

**Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Zentralasien-Seminar**

Tibet Kolloquium

Einladung

JOHN BRAY

International Association for Ladakh Studies

**The lo phyag mission from Ladakh to Lhasa.
A study in conservatism, change and ambiguity**

The 1684 Treaty of Temisgang, which concluded the Ladakh-Tibet-Mughal war, defined the basis of the relationship between Ladakh and Tibet for the next 160 years, and arguably even longer. Among the provisions of the treaty was the setting up of a triennial mission from Ladakh to Lhasa known as the *lo phyag*, which was timed to arrive in Lhasa at the time of the Tibetan New Year, and had to offer a prescribed set of gifts to the Treasurer of the Office of the Dalai Lama. In later years, Muslim traders were responsible for the practical management of the mission, although its official leader was always a Ladakhi Buddhist.

The *lo phyag* combined a number of different roles – diplomatic, religious and commercial – and served as a rich, multi-layered vehicle of communication between the two countries, with many different nuances. Some of these nuances are still contested, notably the question whether the *lo phyag* offerings amounted to ‘tribute’ or part of a ritual exchange between two independent states.

In this lecture John Bray will discuss the history and evolution of the *lo phyag* in its local and international context between 1684 and 1946.

Donnerstag, 11. April 2013

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 315