



# ABTEILUNGSKOLLOQUIUM

## A KALI TEMPLE INSIDE OUT

**Prof. Dr. Kathinka Frøystad (University of Oslo)**

What can person-centered research methods teach us about Kali devotion and ritual engagement across 'official' religious boundaries? This talk makes its point of departure in a soon-to-be completed ethnographic film depicting the everyday life in and around a Kali temple in the outskirts of Kanpur, an industrial city in Uttar Pradesh infamous for its polluting leather tanneries. The temple building houses a Kali shrine and a smaller Hanuman shrine, and visitors to the site present offerings in both. Through a closer presentation of a priest and three devotees, the film shows why this temple is so important to them. Yet they also visit sacred sites of other religious traditions, whether to learn, show gratitude or seek additional divine support. The film is based on Kathinka Frøystad's research in this temple since 2013, and is made by Dipesh Kharel (University of Tokyo) and Frode Storaas (University of Bergen).

The talk opens with a brief introduction to person-centered methods in anthropological fieldwork as well as to the area in which this Kali temple is located, continues with a preview of the film (ca 87 minutes) and concludes with a discussion.

**Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> • 4.15 p.m.**

**SAI, Room E11**