

PUBLIC LECTURE

Prof. Anne Feldhaus

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***Women and Shepherds in Two Oral Epics
from Maharashtra***

Ovīs sung by Dhangar shepherds of Maharashtra are oral epics about the birth of heroic pastoralist gods, their quest for a wife, and their defeat of evil forces. Two rich and lively examples of the *ovī* genre that were collected in the early 1970's by University of Heidelberg Professor Günther Sontheimer and his team have recently been published in English translation (*Say to the Sun, "Don't Rise" and to the Moon, "Don't Set": Two Oral Epics from the Countryside of Maharashtra*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014; New Delhi: Primus Books, forthcoming). Professor Feldhaus will introduce these two *ovīs* and explore their views of shepherds and women. Her discussion will focus on the texts' paradoxical emphasis on virginity and motherhood.

Thursday, June 25, 2015, 17:15**South Asia Institute, Room 317**