

Karin M. Polit (Heidelberg)

Research Fellow in the SFB 619 subproject A4 "Agency and Territorial Rituals"
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Lecturer

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Karin Polit, born 1974, is a research fellow in the Collaborative Research Center "Ritual Dynamics" since 2005. After studying Anthropology, in Germany and Australia, she conducted research in Indonesia, the Netherlands and Northern India.

Main Research and Ongoing Projects

Karin's main interests lie in the fields of Performance Studies, Visual Anthropology, the Anthropology of Media and Medical Anthropology. For her PhD thesis, she has done extensive research amongst the village women of Garhwal in the Indian part of the Central Himalayas. Since then she has worked in the same region with traditional medical practitioners and ritual specialists involved in ritual healing as well as with traditional and new ritual performers of Garhwal and Uttaranchal. She is currently writing a book on divine performances of Northern India that will include a DVD with ethnographic film material.

Curriculum Vitae

- since 10/2007 Member of the Karl Jaspers Research Center of Excellence at the University of Heidelberg
- since 2005 Research fellow and member of the managing committee in the collaborative research center "ritual dynamics" Heidelberg University, Germany
Project A4: Ritual Spectacles in Garhwal: Ritual as Regional Heritage
- 2004 – 2006 Lecturer and doctoral student at the University of Heidelberg
Thesis on Gender and Dalit Culture in the Himalayas
- 2002 – 2004 Research Fellow at the Department of Anthropology
Project: The Healing Cult of Bhairav in Uttaranchal.
- 2001 MA Anthropology, Politics, Islamic Sciences, University of Heidelberg
- 1998 BA Anthropology at the James Cook University of North Queensland, Australia

Major Publications

Books

- forthcoming Good Women: Practices of Gender and Agency among Dalit Women in the Central Himalayas. Currently under review with Orient Longman: Hyderabad, India.

Articles

- 2008 „Pilgrimages: Hinduism – Gender and sexuality,“ in the Encyclopedea of Gender, Religion and Sexuality.
- 2008 „Performing heritage through rituals, the case of Uttarakhand.“ In Bent Flemming Nielsen, Bent Holm, and Karen Vedel, eds., Religion, Ritual, Theatre.
- 2007 „The Consequences of Ritual Failure: A Garhwali case study.“ In Ute Hüsken, ed, When Rituals go wrong. Mistakes, Failure, and the Dynamics of Ritual. Leiden: Brill.
- 2006 "The Effect of Marginality on People's Well Being: An Ethnographic encounter among Dalits of the Central Himalayas". In: The Ills of Marginality, Ecks, Stefan & William S. Sax (ed.). London: Carfax.