

Workshop: Print and Publication Cultures in South Asia, Halle (Saale)

November 19–20,

Department for South Asian Studies and Indology

Martin Luther University of Halle Wittenberg

The innovation of print technology changed the modes of South Asian text production massively from the late 18th century onwards and resulted in new forms of re-production, dissemination as well as accessibility of texts hitherto handed down in manuscripts or by oral transmission. The meaning and role of literacy changed, new genres and types of publication arose, new public spheres were created, text production was partly commercialized and became a field of entrepreneurship. More recently another innovation, the digital revolution, again affected the whole range of text production and dissemination. Minorities were enabled to produce texts and find their own small niches, the production of and access to texts and information of all kind was enabled on a global scale, also resulting in new means and techniques of philological research.

In our workshop we would like to address different kinds of questions dealing with these innovative changes.

This workshop is conducted as part of a loosely connected series of seminars and panels on text and textuality in South Asia, which began with a symposium in Vienna 2018, followed by the panel “On the Transmission of the Sanskritic Culture in the Colonial Period: Philology and Print in South Asia” during the ECSAS 2021 also in Vienna.

Friday

Chair: Philipp Maas

15:30 –16:45 JOHANNA BUB: Print and publication cultures in South Asia as a field of research

16:45 h–17:30 CRISTINA PECCHIA: Indian philologists in the colonial period: Continuing or recovering traditional knowledge systems

Coffee Break (30 min.)

Chair: Ira Sarma

18:00 h–18:45 ALAKA CHUDAL: Intellectual migration in Kashi: a history of Nepali print and publication (1884-1950)

18:45–19:30 TORSTEN TSCHACHER: Publishing abroad: Publics, business, and aesthetics in 19th-century Muslim printing in Tamil

Dinner

SATURDAY

Chair: Franziska Strich

9:30–10:15 IRA SARMA: Kashmir, Brisbane, New York: The impact of publication technology on the dissemination of Vetala tales adaptations

10:15–11:00 HANS HARDER: Subterranean Kashi and a Neptunian at the Kumbh Mela: Two science fiction forerunners in Hindi (late 19th–early 20th century)

Coffee Break (30 min.)

Chair: Cristina Pecchia

11:30–12:15 PHILIPP MAAS: The bottleneck of the printing press and digital approaches to Sanskrit textual transmissions

12:15–13:30 PETRA KIEFFER-PÜLZ: Buddhist texts. From oral transmission to digital analysis

Lunch Break (1,5 h)

Chair: Johanna Buß

15:00–15:45 CHARLES LI: Books, manuscripts, and familienähnlichkeit”

15:45–16:30 CARMEN BRANDT: Standardising scripts and fixing identities: How Bengali is the Bengali script?

Coffee Break (30 min.)

17:00–17:45 RAIK STRUNZ: Preserving an endangered script: On the Kashmiri Śāradā and its lack of representation in print culture and the digital age

17:45–18:30 FINAL DISCUSSION

Dinner