

VERENIGING 'VRIENDEN VAN HET INSTITUUT KERN'

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Leiden, March 15, 2016

Dear friends,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to our next VVIK / Friends of the Kern Institute **lecture** to be held after our General Annual Meeting

Friday 15 April 2016, 16.00-17.00 hours

We hope you will join us for drinks afterwards.

Our guest speaker

Dr. Nachiket Chanchani

will give a lecture on:

'The Emergence of the Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape'

Time: 16:00-17:00 hours (starting at 16:00 sharp)

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

The lecture will be followed by **drinks** in the basement of Matthias de Vrieshof 3, 17.00 18.00 hours.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all on this occasion.

The board of the VVIK

[Nachiket Chanchani](#) (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 2012), in this moment Gonda fellow at IAS, Leiden University, is a tenure-track assistant professor jointly appointed in the Department of the History of Art and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. His writings are appearing in *Artibus Asiae*, *Archives of Asian Art*, *History of Photography*, *Arts Orientalis*, *Art in Translation*, *Arts Asiatiques*, in various edited books, and on the editorial pages of venerable and widely read *The Hindu* newspaper. He has been closely involved with curatorial projects at premier art museums and has been awarded fellowships from the Nehru Trust at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, Asian Cultural Council, New York, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, and other institutions.



The Emergence of the Himalayas as a Sacred Landscape

This exquisitely illustrated talk aims to explicate how a remote mountainous landscape around the upper reaches of the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers in the Himalayas transformed into an exalted region evoking deep faith in millions of pilgrims. From approximately the third century BCE up to the thirteenth century CE, numerous stone monuments, schist steles, and metal statues were erected in this landscape. This talk explores the processes by which these monuments and sculptures evoked mythic worlds, embedded historical memories, enhanced the mountain range's appearance, and altered its symbolic significance.

