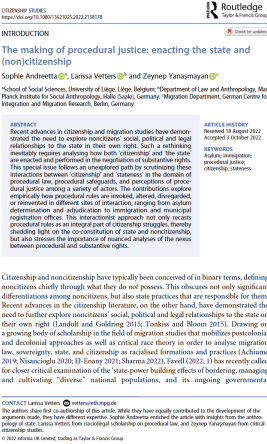
Larissa Vettters: Making sense of noncitizens' rights claims in asylum appeal hearings: practices and sentiments of procedural justice among German administrative judges.

In: *Citizenship Studies* 26 (7): 927–943.

Ethnographically exploring how German judges in administrative courts of first instance navigate



citizenship struggles that take place in webs of social relations within the realm of state law and across a graduated set of formal legal statuses for noncitizens.



negotiation of substantive rights. This special issue follows an unexplored path by scrutinizing these interactions between ‘citizenship’ and ‘stateness’ in the domain of procedural law, procedural safeguards, and perceptions of procedural justice among a variety of actors. The contributions explore empirically how procedural rules are invoked, altered, disregarded, or reinvented in different sites of interaction, ranging from asylum determination and adjudication to immigration and municipal registration offices. This interactionist approach not only recasts procedural rules as an integral part of citizenship struggles, thereby shedding light on the co-constitution of state and noncitizenship, but also stresses the importance of nuanced analyses of the nexus between procedural and substantive rights.

the practical, political, legal and ethical dilemmas of deciding on asylum appeals, this article identifies the oral hearing in asylum adjudication as a site of citizenship struggles in which rights claims by noncitizens undergo subtle transformations through the manner in which procedural rules are interpreted and enacted. Building on observations of asylum appeal hearings, conversations and focus group discussions with judges, I show that practices and sentiments of procedural justice among appeal judges are at the core of these transformations to citizenship struggles that take place in webs of social relations within the realm of state law and across a graduated set of formal legal statuses for noncitizens.

Larissa Vetter, Sophie Andreetta and Zeynep Yanaşmayan: The making of procedural justice: enacting the state and (non)citizenship

In: *Citizenship Studies* 26 (7): 893–909.

Recent advances in citizenship and migration studies have demonstrated the need to explore noncitizens’ social, political and legal relationships to the state in their own right. Such a rethinking inevitably requires analysing how both ‘citizenship’ and ‘the state’ are enacted and performed in the

André Thiemann and Kristīne Rolle: Becoming In-visible: Family Farms in Rural Latvia in the Framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy

In: *Culture, Agriculture, Food and Environment. The Journal of Culture & Agriculture* 44 (1): 41–52.

Sorge als „Grenzobjekt“: Ein ethnografischer Ansatz zur Unterscheidung öffentlich/privat

Tatjana Thelen

In diesem kurzen Essay skizziere ich einen ethnografischen Ansatz zur Erforschung der Rolle von Sorge in Grenzbeziehungsprozessen zwischen privat und öffentlich. Dabei geht es mir zum einen um die Grenzen des Staates anhand seiner „privaten“ Gegenüber (Familie und Zivilgesellschaft). Zum anderen möchte ich die Bedeutung von Sorge in der Herstellung politischer Zugehörigkeit entlang normativ als „richtig“ wahrgenommenen Konfigurationen von öffentlich und privat aufzeigen. Zu diesem Zweck verbinde ich die ethnografische Aneignung der State-geography (Thelen et al., 2018b) mit dem Konzept der Sorge als einem Grenzobjekt (*boundary object*) aus dem Umfeld der Wissenschafts- und Technikforschung (Star, 2010).

Neben den theoretischen Einsichten zum Verhältnis von Sorge und Staat verweist diese Kombination auch auf die Frage nach der ethnografischen Reichweite.

Dieser Aufsatz basiert auf der Keynote, die ich am 1. November 2019 auf der Konferenz *Young Public 7: Erziehungswissenschaftliche Ethnografie und ihre Öffentlichkeiten* an der Martin Luther Universität in Halle-Wittenberg gehalten habe. Für die Veröffentlichung wurde der englischsprachige Vortrag auf deutsch übersetzt, überarbeitet, deutlich gekürzt und durch Literaturangaben ergänzt.

