



DR. ASTRID LEY

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THE ROLE OF ANTHROPOMETRICS IN THE RACIST PERSECUTION DURING NATIONAL SOCIALISM

Monday, 16 December, 2013, 3 pm c.t.

IKO, Room 311, Seminarstr. 4, 69117 Heidelberg

In conjunction with the Seminar “The Ethnographic Eye,” Dr. Ley will discuss the collection at the Sachsenhausen Museum. Ethnographers and anthropologists in 1930s-40s Republican China purchased eye and hair charts from German outfitters and studied anthropometric photographic techniques from French and German Museums for depicting and describing ethnic minorities living in the remote Inner Asian Frontier. Dr. Ley’s institutions holds many materials similar to instruments still extant in Chinese Collections.

There are many parallels in scientific work between 1930s-40s Germany and China – albeit with different purposes. Dr. Ley will discuss Anthropometric techniques developed in Germany largely for international prisoners of war. (In China anthropologists studied ethnic minorities in order to conduct ethnographic surveys of unknown territories in the north- and southwest.)