

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Manik Bajracharya is currently a visiting scholar at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. He wrote his Ph.D thesis at the Aichi Gakuin University, Japan on the *Saptavidhānuttarapūjā*, a widely practised Newar Buddhist ritual dedicated generally to the deity Tārā. He has experiences of working at the Lotus Research Centre and teaching at the Lotus Academic College in Lalitpur, Nepal. Together with Axel Michaels he is currently working in a research project to prepare an *editio princeps* as well as a new annotated translation of the nineteenth century Buddhist *vaṃśāvalī* otherwise known as the ‘Wright Chronicle’.

Winnie Bothe is currently undertaking a postdoctoral study at the Department of Political Science at Lund University. The research focuses on how processes of state formation impact on local processes of constructing the locals in their roles as citizens, comparing two Himalayan neighbours: Sikkim and Bhutan. Her research interests are focused on the relation between state formation, nationalism, power and citizenship. She was a member of the board of the Danish organization ‘Projektrådgivningen’ for two years, an organization that provide counselling to Danish NGO’s. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Bhutan, Benin and India, and has spent a year at Jawaharlal Nehru University, India.

Hema Kiruppalini is a Research Associate at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) in Singapore. She obtained her Masters in South Asian Studies in 2010 from National University of Singapore (NUS). Her thesis for the Masters degree was entitled ‘Travelling Dwellers: Nepalese *Lahure* in Singapore’. She is currently engaged in ISAS’s flagship book project – *The Encyclopedia of the Sri Lankan Diaspora*.

Axel Michaels is Professor of Classical Indology at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. He is elected Spokesman of the Collaborative Research Centre SFB 619 ‘Ritual Dynamics’ and one of the Directors of the Cluster of Excellence ‘Asia and Europe in a Global Context’. His fields of interest are the social history and history of Hinduism,

theory of rituals, life cycle rites of passage in Nepal, and the cultural and legal history of Nepal. Major book publications include *Hinduism Past and Present* (Princeton University Press 2004); *Handling Death: The dynamics of death and ancestor rituals among the Newars of Bhaktapur, Nepal* (with Niels Gutschow; Harrassowitz, 2005); *The Price of Purity: The religious judge in 19th century Nepal*(CESMEO, 2006), *Growing Up: Hindu and Buddhist initiation rituals among Newar children in Bhaktapur, Nepal* (with Niels Gutschow; Harrassowitz, 2008), *Śiva in Trouble: Rituals and festivals at the Paśupatiṅātha temple of Deopatan, Nepal* (OUP New York, Oxford, 2008).