



Tibet und Himalaya-Colloquium

Mittwoch, 23.10.2024, 18 Uhr c.t.

Universität Bonn, IOA, Raum 4.005

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**Animation, documentary, and the importance of
public-facing Tibetan history: Data-driven reflections on**

The Animated History of Tibet

Alexander K. Smith, Managing Director of Armchair Academics, LLC



In this lecture, Dr. Alexander K. Smith, the writer and director of the educational documentary series *The Animated History of Tibet*, will discuss the role of animation in documentary filmmaking and the value of public-facing digital pedagogy in teaching Tibetan history. Using analytical data collected following the release of the first three episodes of *The Animated History of Tibet*, we will focus on the relative strengths and weaknesses of different animation styles as mediums for telling Tibetan stories, as well as indigenous non-Western stories more broadly. Finally, drawing inspiration from contemporary research in science communication, we will explore several different creative pedagogical strategies to drive engagement with Tibetan history, which could potentially deepen our own disciplinary understanding, as well as open the field to new audiences.



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The Animated History of Tibet is a nine-part, fully animated historical documentary series that covers the majority of Tibetan history, starting in the early 7th century with the rise of the Tibetan Empire and finishing over 1,300 years later in the late 20th century. The series is produced by the educational video production company Armchair Academics in collaboration with Tibet House US.

Dr. Alexander K. Smith is a qualitative researcher, documentary filmmaker, and author with specializations in Tibetan studies, visual anthropology, and the Bon religion of Tibet. In addition to his current work as the writer and director of the historical documentary series "The Animated History of Tibet," he has over two years of fieldwork experience in Tibetan-speaking religious minority communities in North India and three years of experience teaching social anthropology and area studies in multilingual undergraduate and graduate environments in Germany and France. He is currently based in Erlangen, Germany.

ALLE INTERESSIERTEN SIND HERZLICH EINGELADEN

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