

Kush Depala joined the Department of Cultural and Religious History of South Asia as a doctoral candidate under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Ute Hüsken in July 2022. He completed his MA in Cultural and Religious History of South Asia at Heidelberg, and his BA in South Asian Studies and Study of Religion at SOAS, University of London, as well as on courses at AIS Pune and in Gujarat.

His project, provisionally titled “Ritual Bodies, Ritual Identities: The role of ritual texts in forming belief and identity in two north Indian bhakti sampradāyas,” will explore the writing and use of proprietary, post-Vedic ritual texts in North Indian bhakti sampradāyas in both Sanskrit and Early Modern Hindi/Gujarati, focussing on the interplay between theology and liturgy. His research interests include codicology, digital humanities, performance, and bhakti literature.