

TELLING TIMES: MEMORIES OF CULTURE, CULTURES OF MEMORY

Lecture Series 2020



Wednesday, 28 October 2020, 10:30-12:00

**KATARZYNA PUZON**

(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

**“Germans without Footnotes:  
Islam, Belonging and Poetry Slam in Berlin”**

This paper examines how young Muslim performers grapple with the dilemma of wanting to be seen as German, on the one hand, and holding on to their ‘Muslimness’, on the other hand. Situating their practices in the current German context, in which Islam has become an even more contentious subject, the chapter focuses on i,Slam, a collective of young German Muslim slam poets, and discusses the group’s

activities as constitutive of the slam poets’ understandings of their belonging in Germany. It reflects on how this is articulated in their practices and draws attention to questions that arise when Islam is put on stage and what comes into play in these developments. In this respect, the stage becomes a public platform where different ideas and views are presented and identities are performed.

**Katarzyna Puzon** is an anthropologist and Research Fellow at the Centre for Anthropological Research on Museums and Heritage (CARMAH), Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Her research interests lie at the intersection of memory, heritage, mobility and cities, as well as in anthropology as storytelling and its multimodality. She has conducted fieldwork in Beirut and currently works on Berlin. Katarzyna has authored a number of publications, including ‘Saving Beirut: Heritage and the City’ (*International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 2017/2019) and *Islam and Heritage in Europe: Pasts, Presents and Future Possibilities* (with Sharon Macdonald and Mirjam Shatanawi, Routledge, forthcoming 2021).



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