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**The King as a Devotee, the King as a God:  
Royal Portraits and Likenesses in 17th-century Nepal**

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**Beginn: 18.15 Uhr**

Abteilung für Asiatische und  
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King Pratāpa Malla of Kathmandu (r. 1641-1674) is among the most important kings of the Malla dynasty of Nepal. He was an initiated Tantric practitioner who supported the arts and composed poetry. Portraits of him have been preserved in sculptures, paintings and line drawings. Especially noteworthy are the statues of him atop pillars in front of the temples of the Tantric goddesses Taleju and Degutale in Kathmandu. In addition to straightforward portraits of the king, there are hidden ones which show his facial features on representations of Tantric divinities. This paper examines new developments in the royal portraiture of the late Malla period of Nepal and shows how they reflect changing concepts of the relationship between king and god.

