

Anglo-Persian Texts And The Colonial Understanding Of Religion

Dr. Carl W. Ernst

Department of Religious Studies
UNC at Chapel Hill



October 30th
GEC Room 4003
3:30 PM

The British conquest of India included a period (ca. 1750-1832) marked by a demand for explanations of the religions of India, leading to the commissioning of a number of original writings on this subject in Persian – the principal language of governance and culture at the time. The analysis will highlight the tension between the different taxonomies of religion displayed in two texts, *The Order of Yogis* (1800) by Sital Singh “Bikhwud,” and *Gardens of Religious Teachings* (1812) by Mathuranath and it will explore the impact of Protestant and missionary concepts of religion on the emerging notion of Hinduism.

