

Speakers: Summer School "Medializations of Asian Religions – Reentering the Body in Yoga, Ayurveda, Mindfulness and Other Practices", 27th – 31st August 2012



Dr. Mark Singleton works on the history of ideas in transnational yoga and currently teaches at St. John's College, Santa Fe, New Mexico. He holds a Ph.D in Divinity from Cambridge University, where he was research assistant to Elizabeth De Michelis in 2003-2004.

His latest publication *Yoga Body: The Origins of Modern Postural Practice* (Oxford University Press, 2009) charts the development of modern modes of postural yoga practice from c.1875 to c.1940. His publications include thirteen entries on 'Modern Yoga' for Routledge's *Encyclopedia of Hinduism* (2009); a guest-edited yoga issue of the journal *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* (2007); and a co-edited book with Jean Byrne, *Yoga in the Modern World: Contemporary Perspectives* (Routledge 2008).



Dr. Jeff Wilson is an assistant professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at the Renison University College, Waterloo. He is an expert on Buddhist traditions, both Asian and North American. In April 2012 he published a book in which he examines Buddhism in the American South: *Dixie Dharma: Regionalism and Identity at a Buddhist Temple in the American South*, with University of North Carolina Press. Other recent publications are *The Selected Writings*

of D.T. Suzuki: *Comparative Religion and Religious Studies* with University of California Press (2012), *Mourning the Unborn Dead: A Buddhist Ritual Comes to America* (Oxford University Press 2009) and *Buddhism of the Heart: Reflections on Shin Buddhism and Inner Togetherness* (Wisdom Publications 2009). He is the founder and chair of the Buddhism in the West Consultation at the American Academy of Religion.



Dr. Ananda Samir Chopra is a medical doctor, currently working as a researcher at the University of Heidelberg, Germany in a project on the modern history of Ayurvedic medicine. He wrote his doctoral thesis on "Theories of Generation in Ancient Indian Medicine - Three Chapters of the Caraka-Samhita Translated from Sanskrit into German with Annotations and Comments".

From 1995 till 2009 he served as medical director of the Ayurveda-department at the Habichtswald-Klinik in Kassel, Germany and has for some time been honorary director of studies at the Tagore-Institute, Bonn, Germany. Chopra's research-interests include the historical development of Ayurveda as a medical science, contemporary practice of Ayurveda in India and Europe, contemporary Ayurvedic education and the clinical applicability of Ayurveda in Germany and Europe.



Sven Wortmann, M.A. is a research assistant at the Religious Studies Department of Protestant Theology / Käte Hamburger Kolleg "Dynamics in the History of Religions" at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. His areas of research are Buddhism, Late Vedic Religion, Jainism, Interreligious Perception and Didactics in Sanskrit Education.

Prof. Michael Bergunder is a professor of History of Religions and Mission Studies and the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University since 2002. His fields of research are theory and methods in history of religions and intercultural Theology / Mission Studies, new religious movements and esotericism in a global context as well as Pentecostal / charismatic Christianity and history of South Asian Christianity. His latest publications are dealing with *Ritual, Caste, and Colonial Discourse in South India* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2010) and *Studying Global Pentecostalism. Theories and Methods* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010).



Dr. Tulasi Srinivas is an assistant professor at the Emerson College in Boston. In her research she focuses on the cultural politics of religion and the processes of cultural globalization through an interdisciplinary and comparative analysis of ideology, experience and subjectivity. Her book *Winged Faith: Rethinking Globalization and Religious Pluralism through the Sathya Sai Movement* (Columbia University Press 2010) tells the promising and problematic story of a rapidly globalizing Indic sect. She is currently working on *Threshold of Faith: Reframing Innovative Religion and Ambivalent Globalization in Bangalore City*, a manuscript that explores the nature of religious meaning and knowledge in Hindu temples in an era of intense globalization.



Prof. Inken Prohl holds a professorship at Heidelberg University since 2006 in Religious Studies. Her recent interests are modern and transformed forms of Buddhism in Japan, Germany and the US. Her perspective on these fields is that of 'material religion' that examines the materiality of objects in religious contexts and their relation and role in these discourses. Together with John Nelson she edits the *The Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions*, (Leiden: Brill, in print). The results of her field work about the Shintô-Organisation in Japan are published in *Religiöse Innovationen. Die Shintô-Organisation World Mate in Japan*, (Berlin: Reimer 2006). Since 2011 she is the head of the post graduate programme "Text-Anthropologie" of the collaborative research center SFB 933 "Materiale Textkulturen".