



INTERNATIONALES KOLLEG für Geisteswissenschaftliche Forschung

Schicksal, Freiheit und Prognose.

Bewältigungsstrategien in Ostasien und Europa

WORKSHOP

Convenor: Dr. Sven Sellmer

Fate, Freedom, and Prognostication in Indian Traditions



Questions related to fate, destiny, divine intervention and similar concepts, as opposed to the power of human agency, are an important element in many areas of Indian culture. Contrary to the popular misconception, India has never been a country of pure fatalism, but rather the gamut of different theories that explain – and practices that modify – the interplay between fate and human initiative is extremely rich there. This workshop brings together material from different traditions and historical epochs that may serve as a starting point both for creating a larger picture and making connections with non-Indian conceptions.

February 1-2, 2012

IKGF Seminar Room

Ulrich-Schalk-Straße 3a – 91056 Erlangen

Please register via our website www.ikgf.fau.de



FRIEDRICH-ALEXANDER
UNIVERSITÄT
ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

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Wednesday, February 1, 2012

9:00 a.m. Opening

9:10 a.m. A Hierarchy of Conflicting
Causes for Destiny –
The Jantūpakhyāna of the
Mahābhārata in its Contexts
Dr. Philipp Maas (Univ. Wien)

10:00 a.m. Howling Jackals and
Twitching Eyes – Searching for
Descriptions of Omina using
Computational Methods, with a
Special Focus on Domain-Specific
Sanskrit Vocabulary
PD Dr. Oliver Hellwig (Univ. Heidelberg)

10:50 a.m. *Coffee Break*

11:00 a.m. Aspects of Fate and Freedom in
the Mahābhārata
Dr. Sven Sellmer (Univ. Poznań)

11:50 a.m. Fate, Freedom, and Prognostica-
tion according to the Later Theis-
tic Tradition of Vedānta
Dr. Marcus Schmücker (ÖAW Wien)

12:40 p.m. *Lunch Break*

2:40 p.m. Becoming a Buddha: The Role of
Fate and Prediction in the Career
of a Mahāyāna Bodhisattva
PD Dr. Ingo Strauch (FU Berlin)

3:30 p.m. Questioning the Gods: The Prac-
tices of Provoked Oracular Posses-
sion in the Vidyāpīṭha Tantras
Dr. Olga Serbaeva (Univ. Zürich)

4:20 p.m. *Coffee Break*

4:30 p.m. The Indian Reception of Medieval
Perso-Arabic Astrology (tājika-
śāstra)
Dr. Martin Gansten (Univ. Lund)

5:20 p.m. 'Fate or Freedom' vs. 'Fate and
Freedom' – Inside Views of Two
Indian Traditions
Anand Mishra, M.A. (Univ. Heidelberg)

Thursday, February 2, 2012

10:00 a.m. Closing Discussion

12:00 a.m. *End*

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