Although Buddhism has often been conceptualized as a religion of moderation that mitigates violence and radicalism, the diverse histories of Buddhism also contain numerous accounts of rebellious and messianic movements. This presentation explores some of the cultural and religious configurations linked to these phenomena. The first part will discuss the millenarian features of various forms of Buddhism from a comparative perspective, and here focus on Buddhist cosmology, the dystopian decline of the dhamma, and its renewal through the coming of the future Buddha Maitreya. The second part will embed these general features into a more specific setting, and explore the history of messianic movements in Lao and Thai history in the first half of the 20th century. By pointing to different interpretations of these movements by, for example, Marxist or Weberian approaches, the final part of the presentation will take a closer look at the what could be labeled the 'radical potentialities' of Theravada Buddhism.

Patrice Ladwig
(Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle)

“Theravada Buddhism, rebellion and millenarian movements”

Mittwoch, 27. Mai 2015
09-11 Uhr, "Kleiner Hörsaal"
(Physikalisches Institut, 2. OG)

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!

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