



SFB 1070 · RessourcenKulturen. Soziokulturelle Dynamiken im Umgang mit Ressourcen

## FORSCHUNGSKOLLOQUIUM SOMMER 2015

07.07.15 | 18:00 c.t. | Schloss Hohentübingen | R. 165 | Klass. Archäologie

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### Southwark Shamans and Winchester Geese: Time, Ritual, and Commerce in Contemporary South London

For the past decade, a small group of iconoclast counter-cultural seekers have gathered regularly outside the gates of a building site that is said to be the excavated graveyard of the medieval prostitutes who worked in the area, who were known as the Winchester Geese. Every month, led by a local Southwark shaman and playwright, they hold a ritual to commemorate the spirits of these long-dead sex workers, and to honour the „outcast dead,“ with the full acknowledgement that in so doing, we also honour the outcast in ourselves. What is the history of this site, and what does the contemporary ritual achieve? In addition to claiming the identity -- and value -- of being on the margins of society, what is at stake in this public performance of alterity, and this particular rendition of historical relations? This lecture will look at the way history is constructed for the sake of the present, through the themes of sex work, exchange economies, commodity capitalism, and the perennial hierarchy of social structure.