

ZMO-Colloquium

Thursday, 26 March 2020, 5 pm

Kashmir as a Borderland: The Politics of Space and Belonging across the Line of Control

Book presentation by **Antía Mato Bouzas**

Venue

Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33, 14129 Berlin

In her book presentation, Antía Mato Bouzas will discuss the implications of examining the Kashmir dispute from a borderland perspective. She will focus on how conflict is manifested in territory, and more specifically, on the political space that the Line of Control (LoC, the provisional border dividing these territories) has created on both sides through a series of legal and material interventions. Ongoing transformations in this borderland attempt to bring these territories under the state purview and challenge the view that 'nothing has substantially changed' in the dispute. An understanding of the political space in these border areas helps us to contextualise recent developments such as the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill of 2019 (passed by Indian Parliament on 5 August), but also allow us to situate the Kashmir conflict within broader theoretical discussions on borders and territory. The study of this borderland intends to expose the discrepancies between hegemonic representations

of the Kashmir dispute - as an interstate conflict, a separatist conflict, and as a world hotspot -, and how this dispute is actually experienced 'from below', that is, by those affected. This exercise allows for a more critical reading of the international reality and for recognising opportunities for thinking of more inclusive political spaces.

Antía Mato Bouzas is a research fellow at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin, and author of the book *Kashmir as a Borderland: The politics of space and belonging across the Line of Control* (Amsterdam University Press, 2019). Her research focus is on the politics of the South Asian region, with an interest on borders and citizenship. She currently works on a project funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) on migration from north-eastern Pakistan to the Gulf.