

**Kurzbeschreibung:**

Although *Political Anthropology* has ceased to be considered as an isolated sub-discipline of anthropology, it nevertheless describes a range of works which engage with questions of power and politics in their various shapes and forms. While early anthropologists engaged with questions of political organization as one topic among others in their attempts to describe culture as a whole, today the understanding of what is considered as political has proliferated immensely.

This seminar aims at providing an introduction to the different ways in which anthropology has over time engaged with questions of the political. Focusing on key debates, questions and concepts, the seminar begins by looking into some early examples anthropological writings and the crucial critique against them. In doing so, the seminar addresses the shifting approaches toward state and statelessness, hierarchies and inequalities, colonialism and transnationalism, power and resistance.

This seminar will be held in English, but assignments can also be handed-in in German.

**Literatur:**

Gledhill, J. 1994. *Power and its Disguises. Anthropological Perspectives on Politics*, London: Pluto Press

Vincent, J. (ed.) 2002. *The Anthropology of Politics. A Reader in Ethnography, Theory and Critique*, Oxford: Blackwell

Sharma, A. and Gupta, A. 2006. *The Anthropology of the State. A Reader*, Oxford: Blackwell

Trouillot, M. 2001. The Anthropology of the State in the Age of Globalization. Close Encounters of the Deceptive Kind. *Current Anthropology* 42 (1): 125-138

Das, V. and Poole, D. (eds.) 2005. *Anthropology in the Margins of the State*. School of American Research Press

Fassin, D. et al. 2015. *At the heart of the State. The Moral World of Institutions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.