



We are pleased to announce the next Friends of the Kern Institute lecture:

**Local Biographies in Jain Literary Production**

by dr. Abhishek Jain, Gonda Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)

**Date:** Thursday, August 25, 2022

**Time:** 15.00h—16.00h

**Venue:** Leiden University, Matthias de Vrieshof 3, 104 (Verbarium)

The lecture will be followed by **drinks** in the basement of Matthias de Vrieshof 3.

**Local Biographies in Jain Literary Production**

This lecture aims to illuminate biographical writing (Prabandha) in the Jain literary tradition, dating from the 13th to 16th century and largely written in North and Northwestern India. Due to the interreligious dialogue found in them, some of the Prabandha texts provide evidence for encounters between Jain authors and Islamic rulers in the Delhi Sultanate. These encounters led to the patronization of several Prabandhas by rulers in the Sultanate and other local kings. The Prabandhas' discourse of past events in effect constitutes a historiography of late medieval India. Moreover, Jain authors not only created a unique form of historiography, but were deliverers of a timely teaching: namely, how the Jain ethical doctrines, such as non-violence, compassion, peace, and the effects of good and bad deeds, might be conceived by leaders in the Islamicate cultures of India.

**Abhishek Jain** (Ph.D., Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 2021) is currently a Gonda Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS). The major focus of his research is on classical and modern South Asian languages and literature, literary theory, philosophy, and translation theory.

