

## **Contact zones of support**

With the term 'contact zones of support', we refer to the work of the literary scholar Marie-Louise Pratt, who defines a 'contact zone' as follows: 'a space of colonial encounters, the space in which peoples geographically and historically separated come into contact with each other and establish ongoing relations, usually involving conditions of coercion, radical inequality, and intractable conflict. [...]' (M.L. Pratt 1992 'Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation,' p. 6). We are interested on the one hand in the persistence of postcolonial power asymmetries that affect the relationships emerging in these contexts, and on the other hand in the question of how actors negotiate these challenges with one another on the intersubjective and emotional-affective level.