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In collaboration with

Fachhoch Schule des
Mittelstands
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Lucknow
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**Tuesday, 23.01.2024 | 08:00 am (Germany)
/ 1:00 pm (India)**

Join us via MS Teams:

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**For more details click on the conference website link:
<https://www.amity.edu/lucknow/iesh2024/>**

Relevance of South Asian Studies in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Ecological Collapse



Keynote Speaker
Divyaraj Amiya, M. Phil.,
Lecturer,
University of Tübingen, Germany
University of Zürich, Switzerland

While discussing many *solutions* to current crises, e.g., ecological collapse, increasing social isolation, ageing society, women's question, caste question, social redistribution of wealth, identity question, mass migration, technophilia etc., we are forgetful of the fact that proposed '*solutions*' were and are already part and parcel of the normal daily life in different phases, regions, and countries of South Asia. The subcontinent is, at the same time, home to one of the oldest continuous civilizations with an immense diversity of responses to various challenges it faced during its long history of more than 5,000 years.

So, before applying these *solutions*, it will be helpful to know more about South Asia, where the success or failure or third possible outcomes of such approaches can be seen and studied with more depth and understanding. For example, do we know that, unlike developed regions and countries, growing old is celebrated in Nepal in the *Janko* festival? Did we know that Khasi women of Meghalaya, unlike mainstream society, do not wait for sons but for daughters? Did we know that the use of advanced iron smelting technology was '*voluntarily*' reduced by the *Asur* community of Jharkhand? It is something like our societies voluntarily and collectively decide to reduce the use of artificial intelligence. Core teachings of *Jainism* and *Buddhism* do not have concept of God at their centre. In many cases, it means, we need to redefine our understanding of Religion.

Many more examples will be shared and discussed in the presentation to underline why we need to look at the history and society of South Asia with fresh eyes.