



Institutskolloquium Ethnologie

Dienstag, 05.12.2017

17-19 Uhr, Werkstattgebäude

Jiri Jakl (Brisbane):

„Unholy Brew: Cultural and ritual uses of alcohol in pre-Islamic Java (800 - 1500 CE) and Hindu Bali“

In this lecture I discuss three selected themes pertaining to the use of alcohol in Java, Indonesia, before 1500 CE. I read pre-modern evidence on alcohol against the practices documented from modern Bali, a mainly Hindu society where palm wine and other fermented and distilled drinks continue to be consumed by many, and where alcohol has a great number of ritual uses, some traceable to pre-Islamic Java, some obviously of local pedigree. Unlike in Bali, alcohol is extremely controversial in contemporary, Islamic, Java, and was an ambiguous substance even in pre-modern times.

First, I introduce a number of types of alcoholic beverages known in pre-modern Java and modern Bali, paying a special attention to palm wine, sugar cane wine, and distilled arrack. Second, I discuss ritual uses of alcohol in ancestor worship and among the communities of Esoteric (Tantric) Buddhists. Finally, I analyse pre-modern and modern concepts of intoxication, and discuss briefly the fact that drunken comportment is a culturally defined behaviour.

Alle Interessierten sind herzlich eingeladen!

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