



WESTFÄLISCHE
WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNSTER

Institut für
Ethnologie

Institutscolloquium SoSe 2013

05.06.2013, 16 – 18 Uhr, Stadtstraße 21, Münster, Raum STU 105 (2.10)

Prof. Dr. Parvis Ghassem-Fachandi

(Department of Anthropology, Rutgers University, New York):

Naming and Omission: Proverbs, Prayer and Possession in Suburban Gujarat

What is a name? And what means its omission? This talk offers four ethnographic episodes for analysis of quotidian practices in India: marital address, renunciation, formal Muslim prayer, and possession. It seeks to understand what is at stake in systems of nomination as they become subverted through omission or substitution in a social context that can tentatively be described as "semi-literate." Behind this investigation lies a larger question, which cannot be addressed here, but which deals with the work of utterances in spoken language, namely informal prayer, proverbs, jokes, and the circulation of nicknames. The paper ends with a brief speculation on the concept of "religion," especially as it relates to the anthropological concept of the "sacred" and to the logic of national aggregation.

Alle Interessierten sind zu diesen Vorträgen herzlich eingeladen.