

Challenging Classification Systems of the 'Global North': The Modern Religious Bookshelf from an Area Studies Librarian's Perspective

Public lecture held by
Dr. Cosima Wagner
(Freie Universität Berlin)

Wednesday, 8 November 2023

6:15 pm – 7:45 pm

Bibliographical classification systems are fundamental tools for structuring knowledge in a library physically on a bookshelf as well as digitally in the knowledge infrastructure space of a university library (catalogue, discovery systems, repository a.s.o.). However, as much as they are instruments of bringing order into the wide ocean of knowledge, they are also deeply rooted in the worldview of their developers, their terminology and way of describing "the world".

This lecture analyses the "invention of the modern religious bookshelf" from an Area Studies librarian's point of view and gives an introduction into the classification practice as well as challenges for religious literature on/from East Asia. In connection with the current "decolonising the library"-movement it puts into question the "global view" on religion within classification systems of the Global North. Thereby, it aims to deepen library-faculty collaboration for the task of a better representation of (academic) knowledge from the Area Studies and "non-Latin script world" in digital knowledge infrastructures.

Time and Location

Wednesday, 8 November 2023, 6:15 pm – 7:45 pm
Freie Universität Berlin
Room 2.2051 (Holzlaube)
Fabeckstr. 23-25
14195 Berlin

Part of the lecture series "The Invention of the Modern Religious Bookshelf" organised by Prof. Dr. Christian Meyer, Project "The Invention of the Modern Religious Bookshelf: Canons, Concepts and Communities", Research Area 3 "Future Perfect", Cluster of Excellence "Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective"

Participation is possible without registration both in person or online via Webex. The links as well as further information about the project and the lecture series can be found on the project's website:
www.temporal-communities.de/research/future-perfect/projects/religious-bookshelf

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