In June 2005 scholars from various fields will come together at Würzburg to discuss the changing role of female performers in oral and written narrative, ritual and theatrical traditions. It has been a commonplace assumption that "Development", "Modernization" and "Democratization" will improve the position of women. But, in actual fact, these processes have also had adverse effects, for example, on customary rights of women in various social contexts. Social change has led to a reduction of female rights in the area of rural ritual performances and to a strengthening of middle-class morality that makes these rites appear in a negative light. On the other hand, female performers in the classical traditions have asserted and strengthened their positions and claimed new performative territory.

**Program:**

**Friday 3rd June 2005**
17:00 Heidrun Brückner, Würzburg, Opening and Introduction: *Changing Roles and Perceptions of Women Performers*
17.30 Brigitte Schulze, Frankfurt, *Emotions and Modernity - How did Performers of the 'Feminine' feel? A sociological enquiry into emotional individuality and gender constructions in modern Indian theatre and cinema during the early 1900s*
18:30 Barbara Lotz, Heidelberg: *Some Remarks on Changing Patterns in Recent Indian Cinema*
19.00 Reception / Dinner / Get-together

**Saturday 4th June 2005, Morning Session (Chair: Brigitte Schulze)**
*Divine and Human Voices in the oral and ritual traditions - narrative and gender*
9:00 Peter J. Claus, Berkeley: *Literary Criticism and the Tulu Paddana Tradition*
10:00 Viveka Rai, Hampi (India): *Gender in folk narrative*
10:45-11:15 Teabreak
11:15 Elisabeth Schoembucher, Heidelberg: *From Patient to Performer: Listening to the female voice during states of possession*
12:00 Hanne de Bruin, Kanchi (India) / Amsterdam: *Women in Tamil ritual traditions*
13:00-15:00 Lunchbreak

**Afternoon Session (Chair: Viveka Rai)**
*Female Roles in the popular and classical traditions: Male and female impersonators of women*
15:00 Katrin Binder, Tübingen/Würzburg: *Women Roles and the Role of Women in Yaksagana Plays (with a 25 minute performance documentary by Virginie Johan, ca. 16:20)*
15:45 Virginie Johan, Paris: *Actresses and the conception of female roles in Kutiyattam Ramayana Plays*
17:00-17:30 Teabreak
17:30 Heike Moser, Tübingen: *The Changing role of women in the Nannyar Kuttu tradition of Kerala*
18.30 Katrin Binder with Guru Sanjeeva Suvarna, Udupi (India), Public Lecture-demonstration: *Performing the Female in Yaksagana*

**Sunday 5th June**
9.30-11.00 Concluding Session