Zeliangrong Naga, an ethnic community comprising of the Zeme, Liangmai and Rongmei tribes, is one of the few communities spread across the borders of three states in India. Engaging T.B. Subba’s (1998) concept of ‘negative solidarity,’ Wijunamai’s talk will show that, like many other tribes in Northeast India, the Zeliangrong ethnic/tribal identity and solidarity also reinvents itself continually in response to the state. His talk will probe the dialectic between political and ethnic boundaries, while discussing ethnic fission and fusion. Tracing and placing the origins of the Zeliangrong Naga, as told by Zeliangrong elders and the circulating origin and migration stories, he will insist that these narratives and stories, frequently invoked in public meetings and discussions, are a prime example of ‘ethno-talk’ as they serve specific social and political purposes and may change form and shape, or are told differently, depending on the political stakes of the particular moment.

Roderick Wijunamai is an Associate Lecturer in the Department of Social Sciences, Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan. He holds an MA in Development Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. While his master thesis and earlier research works pertains to Economic Sociology, his more recent area of research centres around Political Anthropology and Political Sociology.

**Dienstag, 28. Januar 2020**
18.00 Uhr
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507
(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)