

# LECTURE SEMINAR SERIES SUMMER 2025

## Nepalese Ghost Stories from Sacred Texts to Social Media

What are we talking about when we are talking about ghosts? A ghost is, first and foremost, a story: it exists in a narrative dimension and perpetuates itself by it. Before witnesses, a ghost needs listeners. In this regard, it is a story which unsettles and scares, something which keeps coming back from the past. It is the past which has not died yet, forced to resurface again and again in order to be acknowledged, solved and settled. In this chapter, the author will explore the topics and contents highlighted by ghost stories and narratives from Nepalese classical texts to contemporary social media, in order to analyze their meanings, roles and functions while at the same time mapping continuities and discontinuities between religious, folkloric and popular themes.



Funeral procession in Helambu Valley, Nepal.  
Photo by Davide Torri

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Davide Torri is Associate Professor at the Department of History Anthropology Religions Art History, Media and Performing Arts (Sapienza University of Rome), where he teaches Himalayan Religions, Trans-Himalayan History, and Anthropology, and Religions and Philosophies of India and Central Asia. He is currently President of the International Society for the Academic Research on Shamanism (ISARS). His most recent publications include the monograph *Landscape, Ritual and Identity among the Hyolmo of Nepal* (2020) and the edited volumes *The Shamaness in Asia. Gender, Religion and the State* (2020, co-edited with S. Roche), and *Dealing with Disasters. Perspectives from Eco-Cosmologies* (2021, co-edited with D. Riboli, P. Stewart, A. Strathern).

**JUNE 10 6.15–7.45 PM**

Big Seminar Room  
Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen

Link for attendance:  
<https://fau.zoom-x.de/j/62556506187>

