

Liebe Studierende,

beachten Sie bitte folgendes Lehrangebot:

Prof. Charles Ramble

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sMrang: Ritual Narratives of the Bon Religion (part 2) The Disturbing Case of the Vampire (*sri*)

Di, 08.03.2011 16.00-18.00

Di, 15.03.2011 16.00-18.00

Di, 05.04.2011 16.00-18.00

Di, 12.04.2011 16.00-18.00

Ort: SR 3 Bereich Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde

Prof. Ramble bietet diese Tibetisch-Lektüre im Rahmen seines Aufenthaltes als Gastforscher zum Thema „Bon und Ritual“ innerhalb von CIRDIS (Interfakultäre Forschungsplattform und Dokumentationsstelle für die Kulturgeschichte Inner- und Südasiens) an. Da es sich nicht um eine im Vorlesungsverzeichnis planmäßig angekündigte Lehrveranstaltung handelt, kann sie leider nicht angerechnet werden. Prof. Ramble ist Spezialist auf dem Gebiet der Bon-Religion und der Besuch der Lektüre ist für Studierende mit fortgeschrittenen (ab 3. Semester) Tibetischkenntnissen sehr empfohlen. Andere Zuhörer sind natürlich ebenso willkommen. Die Unterrichtssprache ist Englisch. Bitte beachten Sie diesbezüglich auch Informationen auf www.univie.ac.at/cirdis.

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Ritual Narratives of the Bon Religion (*smrang*), part 2: The Disturbing Case of the Vampire (*sri*)

The class of demons known as *sri*—a term that is sometimes translated as “vampire”—represents one of the most feared categories of supernatural agents in Tibetan belief. *Sri* are of different kinds, and their presence can be diagnosed by serial deaths of their preferred victims, such as livestock, young men or, most commonly, young children. The recently-discovered Bonpo ritual texts that will be read in this series help to shed light on the nature of these *sri* and may explain the particular dread in which they are held. The mythic narratives (*smrang*) of such apotropaic rituals typically present the central figure (such as the Three-headed Black One, *gTo nag mgo gsum*) as some monstrous creature that is subdued by the hero-figure and compelled to serve his interests. The myth behind the *sri mnan* (“vampire-subjugation”) ritual presents the original protagonist in an altogether more complex and nuanced light: a young girl who is rejected by her father at birth, forced into a compact by the Bon hero *gShen rab*—who happens to be her cousin—and later tricked into being buried alive, even though she is completely innocent of wrongdoing. As the primordial vampire, she is summoned to assist in the subjugation of a second generation of vampires. The latter are responsible for the killing of a series of children born to a young princess: but these vampires are none other than the closest female relatives (mother, sisters, aunts *et al.*) of the princess herself.

