

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte SoSe 2025:

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**Building Identity: Architecture and
Patronage in Goa During the Early Modern
Period.**

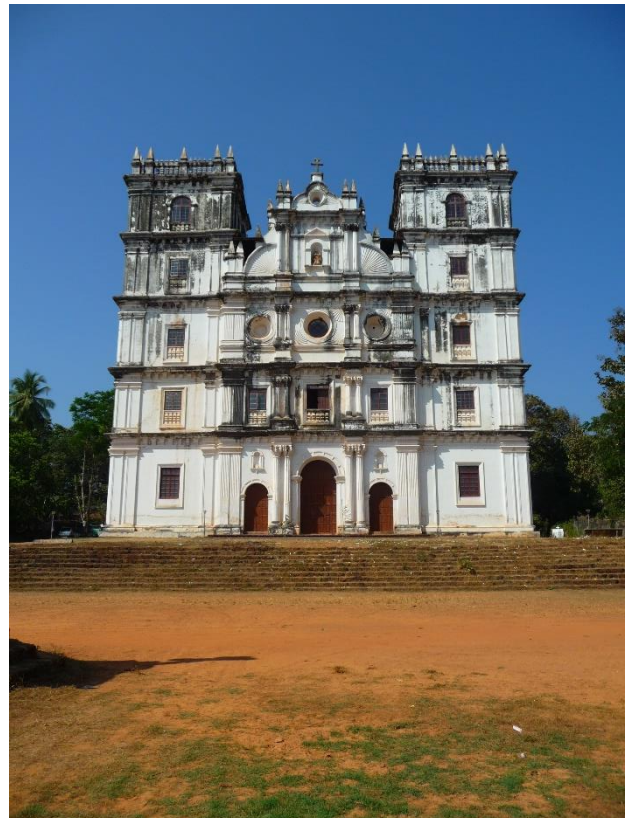
Montag, 14.04.2025, Beginn: 18.15 Uhr

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte, Adenauerallee 10, ÜR (EG)
<https://uni-bonn.zoom-x.de/j/61938828570?pwd=gbUee2b4lqxWBmTnUw4jh5z5kzSY02.1>

Some of the biggest and most elaborate early modern churches in Asia were built in the ‘Old Conquests’ region of the state of Goa (India), a territory of about 720 square kilometres administered by the Portuguese Empire until 1961. Several religious orders built their churches, convents, and colleges within the city, as most of Goa’s indigenous population was converted to Christianity.

During the early seventeenth century, Goan Catholic priests began striving for empowerment and recognition from the Portuguese and their Goan brethren, as they began taking over some of the parishes of Goa from the missionary orders. This was a first step in a long road toward the empowerment of the Goan indigenous clergy, a process deeply interwoven with the creation of a Goan Christian identity.

In this presentation, I will address the connections between identity, patronage and architecture during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Goa, as the elite of Goan Catholic Brahmins became increasingly empowered in the midst of a racially bigoted colonial society. The churches commissioned by this elite employed architecture as a medium intended to project nobility, affluence and cultural significance in defiance of those who wanted to keep them in subaltern positions.



Church of St Anne, Talaulim, Goa (India), built 1682-1695
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