

Re-cognizing Care? Environmental Scholarship and Activism in Central Asia

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Abstract

What are the seeds of public concern, and forms of care for environments in Central Asia? This talk examines everyday practices of care, in particular in relation to water and energy issues in the post-soviet republics of Central Asia. How is care articulated, and how do contemporary struggles for meaningful care intersect with historical experiences and everyday livelihood concerns? Drawing on long-term ethnographic fieldwork and art-based collaborations, I expand this reflection to comment on the relationship between scholarship, activism and the formal arena of environmental politics.

Bio

Dr. Jeanne Féaux de la Croix is a social anthropologist specializing on environmental issues and transdisciplinary methods. She has lead research projects on the Naryn and Syr Darya Rivers, holy sites and urban air pollution in Central Asia. After completing her PhD at St. Andrews University (Scotland) on moral geographies in Kyrgyzstan in 2010, she moved to the Centre of the Modern Orient in Berlin and the University of Tübingen. Her research interests include climate change, marine and other forms of renewable energy, labour, the politics of knowledge-making and age relations.