

Aftermath of atrocities in the highlands of Peru and in northern Somalia

Localizing disappearances: Dealing with the aftermath of atrocities in the highlands of Peru and in northern Somalia

Zapraszamy na ostatnie w tym roku akademickim seminarium IEiAK!



Przydatne informacje Link do strony wydarzenia: [spotkanie online \(zoom\)](#) [1]

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People in the highlands of **Peru and in northern Somalia** experienced partly similar kinds of violence in the **1980s**. In both cases, relatively poorly equipped guerillas (Sendero Luminoso and Somali National Movement, respectively) revolted against powerful states and their armies. This resulted in prolonged warring in which systematic atrocities against the civilian population were conducted and **thousands of people were disappeared**. Until today, only a fraction of the missing people have been located (e.g., in mass graves), identified and reburied. Relatives in countries live since decades with the loss. Yet, it is interesting **how differently this loss through forced disappearance is being dealt with in Peru and Somalia**. Between 2015 and 2019 I conducted multi-sited ethnographic field research on the work of forensic anthropologists who had conducted exhumations and identifications in the Peruvian Andes, mainly in Ayacucho Region, and in northern Somalia (today's secessionist Republic of Somaliland). The forensic work triggered quite different reactions in both settings. In northern Somalia/Somaliland, many ordinary people perceived the search for the missing and the exhumations and skeletal analyses related to it as disturbing and not in accordance with Islamic provisions. In the Peruvian Andes, people had a stronger need to gain clarity and were more welcoming towards forensic anthropologists, whose work was also more directly related to legal compensations within the framework of Peru's truth and reconciliation arrangements. I argue that, **besides the different legal and political frameworks, particularly religious orientations shaped the engagement with disappearances and their aftermath**. In line with recent work by Kamari Clarke (2009 and 2019) as well as with critical anthropological engagements with justice after atrocities (Shaw et al. 2010, Wilson 2020), this presentation investigates the localization dynamics of disappearance in

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different cultural contexts. In this way, a double meaning of localizing disappearances is developed: besides the efforts by forensic anthropologists to localize the disappeared, **the question is asked how disappearance is socially and culturally constructed in locations characterized by different cosmologies.**

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References:

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Adres URL ?ród?a: <https://etnologia.uw.edu.pl/aktualnosci/aftermath-atrocities-highlands-peru-and-northern-somalia>

Odno?niki

- [1] <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81190685836?pwd=eDNMMHZZZzhubGxaSnVpR3VxbDI3UT09>
- [2] https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3713414