

From Paanampattuwa to Paanama: Place, Identity, and Resources

Summary/Zusammenfassung

Identity is constructed politically. Unlike in other parts of Sri Lanka, people in Paanama in Sri Lanka are maintained as a hybrid community because parental relations of the present generation in Paanama are connected to both the Sinhala and the Tamil ethnicities (Abeyrathne, 2012).. Nevertheless, these people must identify themselves as one of the ethnic categories of ‘Sinhala’ or ‘Tamil’ in Sri Lanka in order to participate in party politics or to integrate into the administrative system. parental relations of the present generation in Paanama are connected to both the Sinhala and the Tamil ethnicities (Abeyrathne, 2012). This research studies how inter-ethnic relations are being negotiated in this place and how this is relevant in accessing local resources. Using ethnographic methods, my research aims at providing answers to two research questions of 1) how and upon what basis people identify as belonging to a particular ethnic group in Paanama during and after the civil war (1983-2009) in Sri Lanka, and 2) how/in which ways the access to local resources is determined by the politics of ethnic identity. The empirical methods that will be employed are interviews, participatory observation, and oral histories and memories.

Keywords/Suchbegriffe

Identity, hybrid community, inter-ethnic relations, access to local resources

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