

Seventh Britain-Nepal Academic Council Annual Lecture

Religion and Politics in Contemporary Nepal: The Case of the Pasupatinatha Temple

Axel Michaels

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SOAS, Lecture Theatre G2
(Thornhaugh St, Russell Square, WC1H 0XG)

Tuesday, 10th November 2009, 6 p.m.

Axel Michaels, born 1949, is a scholar of both Indology and Religious Studies. Since 1996 he has been Professor of Classical Indology, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. In 2001 he was elected as the Spokesman of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 619 'Ritual Dynamics'. Since November 2007 he has been one of the Directors of the Cluster of Excellence 'Asia and Europe in a Global Context – Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows'. Current fields of interest include the history, including the social history, of Hinduism, the theory of rituals, rites of passage in Nepal, and the cultural and legal history of Nepal. Major book publications include:

- *Reisen der Götter: Der nepalische Pashupatinatha-Tempel und sein rituelles Umfeld*, 2 parts (VGH Wissenschaftsverlag, 1994)
- *Hinduism. Past and Present* (Princeton University Press 2004)
- *Handling Death: The Dynamics of Death and Ancestor Rituals among the Newars of Bhaktapur, Nepal* (Harrassowitz, 2005)(with Niels Gutschow)
- *The Price of Purity: The Religious Judge in 19th Century Nepal* (CESMEO, 2006)
- *Growing up. Hindu and Buddhist Initiation Rituals among Newar Children in Bhaktapur, Nepal* (Harrassowitz, 2008) (with Niels Gutschow)
- *Siva in Trouble. Rituals and Festivals at the Pasupatinatha temple of Deopatan, Nepal* (OUP New York, Oxford, 2008).