



ZMO-Colloquium Summer Term 2016

Thursday, 30 June 2016, 5 pm

'South Asian Diaspora Communities and anti-colonial "Conspiracies" in Switzerland c. 1910-1920'

Lecture by Prof Dr Harald Fischer Tiné (ETH Zürich)

Venue:

Zentrum Moderner Orient
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

Since Switzerland is widely regarded as the archetypical example of a neutral country that was neither engaged in warfare nor participated directly in European colonial expansion, the Swiss Federation's intense entanglements with colonial and anti-colonial politics before and during the Great War have remained largely unscrutinised until recently. The talk will first provide an important context by situating my research in the overall discussion on "post-colonial Switzerland" which is currently creating some stir in Swiss academic and public debates. It then zooms in on the history of the small cells of South Asian diasporic 'revolutionaries' that made Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich their operational base during the 1910s. After sketching out their political activities and reconstructing their multifarious interactions with local groups and individuals, an attempt is made to assess the significance of the case study for various currents of historiography.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Prof Dr Harald Fischer Tiné is Professor of Modern Global History at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zürich). Previous to his appointment in Zurich he taught at Jacobs University, Bremen (2006-2008), and Humboldt-University, Berlin (2000-2006). He has studied South Asian history, political science and Hindi at the University of Heidelberg (from where he earned his PhD in 2000) and the Central Hindi Institute in Agra (India). He has published extensively on South Asian colonial history and the history of the British Empire. His research interests include global and transnational history, the history of knowledge and the social and cultural history of colonial South Asia. His most recent monographs are: *Shyamji Krishnavarma: Sanskrit, Sociology and Anti-Imperialism* (London and Delhi, 2014) and *Pidgin-Knowledge: Wissen und Kolonialismus* (Berlin - Zurich, 2013, in German).