



Spirit Possession in the Modern World

three events at the South Asia Institute on **Tuesday, 10 November 2015**

I. Public Lecture by Prof. Hélène Basu, University of Münster:

“Voices of Possession: Dialogical Selves”, Room Z10, 13:15 – 14:45

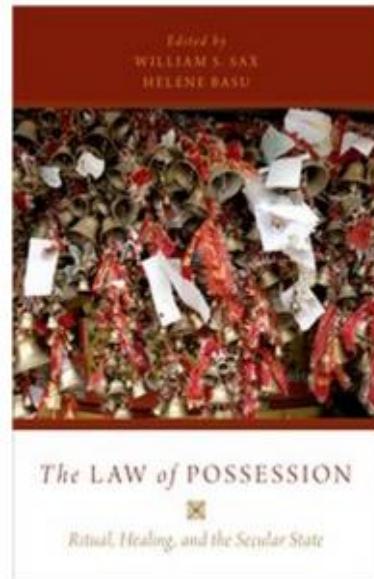
II. Book Launch: William S. Sax and Hélène Basu, eds.,

“The Law of Possession: Ritual, Healing, and the Secular State”

(New York: Oxford University Press, November 2015)

Room Z10, 15:15 – 15:45

Rituals combining healing with spirit possession and court-like proceedings are found around the world and throughout history. Such practices seem to be the very antithesis of modernity and many modern, secular states have systematically attempted to eliminate them. Why are such rituals largely absent from modern societies, and what happens to them when the state attempts to expunge them from their health and justice systems, or even to criminalize them? *The Law of Possession* brings together historical and contemporary case studies from East Asia, South Asia, and Africa, and argues that, despite consistent attempts by states to discourage, eliminate, and criminalize them, such rituals persist and even thrive because they meet widespread human needs.



III. Film Screening of **“Drugs and Prayers”** by Hélène Basu

Room 316, 16:15 – 17:30

All interested are welcome!

