



## **– Institute's Colloquium –**

**Dr. Karin Polit**

**(Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg;**

**winter term 2014/2015: Visiting Professor for the chair of Prof. Dr. Helene Basu, Institute of Ethnology, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster)**

### **Hierarchy, Ritual and Intangible Heritage in the Garhwal Himalayas, North India**

The talk will discuss processes of negotiations within hegemonic power structures and global hierarchies of knowledge as played out in the context of heritage discourses in North India. I will combine a thick ethnographic description of ritual performances in the Garhwal Himalayas, with more theoretical reflections on ritual dynamics, intangible heritage and various imaginations and desires connected to modernity. I will refer my work on the heritagization of ritual performances to the important discussions on marginalization, heritage, art and modernity in local and global contexts. These ideas will be illustrated by ethnographic data on the local deity, Jakh and the praxis of intangible heritage in the state of Uttarakhand. The ritual transfers I have witnessed over the past decade and researched are, I argue, direct results of historical processes, which produced categories such as folk art and folklore. At the same time the ritual practices are also, on a different level, involved in the production and consolidation of caste hierarchies and discrimination based upon them. The discourse and practices of intangible heritage in the specific context of Indian modernity will be analyzed and discussed against this background.

**on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2014**

**4-6 p.m.**

**Institute of Ethnology**

**Stuttstraße 21, Raum STU 105 (2.10)**

**Everybody is welcome!**