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B. Illenstorf et al. (Hrsg.), *Young Public 7*
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17

Chapter 11 Cemetery Enchanted, Encore: Natural Burial in France and Beyond

Saskya Tschebann

11.1 Introduction

Max Weber's notion of the disenchantment of the world suggests that through processes of emerging modernity the moral, cognitive, and interpretative unity characterizing the enchanted premodern world view was shattered. For Weber disenchantment (*Entzauberung*) means the belief that with the advent of industrialization, science, and rationality there are no mysterious inviolable forces at play any longer but that one can master all things by calculation (Weber, 1919, p. 16). With magic and myth being stripped from "the world of spirits, demons, and moral forces which our ancestors lived in" (Taylor, 2007, p. 25) we are embarked "on a path at the end of which there will be no more mysteries" (Jenkins, 2000, p. 15).

Weber's disenchantment narrative enjoys great popularity among historians and anthropologists of death (e.g. Engelke, 2019; Furman, 2018; Fischer, 1996; Laguerre, 2013). Disenchantment of death is usually said to have begun with the Enlightenment. During the late eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries, the ban on burials in overcrowded inner-city churchyards and their closure resulted in the establishment of new cemeteries outside the inner-city walls (Fischer, 1996, pp. 10–23). The reasons for this development were justified legally with hygienic concerns, yet were also driven by additional motivations. Beyond reshaping the urban landscape, the closing of old, Church-controlled cemeteries and the opening of new ones outside the city reflected a new understanding of a secularized relationship between the living and the dead (Kleinman 2014, p. 167). Reform contributed to disenchantment and helped to destroy the medieval-Christian cosmos (Taylor, 2007, p. 775).

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B. Illenstorf et al. (eds.), *Interdisciplinary Explorations of Postmortem
Interaction, Bioarchaeology and Social Theory*
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249

Der Essay fokussiert auf die Trennung zwischen öffentlich und privat als empirisches Problem. Anhand von ethnografischen Beispielen wird einerseits die Grenzproduktion zwischen dem Staat und seinen „privaten“ Pendants – Familie und Zivilgesellschaft – illustriert und andererseits die Herstellung politischer Zugehörigkeit entlang von normativ als richtig wahrgenommenen Konfigurationen illustriert. In beiden Fällen wird Sorge zum Grenzobjekt. Dieser methodisch-theoretische Fokus weicht gleichzeitig das scheinbare Spannungsverhältnis zwischen der ethnografischen Empirie und größeren Öffentlichkeiten auf.

Saskya Tschebann: Cemetery Enchanted, Encore. Natural Burial in France and Beyond.

In: *Interdisciplinary Explorations of Postmortem Interaction. Bioarchaeology and Social Theory*, edited by E. Weiss-Krejci, S. Becker and P. Schwyzer, 249–268.

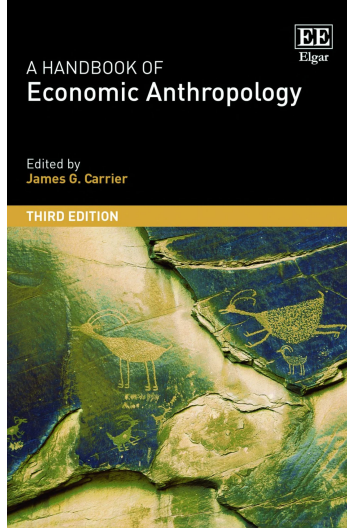
Over the past three decades, a silent revolution in funerary practices and cemetery design known as the 'natural burial movement' has swept over various national contexts and created a transnational narrative that is embedded in local funerary cultures. A salient feature of these new

burial sites are their naturalistic design and enchanting appeal. Presenting ethnographic research at France's first natural cemetery «Cimetière naturel de Souché», which opened in 2014, this chapter examines and reflects on the changes in material as well as immaterial funeral settings within a contemporary European context. The research reveals insights into a heterogenous set of values concerning human body disposal, nature and culture, gift giving and reciprocity, and purity and respect. The main objectives of the cemetery officials originally were geared towards the creation of a place as close to nature's makeup as possible, a reduction of the ecological footprint of burials, and cost decrease. The most significant aspects for the bereaved and other visitors are, however, an appeal beyond economic and ecologic objectives. Spiritualities, therapeutic death contemplation, and continuous kin care point to an enduring enchantment: meditations veiled in a green hue.

