

WORKSHOP, APRIL 4th & 5th, 2014

KIRANTI CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY NEPAL

Venue: Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies (ISTB)
University of Vienna, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.7, 1090 Vienna, Seminar Room 1

Prof. Dr. Martin Gaenzle (ISTB, University of Vienna)
The study of Kiranti religion as an emerging field

Dr. Boyd Michailovsky (LACITO/CNRS, Villejuif)
On the Limbu (Sirijanga) script in the 20th century

Dr. Grégoire Schlemmer (CNRS, Paris)
Persistence through changes: Evolution of the Kulung Rai religious practice during the 20th century.

Dr. Vishnu Singh Rai (Guest Researcher funded by the Open Society Foundation)
The language of invocation vis-à-vis the language of communication

lic. phil. Marion Wettstein (ISTB, University of Vienna)
Dolokumma: Layers of cultural knowledge and practice in the sakela performance of the Dumi Rai

lic. phil. Alban von Stockhausen (ISTB, University of Vienna)
Walking with the ancestors: New approaches to the study of ritual landscapes in Eastern Nepal

Detailed Programme online at <http://www.univie.ac.at/kiratstudies>



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Kiranti Culture in Contemporary Nepal

There has been a growing academic interest in the diverse traditions of Kiranti-speaking groups in East Nepal since the 1970s, when N.J. Allen published his pioneering studies on the Thulung Rai. Especially linguists have done extensive research and documentations of the highly variable languages belonging to the Kiranti subgroup of Tibeto-Burman. However, ethnographic studies have lagged behind: whereas now sketch grammars exist for more than a dozen Kiranti languages, this is not matched by thorough description of cultural traditions. Therefore the workshop is meant to give a platform for the existing expertise on Kiranti cultures and to discuss the present state of research. A particular focus will be on "Kiranti religion", which is a label acknowledged in the Nepal Census since 1991 but which is still a little known entity. In the present political context of ethnic politics it will be of particular interest to study the changing configuration of these traditions.

VENUE

Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies (ISTB)
University of Vienna, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.1 & 2.7, 1090 Vienna

Seminar Room 1 (Entrance 2.7)

Associated with the FWF-funded research project
„Ritual, Space, Mimesis among the Rai of Eastern Nepal“

More information online at: <http://www.univie.ac.at/kiratstudies>



PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

14.15 - 14.30 Introductory Remarks

14.30 - 15.30 *The study of Kiranti religion as an emerging field*
Prof. Dr. Martin Gaenszle, ISTB, University of Vienna

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.00 *On the Limbu (Sirijanga) script in the 20th century*
Dr. Boyd Michailovsky, LACITO/CNRS, Villejuif

17.00 - 18.00 *Persistence through changes: Evolution of the Kulung Rai religious practice during the 20th century.*
Dr. Grégoire Schlemmer, CNRS, Paris

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2014

9.00 - 10.00 *The language of invocation vis-à-vis the language of communication*
Dr. Vishnu Singh Rai (Guest Researcher funded by the Open Society Foundation)

10.00 - 10.30 Coffee Break

10.30 - 11.30 *Dolokumma: Layers of cultural knowledge and practice in the sakela performance of the Dumri Rai*
lic. phil. Marion Wettstein, ISTB, University of Vienna

11.30 - 12.30 *Walking with the ancestors: New approaches to the study of ritual landscapes in Eastern Nepal*
lic. phil. Alban von Stockhausen, ISTB, Univ. of Vienna

12.30 - 13.00 Concluding Discussion