Guest Lecture am Max-Weber-Kolleg

„King, Sufi and Messiah: A Mughal Emperor of India and his Tomb -- The Case of Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar (r. 1556-1605)“

Uros Zver, University of Vienna

21. Mai 2013 | 9 Uhr | FG 1 (Gelände Helios Klinikum), Raum 121

Uros Zver is an MA student in Global History at the University of Vienna, currently visiting the Max Weber Center in Erfurt. His research considers the imperial ideology, art and architecture of the Mughal Emperors of India (r.1526-1857) in a global-historical context. His project at the Center has focused on the meaning of reported Christian iconography surrounding the grave of Mughal Emperor Jalaluddin Muhammad Akbar.

Zum Vortrag: Descended from the Central-Asian conquerors Timur and Chngis Khan, the Mughals invaded and ruled India for more than three centuries before their exile in 1857. Under their patronage, the subcontinental in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries experienced a cosmopolitan Golden Age of flourishing arts and sectarian non-discrimination, most famously embodied in the progressive Emperor Akbar (r. 1556-1605). The masterpieces of Mughal imperial tomb architecture, which include the Taj Mahal, served as accessible blueprints of an ideology of rulership, yet the unconventional style of Akbar’s tomb presents a confounding semantic puzzle that has defied explanation. What can the final resting place of one of the most celebrated Islamic rulers of the early-modern world tell us about the nature and cross-cultural connections of Mughal imperial identity?