

Abteilung für Asiatische und Islamische Kunstgeschichte WiSe 2024:

**Vortrag von Prof. Dr. Ann R. David
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**Dance and Art:
The Contested Use of Siva as Icon and Subject**

Mittwoch, 04.12.2024, Beginn: 12.00 Uhr
Hörsaal VII, Hauptgebäude



Using the format of a lecture/demonstration, we offer a glimpse into the dancing forms of Śiva, especially Śiva Natarāja, whose position in Hindu mythology and Western understandings gained popularity through the writings of Ananda Coomaraswamy (1918) and Heinrich Zimmer (1946) in the early 20th

century. The allure and power of the famous Natarāja icon, deeply implicated and foregrounded as the Lord of Dance in the nationalist revival of Indian dance in this period, remains until this day.

We illustrate how Śiva began to take centre stage in the dance form of Bhāratnāṭyam both in choreographies and in his presence onstage in sculptural form, providing a virile, hypermasculine ideal especially for male dancers. We show examples from Indian dancer Ram Gopal (1912-2003) as well as Rukmini Devi Arundale's (1904-1986) new revivalist choreography on Śiva, titled Natanam Adinar (Tamil: *naṭaṇam āṭiṇār*).