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**Lecture**

# The Afterlife of Images. A Comparison of India and China



**PROF. Dr. Peter van der Veer**  
Director of the Max Planck Institute for  
the Study of Religious and Ethnic  
Diversity at Göttingen

**February 6, 2014, 2 pm**

Neue Universität, room 12a  
Universitätsplatz, 69117 Heidelberg

Following his recently published monograph *The Modern Spirit of Asia. The Secular and the Spiritual in India and China* (2013) van der Veer will discuss the socio-cultural power that is created by the circulation and (discursive and aesthetic) re-appropriation of images. On the one hand, India and China both share a history of complex and multidirectional orientalist influences, on the other hand, they differ in terms of colonial history and the role attributed to religion, spirituality, and secularism. Focusing on the iconicity of visual/artistic modes of production, van der Veer is going to address some of these comparative questions through a transcultural and interdisciplinary perspective hereby drawing connections between the micro and macro levels of cultural processes in history and present.