

09.05.

18:15–19:45 Uhr
HS 13
(Forum 7)

ifeas

Institut für
Ethnologie und
Afrikastudien

2023

Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves

Freie Universität Berlin

From Life-Saving to Death- Inducing: The Social Life of Sodium Pentobarbital

Sodium pentobarbital (SP) is the drug of choice for assisted dying in Switzerland and death penalty in the United States — it is a pharmaceutical that, despite having *legitimate* medical uses, is now primarily employed in death-inducing procedures. Based on a research that combines the historical development of SP with its contemporary flows of circulation and employment in both life-saving and death-inducing procedures, this talk focuses on the use of SP in state-sanctioned executions in the United States to explore a politics of life that is animated by the confluence and friction of state, medical, and market interests on the contemporary management of life and death.

Marcos Freire de Andrade Neves is researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology at Freie Universität Berlin and a DAAD Prime Fellow at the University of Edinburgh and FU Berlin. His current research follows the circulation of sodium pentobarbital, a drug that is employed both in life-saving treatments and death-inducing procedures, such as state-sanctioned executions in the United States. His previous research was an ethnography of the transnational circulation of people and pharmaceuticals in the context of organized assisted suicide, mainly across Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. He published the book *Por Onde Vivem os Mortos* (UFRGS University Press) and directed the documentary "Torotama: A Grave Matter".

Weitere Informationen: www.ifeas.uni-mainz.de



Sodium
pentobarbital.

Photo: Marcos
Andrade Neves,
Switzerland, 2015.

Institutskolloquium Sommersemester 2023 Leitung: Heike Drothohm

JG|U