



## Invitation: Review

Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 2 pm

# LOCAL CULTURES – GLOBAL THEORIES

With Dr Sadhana Naithani

The reach of local and oral cultures has been global for ages. Panchtantra traveled out of the Indian sub-continent in ancient times, "Kinder- und Hausmärchen" of Brothers Grimm continues to remain second only to Bible in circulation, colonial British collections of folklores of Africa, Asia and Australia created images that determine current inter-cultural perceptions, and today there are efforts to formulate global Intellectual Property Rights for practitioners of expressive oral cultures.

This paper discusses the contemporary complexities in the practice and study of oral cultures in two parts:

Part I TRAPS: COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL

Part II BRIDGES: LOCAL, GLOBAL AND TRANSNATIONAL

**Sadhana Naithani** studied Germanistik and Volkskunde (now Kulturanthropologie), writing her PhD thesis under the supervision of Prof. R. P. Jain at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Prof. Lutz Röhrich at Albert Ludwigs Universität, Freiburg (i. Br). Her dissertation, titled *Politik der Liebe* (1994) was an interpretative study of German folksongs. Presently she is Associate Professor at the Centre of German Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her post doc researches and publications have been concerned with the transformation of European folklore theories in colonial contexts of the British Empire. She has brought forth the role of Indian and African scholars in the making of colonial archives. She is currently researching transformations in folklore theory and practice since 1947. She has been a Fellow of the DAAD and British Council. She is a member of the Folklore Advisory Committee at Finnish Academy of Science and Letters (Helsinki), American Folklore Society, Deutsche Volkskunde Gesellschaft, and Vice President of the Indian Folklore Congress. She has been Visiting Professor at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Tartu, Estonia.

Sadhana Naithani has written several papers, is the Editor of *Folktales from Northern India* (ABC-CLIO, 2002) and author of *In Quest of Indian Folktales* (Indiana University Press, 2006). Her forthcoming book is *The Story-Time of the British Empire. Theory of Transnational Folkloristics* (University Press of Mississippi).

### Venue:

Conference Hall  
Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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für Bildung  
und Forschung