Passages to India: Odisha as the Focus of German Historical Interest

Abstract:
German historical interest in Odisha over the last forty years has had important implications for the writing of history of the region, as well as early India in general. The combined efforts of a team of indologists, historians, social anthropologists and linguists has led to new sets of questions being brought to bear on the study of the region. It has led to the gradual evolution of a new socio-cultural discourse centred on the region’s autochthonous inheritances, the continuous process of local and sub-regional state formation and the making of a regional tradition drawing on varied influences. The history of a tribe-caste continuum and the ‘Hinduization’ of tribes as well as the tribalization of ‘Hinduism’ have influenced a whole generation of scholars and informed their writings. Writing the histories of the regions, state and legitimation studies, the integrative model of state and social formation in early medieval India, and the issue of periodization in Indian history have immensely benefited from the productive interactions between the German scholars, historians working on Odisha, and those on pre-modern India, in general.

Datum: 07.05.2014, 18:00 Uhr
Ort: KJC, Raum 212