

PROF. DR. AXEL MICHAELS

- Full Professor of Classical Indology at South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University
- Director, Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe”
- Head of the research unit „Documents on the History of Religion and Law or pre-modern Nepal”

born 26 May 1949 in Hamburg
married., 3 children



- 2014 - Member of the Academic Advisory Council – AAC at Heidelberg University
- 2014 - Head of the research unit „Documents on the History of Religion and Law or pre-modern Nepal” of the Heidelberg Academy of Science and Humanities
- 2012 - Heidelberg University Rector’s delegate for cooperation with India
- 2010-11 Member of AG Zukunft, Heidelberg University
- 2010- Head Coordinator, Heidelberg South Asia Centre
- 2007- Director, Excellence Cluster “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”
- 2004-11 Speaker, DFG-Fachkollegium 106: “Ethnologie, Religionswissenschaft, Außereuropäische Kulturen”
- 2002- Speaker, Collaborative Research Centre (SFB) “The Dynamics of Ritual”
- 2001 Speaker of the section “Indology” at “Deutsche Morgenländische Gesellschaft”
- 1999-02 Director, South Asia Institute
- 1999 – 2003 Speaker interdisciplinary project "Cartography Programme on Benares" (DFG)
- 1999 Member of curatorium "Südasienswissenschaften" at Austrian Science Academy
- 1996- Full Professor of Classical Indology, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University
- 1992-96 Professor of Religious Studies, University of Bern
- 1992 Offer of the Chair of Indology, University of Stockholm (declined)
- 1991-92 Assistant Professor (Oberassistent), Department of Indology, University of Kiel
- 1991 Habilitation
- 1986 Spalding Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford; Akademischer Rat, Department of Indology, University of Kiel
- 1983-91 Assistant Professor, Department of Indology, University of Kiel
- 1981-83 Director, Nepal Research Centre and Nepal-German Preservation Project in Kathmandu
- 1980-81 Assistant Professor, Department of Indology, University of Kiel
- 1979-80 Research Assistant, Department of Indology, University of Münster
- 1979 Research Assistant at Hamburgischen Museum für Völkerkunde
- 1978 PhD (*summa cum laude*), University of Hamburg
- 1972-78 Studies in Indology, Philosophy and Law, University of Hamburg
- 1971-72 Benares Hindu University: Postgraduate Course in Indian Religion and Philosophy

1968-71 Studies in Law, Sociology and Philosophy, Universities of Munich and Freiburg

Honours Full Member of the Heidelberger Academy of Sciences (since 2006)
State Teaching Award Baden-Württemberg (2005)
Heisenberg Fellowship awarded by the German Research Foundation (1990)
Spalding Visiting Fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford (1986)

Fields of interest Ethno-Indology
Social and Legal History of Hinduism
Cultural History of Nepal
Ritual Studies

Research projects „Documents on the History of Religion and Law or pre-modern Nepal” (Heidelberg Academy of Science and Humanities, 2014 -)
“The Nepalese Wright Chronicle - editio princeps, new translation and topographical atlas” (DFG, 2011-)
“Lyfe-cycle rituals in Nepal” (DFG, SFB 619, 2002 - 2013)
“Ontologiemodellierung für die Erforschung von Ritualstrukturen (DFG, Cluster)
“Religion on Stage: Traditional South Asian Performances in New Public Spheres and Media” (DFG, Cluster)
“The Bhasha-Chronicle of Nepal” (DFG, 2006-08)
“Muster des Austauschs. Indiens natürliche Ressourcen in europäischen Reiseberichten vom 16. bis 18. Jahrhundert” (finished, DFG, Cluster)
“Jüngere Rechts- und Kulturgeschichte Indiens und Nepals”
“Text und Kontext der Mahimâ-Dharma-Bewegung in Orissa” (finished)
“Cartography Programme on Benares”, member and speaker (DFG, 1999-2002)
“Orissa Research Programme”, member (DFG, 1998-2002)
“Nepal Research Programme”, member (DFG, 1984-91)
“Initiation rituals in Nepal” (DFG, 1983/84)