Handbook of Economic Anthropology

Both [André Thiemann](#) and [Ivan Rajković](#) have contributed to the third, revised edition of *A Handbook of Economic Anthropology* (edited by James Carrier).

- Ivan Rajković: "Emerging varieties of work", 289–302.



- André Thiemann: "Commodity Chains", 368–378.

OUTREACH

Ep #94 : Social clinics of solidarity: Dr Letizia Bonanno on the Practices & Modes of Care in Athens

AUGUST 8, 2022 / THE FAMILIAR STRANGE



Phew, jello!

This week's Familiar Stranger: Ep #94 Social clinics of solidarity: Dr Letizia Bonanno on the Practices & Modes of Care in Athens. This week Familiar Stranger Tim speaks with Dr Letizia Bonanno.

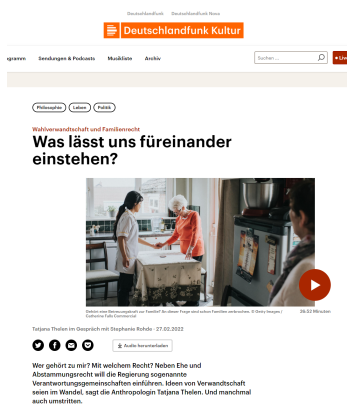
Dr Letizia Bonanno is a medical anthropologist working on issues of care and pharmaceuticals. In March 2019 she earned her PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Manchester.

In their conversation, Tim asks Letizia about her fieldwork in a social clinic of solidarity in Athens and the impact of austerity policies on people seeking healthcare in Greece at that time. They also discuss modes and practices of care during times of crisis. Their conversation also touches on the role of graphic ethnography as a form of ethnographic practice and as a way to make sense of the ironic and paradoxical situations one often finds themselves presented with during fieldwork.

Letizia Bonanno: Social clinics of solidarity: The Practices & Modes of Care in Athens

= Episode 94 of *The Familiar Strange* (Podcast)

[Letizia Bonanno](#) was interviewed about her fieldwork in a social clinic of solidarity in Athens and the impact of austerity policies on people seeking healthcare in Greece at that time. She also discusses modes and practices of care during times of crisis. The conversation touches on the role of graphic ethnography as a form of ethnographic practice and as a way to make sense of the ironic and paradoxical situations one often finds themselves presented with during fieldwork.



Tatjana Thelen: Wahlverwandtschaften und Familienrecht / Kin by choice and family law

= *Sein und Streit*, 27.02.2022

Aus Anlass der geplanten Einführung sogenannter Verantwortungsgemeinschaften durch die deutsche Regierung unterhält sich [Tatjana Thelen](#) mit Stephanie Rohde über den historischen Wandel von Vorstellungen der Zugehörigkeit, Erbe und Sorge.

The German Government plans the introduction of "communities of responsibilities. In this conversation Tatjana Thelens talks with Stephanie

LEFT EAST

"Serbia is (not) for Sale": On Lithium,
Hunger and Other Betrayals



This is the first part of a two-part series on anti-lithium
mine protests that have erupted in Serbia over the last
several months, and the broader environmental movement
around it.

Ivan Rajković: Two-part series on anti- lithium mining protests in Serbia

[Ivan Rajković](#)'s latest writings on mobilisations
against lithium in Serbia can be found here:

- [People against Rio Tinto: three ecopopulist lessons
for the Balkan Left](#)
- [Serbia is \(not\) for sale: on lithium, hunger and other
betrayals](#)

EVENTS

12.–13. December 2022 | Belgrade (Serbia)

Workshop "Energy transition and environmental contestation in the Balkans"

[Ivan Rajković](#) is co-organising a workshop "[Energy transition and environmental
contestation in the Balkans](#)" on 12 and 13 December 2022.

The event is a part of Ivan's JESH Grant of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
(see awards section above).

Greetings

Tatjana Thelen

CaSt - Care and State

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