

Departmental Colloquium - History Department Summer Semester 2024

Sounding Princely Modernity: Musicians, Nawabs, and the Urdu Public Sphere in Colonial North India, c. 1857-1947

Gianni Sievers
Utrecht University



The Uprising of 1857 is widely understood as a watershed moment in the history of modern South Asia. In its wake, urban spaces, socio-political allegiances, and cultural practices were renegotiated and transformed. Yet, the transition from Mughal to colonial cultural sensibilities was neither linear nor universal. By focusing on a range of largely untapped Urdu primary sources from the erstwhile princely state of Rampur and the surrounding

United Provinces, this talk explores the role of sound and music in the lives of North Indian Muslims under British colonial rule. I argue that examining both continuities and shifts in the auditory landscape of this region allows us to complicate conventional notions of colonial modernity, princely patronage, cultural nationalism, and socio-religious reform.



More
information

Thursday 23.05.2024
Room CATS 010.01.05 - Hörsaal
16:15 CEST

Image: Sketch of a tawā'if (female performer) with two accompanists, The Music Gazette of India, February 1911.