

CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Book Talk

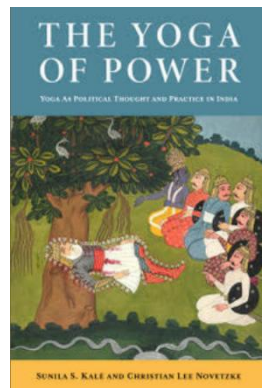
The Yoga of Power: Yoga as Political Thought and Practice in India

Sunila S. Kalé

Washington University, Seattle
Jackson School of International Studies

Christian Lee Novetzke

Washington University, Seattle
Jackson School of International Studies
Comparative History of Ideas



Yoga has an enormous range of meanings, but two spheres dominate its most common uses: yoga as a psychophysical activity and as philosophy. In this talk, we trace a third sphere for yoga as political thought and practice that intersects with the other two yet retains a distinct genealogy in text and history. This political idea of yoga names the strategies of control used by kings, poets, warriors, and revolutionaries. It encodes political stratagems for going into battle and for the demands of governance that follow victory. Yoga here indicates routes to sovereign self-rule under the yoke of foreign power and defines righteous action amidst the grime of politics and even war. Our talk, based on our book entitled *The Yoga of Power* (Columbia University Press, 2025), will lay out the book's key arguments and empirical subjects from India's earliest textual history to its bureaucratic forms in contemporary India.



Moderator: Ute Hüsken
(Heidelberg University,
Department of Cultural and
Religious Studies)
Language: English
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Time: 4 – 6 pm
Venue: Institut für
Medizinische Psychologie,
Hörsaal, Bergheimer Straße
20, 69115 Heidelberg

