

GENEALOGIES AND POSITIONALITIES OF THINKING THE STATE

Inaugural meeting Anthropologies of the State network

30 October – 1 November 2019, Leiden University, the Netherlands

Network coordinators: Steffen Jensen, Morten Koch Andersen, Anouk de Koning and Martijn Koster

Call for Papers

The first meeting of our EASA Anthropologies of the State network will be held in Fall 2019 in Leiden, and focuses on situated genealogies of anthropological thinking about the state. This meeting examines the embeddedness of approaches to the state in particular intellectual and everyday traditions and locations, those of the anthropologist and the sites where they work.

The meeting opens with a public debate, in which we ask what anthropologists can contribute to an understanding of current political contestations over the state in political settings across the globe, particularly regarding the rise of authoritarian figures and new rightist politics. What kind of state, authority and politics do they promise? How can we understand their appeal and what forces work to counter these trends?

In the following two-day workshop consisting of sessions with paper presentations, a keynote by Catherine Alexander (Durham University) and a round table discussion, we examine the specific contours of anthropological thinking about the state. We ask how the complex position and embeddedness of anthropological analyses – both of the varied and changing forms of states and various intellectual and social-historical genealogies – have shaped discussions of the state in anthropology in the last decade. And what other, differently positioned perspectives may further our understanding of states and state practices?

We welcome more theoretical and reflective papers on the genealogies and positionalities of anthropological approaches to the state, as well as case discussions that demonstrate and explicate particular approaches. We hope to organize the presentations in several streams or session, some discussing regional approaches to the state, and others more comparative across such regional specificities, allowing us to reflect on similarities and differences in approaches to the state. We intend to explore possibilities for publications after the workshop.

If you want to present a paper at this event, please send an abstract to Pien Kuipers (piencaos@gmail.com) **before June 7, 2019**. We will get back to you by June 15. You can also contact her with any queries or suggestions you may have with regard to this event.

This event is free of charge, but participants are expected to pay for their own travel and accommodation. It is made possible with the financial support of EASA and the ERC-funded projects AnthroBrokers and Reproducing Europe.

Local event organizers: Anouk de Koning (Leiden University), Martijn Koster (Radboud University, Nijmegen) and Pien Kuipers (Radboud University, Nijmegen)