

AK Crossasia Vortragsreihe:  
Dr. Borayin Larios, *Ruprecht Karls Universität Heidelberg*

## Scholars and Authority in Modern Yoga

Mittwoch, 13. Juli 2016  
Schloss Hohentübingen, Ältere Urgeschichte, Raum 119, 18 c. t.



The ongoing intellectual wars between mainly Western scholars and self-denominated "intellectual Kṣatriyas" on the question of who has the authority (*adhikāra*) to speak about, and in the name of "yoga" has been at the forefront of the discussion of its authenticity. In recent years numerous publications have vehemently opposed the simplistic proposition of modern postural Yoga as a straightforward Hindu construct. Their work has revealed the influence of non-Hindu traditions (Buddhism, Jainism, Sufism), but also of military calisthenics, Swedish gymnastics, Western Esotericism and Hindu nationalism in the formation of modern postural yoga. An increasing number of academicians who in addition to their academic work are also practitioners of some style of yoga and also make a living by giving courses, workshops and lectures on different aspects of these traditions to yoga teachers and practitioners world-wide. The main questions here are: To what extent and in which form is the knowledge produced in academia being imported into the mainstream of yoga? Among which circles of the contemporary yoga culture are scholars well-received and which ones frowned upon? And, how are practitioners of yoga using scholars and their academic studies to legitimize their own practices and discourses or to distance themselves from those of others?

**Asien-Orient-Institut  
Abteilung für Ethnologie**

