

Professor Ute Hüsken (Oslo)

Head of the SFB 619 subproject A3 „Initiation, priestly ordination, temple festivals - ritual traditions in the south Indian temple city of Kancipuram“

Collaborative Research Centre SFB 619 “Ritual Dynamics”

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Ute Hüsken is Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Oslo (Norway). Hüsken was trained as an Indian and Tibetan studies scholar and as a cultural anthropologist. She teaches religion and politics in South Asia, Sanskrit, Pali, ancient and contemporary Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism.

Since 2005 Hüsken has been the head of the SFB 619 subproject A3, “Initiation, Priestly Ordination, Temple Festivals, and Ritual Traditions in the South Indian Temple City of Kancipuram”. Until recently she was member of the executive committee of the Collaborative Research Centre “Ritual Dynamics” at the University of Heidelberg (Germany).

From 2000 to 2007 Hüsken also lectured there in the Department of Classical Indology. She is co-chair of the steering committee of the Ritual Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion. Hüsken has published several articles and edited two volumes on ritual. She is the editor of *When Rituals Go Wrong: Mistakes, Failure, and the Dynamics of Ritual* (Brill 2007) and co-editor of *Words and Deeds: Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia* (Harrassowitz 2005).

Main Research and Ongoing Projects

Contemporary and Ancient Hinduism and Buddhism, Ritual studies.

Her book-with-DVD, *Vishnu's Children: Prenatal Lifecycle Rituals in South India* (Harrassowitz) will be published in 2008.

Currently, she is writing a book on the acquisition of ritual competence in Hindu traditions.

Curriculum Vitae

since 10/2007 Professor for Sanskrit at the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (Institut for kulturstudier og orientalske språk) at the University of Oslo.

since 7/2005 Head of the project “Ritual traditions in the South Indian Temple Town of Kāñcipuram” within the Interdisciplinary Research Project on “Dynamics of Ritual”.

7/2005-7/2007 Head of the project area “A” within the Interdisciplinary Research Project on “Dynamics of Ritual”.

since 2003 Research Fellow, Interdisciplinary Research Project “Dynamics of Ritual”, Heidelberg University; project: “Ritual traditions in the South Indian Temple Town of Kāñcipuram”.

7/2002-7/2007 Member of the Managing Committee of the long-term Interdisciplinary Research Project “Dynamics of Ritual”, Heidelberg University, Germany.

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Major Publications

Monographs

2007 (ed.) *When Rituals Go Wrong. Mistakes, Failure, and the Dynamics of Ritual* (Numen Book Series 115), Leiden: Brill.

Co-editor

2006 (together with Petra Kieffer-Pülz & Anne Peters) *Jaina-Itihāsa-Ratna. Festschrift für Gustav Roth zum 90. Geburtstag* (Indica et Tibetica 47), Marburg, 2006.

2005 (together with J. Gengnagel and S. Raman Müller) *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia* (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.

Articles

2007 "Ritual Dynamics and Ritual Failure". In: *When Rituals Go Wrong. Mistakes, Failure, and the Dynamics of Ritual*, ed. by U. Hüsken (Numen Book Series 115), Leiden: Brill, pp. 337-366.

2007 "Contested Ritual Property. Conflicts over Correct Ritual Procedures in a South Indian Vishnu Temple". In: *When Rituals Go Wrong. Mistakes, Failure, and the Dynamics of Ritual*, ed. by U. Hüsken (Numen Book Series 115). Leiden: Brill., pp. 273-290.

2006 "Pavitrotsava: Rectifying Ritual Lapses". In: *Jaina-Itihāsa-Ratna. Festschrift für Gustav Roth zum 90. Geburtstag*, ed. by U. Hüsken & Petra Kieffer-Pülz & Anne Peters, (Indica et Tibetica 47), Marburg, 2006, pp. 265-281.

2006 "'Gotamī, do not wish to go from home to homelessness!' Patterns of objections to female asceticism in Theravāda Buddhism". In: *Asceticism and Its Critics: Historical Accounts and Comparative Perspectives*, ed. Oliver Freiberger, New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 211-233.

2005 "*Vadhūdharmacandrikā* – 'Moonlight of Female Duties'". In: *Aspects of the Female in Indian Culture* (Arbeitsmaterialien zur Religionsgeschichte 17; Indica et Tibetica 44), ed. by Ulrike Roesler & Jayandra Soni, Marburg, 2005, pp. 133-165.

2005 "Samskāras in Theory and Practice: A South Indian Case". In: *Words and Deeds. Hindu and Buddhist Rituals in South Asia*, ed. by J. Gengnagel & U. Hüsken & S. Raman (Ethno-Indology. Heidelberg Studies in South Asian Rituals 1), Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2005, pp. 153-198.