

Colloquium Talk:
**Itineraries of *Azadi* (freedom): Cyclical Protests and Rhythmic
Calendars of Kashmiri Right to Self-Determination Movement**
By: Dr. Sarbani Sharma

Wednesday 23.06.2021, 12:45 -2 pm on Zoom
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The Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the oldest political disputes in South Asia. As a researcher, one continuously oscillates between the time in which Indian and Pakistani states discuss the 'Kashmir dispute' and the real time of living a life through the interminable violence in Kashmir. While the contestations over linear narration of history or debates on authenticity of historical events to explain contemporary Kashmir have been much discussed, not much has been theorised about how time is experienced in contemporary Kashmir. One can think about the Kashmiri movement for '*Azadi*' (freedom) a little more intensely by complicating the idea of time- the time of the protest,



the duration of the protest and how the future of time is imagined, can be a novel possibility to comprehend the disposition of life in Kashmir. In this talk, I argue that our imagination of time as linear, results in our inability to accommodate the complexities and contradictions that are essential features of any political reality. Life in Kashmir is about navigating between this contemporaneous reality of continuous conflict and unrest on the one hand, and a constant struggle to achieve the desired goal of *Azadi* (freedom) on the other. To put it simply, to live a life in Kashmir is to be stuck between a conflict that never ends and a definition of peace that is unacceptable to them. Thereby, placing Kashmir and its people in a landscape of what I refer as 'the double interminability'. I draw upon anecdotes from my ethnographic encounters to discuss the complexities of the reference to the term '*haalaat*' (literally meaning situation) as an evaluator of time in Kashmir to privilege the voices from the mundane spaces that illustrate how experience of time is felt and articulated in these spaces.

**Asien-Orient-Institut
Abteilung für Ethnologie**

