

Zukunftsp hilologie

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

Freie Universität  Berlin

FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL
GRADUIERTENSCHULE
für literaturwissenschaftliche Studien

Lecture cum Seminar

Thursday, April 26, 2012, 4 – 7 pm

Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, Room J 24/122d

Farina Mir

(University of Michigan)

The Time of Literary History: Reconsidering Modernity in an Indian Vernacular

Chair: Manan Ahmed

(Freie Universität Berlin)

Abstract

This presentation will consider the relationship between genre and modernity in Indian vernacular traditions, on the one hand, while giving consideration to the broader question on temporality in the writing of Indian vernacular literary history, on the other. It will focus on Punjabi literature, in particular, examining crucial shifts in Punjabi literary production and authors'/poets' self-fashioning which, it will be argued, took place in the nineteenth century. The foundation for the presentation is an analysis of nineteenth-century printed (lithographed) Punjabi texts, in both the Gurmukhi and Indo-Persian scripts.

Background Reading

- Majeed, Javed: *Literary History: The case of South Asia* (History Compass 3, 2005), pp. 1-13.

Farina Mir is Associate Professor of History at the University of Michigan, where she teaches courses on early modern and modern South Asian history. She is the author of *The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in British Colonial Punjab* (University of California, 2010), winner of the American Historical Association's 2011 John Richards Prize in South Asian history; and co-editor of *Punjab Reconsidered: History, Culture, and Practice* (with Anshu Malhotra ; Oxford University Press, 2012). She is currently based in India as a Nehru-Fulbright Scholar, doing research for her new project, tentatively titled "Producing Modern Muslims" on the intersections between Muslim religious discourse and popular print culture in late-colonial India.

Lecture-cum-Seminar

The Lecture-cum-Seminar series is a central element of the scholarly program of the Zukunftsphilologie project. It is conceived as a working seminar of 3 to 5 hours. The lecture (ca. 45-60 minutes) is meant to introduce the audience to the research problem and provide the general analytical and theoretical framework for the topic. This is followed by a practical seminar, wherein the speaker demonstrates his or her case by reference to texts in the original language and in English translation. It is hoped that this Lecture-cum-Seminar series, a combination of theory and a direct engagement with texts, will enable scholars to examine the comparative aspect of the problematic without neglect of the local and singular nature of the texts examined.

Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship

The project Zukunftsphilologie endeavours to promote and emphasize primary textual scholarship beyond the classical humanistic canon. In an age of advanced communication, intellectual specialization, and unprecedented migration of knowledge and people, the discipline of philology assumes new relevance. Zukunftsphilologie aspires to support research in neglected varieties of philology with the explicit aim to integrate texts and scholarly traditions from Asia, Africa, the Middle East as well as from Europe itself.

Zukunftsphilologie refers to the polemic between the classicist Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Friedrich Nietzsche around the method and meaning of classical studies. As a project it sees itself as part of a growing trend towards a more global intellectual history. It is inspired in particular by the work of Edward Said and Sheldon Pollock.

In order to promote historically-conscious philology, Zukunftsphilologie will foster research in the following areas: genealogies and transformations of philological practice, philology's place in the system of knowledge (e.g. its relation to science, theology and jurisprudence), and philology and the university. Furthermore, Zukunftsphilologie aims to support critical reviews of historical and philological practice. In revisiting important „philological wars“, the goal is not to merely evaluate the argumentative worth of these debates, but to reflect on the wider cultural and political context in which these „philological wars“ emerged and how they have shaped our knowledge of the past.

The project Zukunftsphilologie is co-directed by Angelika Neuwirth, Manan Ahmed and Islam Dayeh (all Freie Universität Berlin) and is associated with and located at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Zukunftsphilologie is a project at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Information

www.zukunftsphilologie.de

www.forum-transregionale-studien.de

www.fsgs.fu-berlin.de/fsgs/kooperationen/Zukunftsphilologie

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