



Hidden Texts

The Commentary Tradition of the South Indian Sanskrit Theatre Kūṭiyāṭṭam

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 16:15–18:00

University of Zurich, URPP Asia and Europe, Room RAF-E-011, Rämistrasse 66, 8001 Zurich

Guest Lecture

Prof. Dr. Heike Oberlin (Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen)

Kūṭiyāṭṭam is the only form of Sanskrit theatre in the entire region of South Asia with an unbroken tradition (> 1000 years). Part of its complex structure are stage manuals including elaborate commentaries of various kinds. Developed by and for an educated audience, Kūṭiyāṭṭam plays with several

languages (Sanskrit, Prakrits, Malayalam, Manipravalam) and brings the Indian commentary tradition to life on stage by translating the texts involved word by word into hand gestures and stylized mime.