

**Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte SoSe 2019**

**Vortrag von Sidh Daniel Losa Mendiratta**

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**Contested Heritage: Fifteen years of research  
and fieldwork in India**

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Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte, Adenauerallee 10, ÜR (EG)

The built heritage of Portuguese influence in India includes a vast number of sites constructed during four and a half centuries of colonial presence in the subcontinent (ca. 1500 to 1961). Examples of religious and military structures are especially striking, constituting significant examples of Early Modern architecture. Typologies and concepts originating in Europe were transposed and adapted to radically different contexts and surroundings, and also influenced by local building cultures, leading to diverse developments than their European counterparts. Loosely characterized as Indo-Portuguese architecture, many of these buildings present unique features which have only recently been researched from the perspective of architectural history. In this presentation, I will present four heritage sites of Portuguese influence in India - two in Goa and two in near Mumbai -, reflecting upon their history, development and present state. I will also address how some crucial aspects of these sites have been misunderstood or misrepresented by stakeholders and caretakers, often as a consequence of politically charged narratives applied to heritage of religious nature. In parallel, I will address the challenges and methods inherent to surveying and documenting heritage sites, and other aspects of fieldwork in India.

