

GEOGRAPHISCHES KOLLOQUIUM / LECTURE SERIES

Donnerstag, 17.01.2019, 16 Uhr c.t., Senatssaal - 7. Stock Geogr. Institut

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"Mayotte versus the Comoros: mimesis and violence in the Mozambique Channel "

Mayotte, a French department since 2011 despite being socially, culturally and geographically one of the Comoro Islands, has in recent years been a primary destination for migrants from the neighbouring island of Ndzuani. The strains placed upon the infrastructure of Mayotte have led to increasing acts of violence against these migrants, while the French state deports them in their thousands. However, while economics and politics may be the ostensible cause of resentment towards these people, the fact that the two islands have much in common, and that the majority of the population of Mayotte are descended from earlier migrants from Ndzuani, suggest that deeper social forces are at work. In this paper I explore the often antagonistic, often intimate relationships between the two groups, drawing upon René Girard's work on mimetic desire to analyse the encounter between two peoples who are, in different ways, subaltern in their own land.

Einführung und Diskussionsleitung: Prof. Dr. Veronica Cummings