

Marriage in a changing Kashgar
How marriage among the Uyghurs of Kashgar contributes to
the constitution of social units

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Looking at marriage in Kashgar offers insights into local social phenomena. Within the marriage process that stretches over much more than just the wedding ceremony different social units each play a role and have their own place of significance. In recent years new elements in marriages have come up. Resettlement within the city lead to special challenges in new neighborhoods of apartment buildings. The distribution of responsibilities and duties in the marriage process and at the wedding celebrations has been influenced by this and by other changes in urban life and ideology. At the same time reform Islamic ideas have lead to new forms of celebration on this account. I will, on the basis of ethnographic description, give some insight into these changes and variations on the general theme of marriage in Kashgar. I will focus on the switches in role and function this entails for the social units that take part in – and are constituted through – the marriage process.

(ベルリン自由大学大学院博士後期課程)