Crisis politics and borders. Exploring visual culture and affect through the case study of Australian responses to refugees.

Vortragende: Claudia Tazreiter (UNSW Sydney)
Moderation: Helena Hattmannsdorfer (IPW, Universität Wien)
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Abstract:
This talk contextualizes the label ‘crisis migration’ and the affective means through which refugees have been characterized as existential threats in many parts of the world. The case study of Australia’s response to asylum seekers arriving by boat will be explored in detail, with a focus on the off-shore processing and detention on Manus Island and Nauru since 2012. Australia’s policies and practices of ‘externalization’ of borders are important for regional as well as for international governance of migration, but also signal a crisis in democratic politics rather than a ‘crisis’ of migration.