Visualizing Translation
Belonging Beyond Citizenship in Contemporary Germany

Prof. Kristin Dickinson, University of Michigan

In this talk, Dickinson will engage with different visual art forms — including photography, public art installations and textiles — to ask how minoritized artists in Germany render translation visible. Rather than refer back to a specific "source" text or image, she shows how these art forms enact processes of translation that upend deep-seated assumptions about the authenticity and “originality” of German cultural norms correlated with whiteness, which are rooted in the historic precedent of citizenship as a blood right.

By visualizing translation, she argues, these art forms contend with the continued racialization of minorities in the 21st century, even after significant reforms to German citizenship law in 2000 and 2005. Foregrounding their own non-universality, they call the universality of an “unmarked” (white, Christian, central European) form of Germanness into question, thereby presenting new modes of belonging that transcend formal citizenship.

All attendees and guests must comply with the university guidelines and wear face coverings while indoors.

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