Abstract:
The Girmitya system, commonly called indenture in English, was an agreement which bound emigrant labourers to their new masters in an alien country for a fixed period of time. In Fiji, the period of indenture usually lasted five years and before the completion of the term, there was little opportunity to earn a return passage to India. Historians have debated over the links between indenture and new forms of colonial slavery subsequent to slavery's abolition in many parts of the world by the mid-nineteenth century. The main controversy is about whether the system was very exploitative (guaranteeing few benefits to the emigrants), or whether the system benefitted an exploited humanity in India to escape from the injustices and gain a new sense of freedom in the plantation economy.

Datum: 09.07.13, 18:15 Uhr
Ort: SAI, Raum 316