

南アジア研究センター・セミナー: Dr. Jon Keune (Michigan State University), “The Gravity of Caste: Ganpati Maharaj & the Anti-caste Ajaat Sampraday in 20th-century Central India”

日時/ Date: 2026年5月28日(木曜日) 18:00-19:30/ 28 May 2026 (Thursday) 18:00-19:30

場所/ Venue: 東京大学駒場Iキャンパス 14号館 6階 605/ Room 605, 6th Floor, Bldg No.14, Komaba Campus, The University of Tokyo/ Zoom*

*オンライン参加をご希望の方は、5月26日(火)までに下記のサイトからご登録ください。対面でご参加の方は登録不要です。/ If you wish to participate online, please register by 26 May (Tuesday) at the website below. Registration is not required for those attending in person.

登録サイト/ Registration site:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSSkYSGYPmH8NtWL84bSn4XQdobeQOARAwJqOG_Xvkq7w0uQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor

報告者/ Speaker: Dr. Jon Keune (Michigan State University), “The Gravity of Caste: Ganpati Maharaj & the Anti-caste Ajaat Sampraday in 20th-century Central India”

要旨/ Abstract:

In the complex relationships between religion and caste in India, a major question has been whether Hindu devotional (bhakti) traditions ever truly condemned caste and untouchability. One small group and little-known group in central India – the Ajaat (casteless) tradition – took a radical approach that included changing members’ surnames and making inter-caste marriage and meals central to the tradition. Their leader, Ganpati Maharaj, declared himself a samaj sudharak (social reformer) in the 1920s promoted an explicitly anti-caste, modern message. In the face of widespread and sometimes violent opposition, the Ajaat community has survived although not thrived. Still facing grave economic and professional hardship, some members have resorted to re-adopting historical caste identities to could qualify for seats in schools and government jobs through the Indian government’s affirmative action (“reservation”) policies. The Ajaat Sampraday is provocative case of how religion, anti-caste politics, counter-cultural practices, and governmental policies have intermingled in modern India. This talk is based on the speaker’s site visits in central India, rare texts from the community, and continued correspondence with community members.

共催：東京外国語大学南アジア研究センター