Guest Lecture am Max-Weber-Kolleg

„Tribal Identity, Religious Conversion and Violence in South Rajasthan, India“
Dr. Sarbeswar Sahoo, Indian Institute of Technology Dehli

9. Juli 2013 | 11 Uhr | FG 1 (Gelände Helios Klinikum), Raum 121

Sarbeswar Sahoo is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and currently Humboldt Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Max Weber Center, University of Erfurt. He received his PhD in Sociology from the National University of Singapore, and has also taught there as Teaching Assistant and Visiting Fellow. His recent publication is: Civil Society and Democratization in India: Institutions, Ideologies and Interests (London: Routledge, 2013).

Zum Vortrag: Religion and exclusivist religious identity have acted as sources of conflict in India during the post-colonial period. Although Hindu-Muslim conflict had been, what Varshney (2002) calls, the “master narrative” of Indian politics, it is observed that since the 1990s the Christian populations have increasingly become the targets of violence. The central question is why has violence against the Christian population increased in different parts of India? Drawing on fieldwork in the tribal dominated regions of Rajasthan in Western India, this paper will focus on two important and interrelated issues: (1) the contested cultural identity of the tribals (Adivasis) in India, and (2) the politics of religious conversion. While the imperialist position has stressed the separateness of tribals from Hindus, the Hindu nationalists have argued that the tribals constitute an indispensable part of Hindu social and religious order. Such ambiguity has led to deep contestations over the nature of tribal identity in India. Considering this, in the name of doing development, both the Christian missionaries and Hindu nationalists have been involved in competing projects of conversion that has given rise to conflicts in the tribal regions of Rajasthan.

Der Eintritt ist frei. Um Anmeldung wird gebeten unter dekanat.mwk@uni-erfurt.de.