



UNIVERSITÄT  
ZU KÖLN

Saturday, 14 October 2023, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

## Understanding an Epic Through Narratives of Origin – *Cilapatikaram* as Social and Regional History

Guest Lecture by Prof. Dr. K. V. Cybil,  
Department of Humanistic Studies, IIT, Banaras Hindu University (India)

The talk will be based on the festival of Bharani (month of *Meenam* or March–April) in Kodungallure (Kerala, India) looked upon from an exotic perspective perhaps by the outsiders. The spectacle is phenomenal indeed, as one witnesses bands of unvanquished tribal sovereignty of devotion descending over the temple in a rebellious attire of the goddess who burnt the town of Madurai down to ashes avenging her husband killed by the king over a dispute involving her anklet. The Story of the Tamil classic *Cilapatikaram* is played out here in resplendent beauty. For its aficionados, it is the gem of theatre, for its critics a post-modern love of the exotic. My talk will be an attempt to situate the epic story in the regional and social topographies of the place Kodungallure and its historic location in the popular narratives of origin.

### VENUE

Institut für Südasien- und Südostasienstudien (SASOA),  
Liliencronstr. 6, Seminarraum (EG 0.02), 50931 Köln

### PLEASE REGISTER

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Sven Wortmann

Dr. K. V. Cybil is Associate Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Banaras Hindu University (India). His areas of interest are sociology and social anthropology in India; ethnography of performance, theater, music, and rituals; post-colonialism and the interdisciplinary dialogues on Dalit literature in India; political thought, democracy, and secularism.