

**CfP Final Workshop of the “Moralizations of Inequality” (MOI, funded by the SNSF)**

**October 24th and 25th 2024**

**University of St.Gallen, School for Humanities and Social Sciences**

## **Deservingness and beyond Reassessing epistemologies of distribution and inequality**

Against the background of a long-term engagement with Deservingness (Tosic & Streinzer 2022), both as a concept and a heuristic for ethnographic research, this workshop invites to an exchange on how we can study distribution and inequality in anthropology.

Deservingness figures as an entry-point for re-assessing epistemologies, concepts, social arenas, social hierarchies, moralisations, policies, etc. that create, maintain, and transform inequality. It allows to understand the selectivity of who gets what, and which justifications are invoked for it at the intersection of different dimensions, transformations and fields (labor, migration, welfare, civil society, humanitarianism, gender etc.).

The workshop aims to focus on on-going radical transformations such as the effects of the pandemic, the new and on-going wars and forced migration patterns, the (re)ascendance of right-wing forces, environmental destruction and the commencing and unprecedented AI developments to reassess how deservingness plays out in particular cases.

The workshop invites ethnographically infused papers working with, incorporating or departing from Deservingness as an approach and potentially deal with some of the following questions:

### **Empirical:**

How have hierarchies of deservingness shifted due to the pandemic and its effects (e.g. labor shortage)?

How are environmental destruction and AI related developments altering dynamics of deservingness?

Which forms of categorization are used in bureaucracies to assign or revoke deservingness?

### **Epistemological:**

How do we best make use of the scalar reach of the heuristic of Deservingness?

What is the scope, and what the limits of Deservingness?

Which notions are corrective, complementary, synergic?

### **Politics of Scholarship:**

How far does a focus on Deservingness bring us?

How can we circumvent the possibility of reproducing frames of deservingness?

**We are welcoming abstracts (250 words) especially such focusing on *environmental destruction and AI related developments*, by May 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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