

Gastvortrag

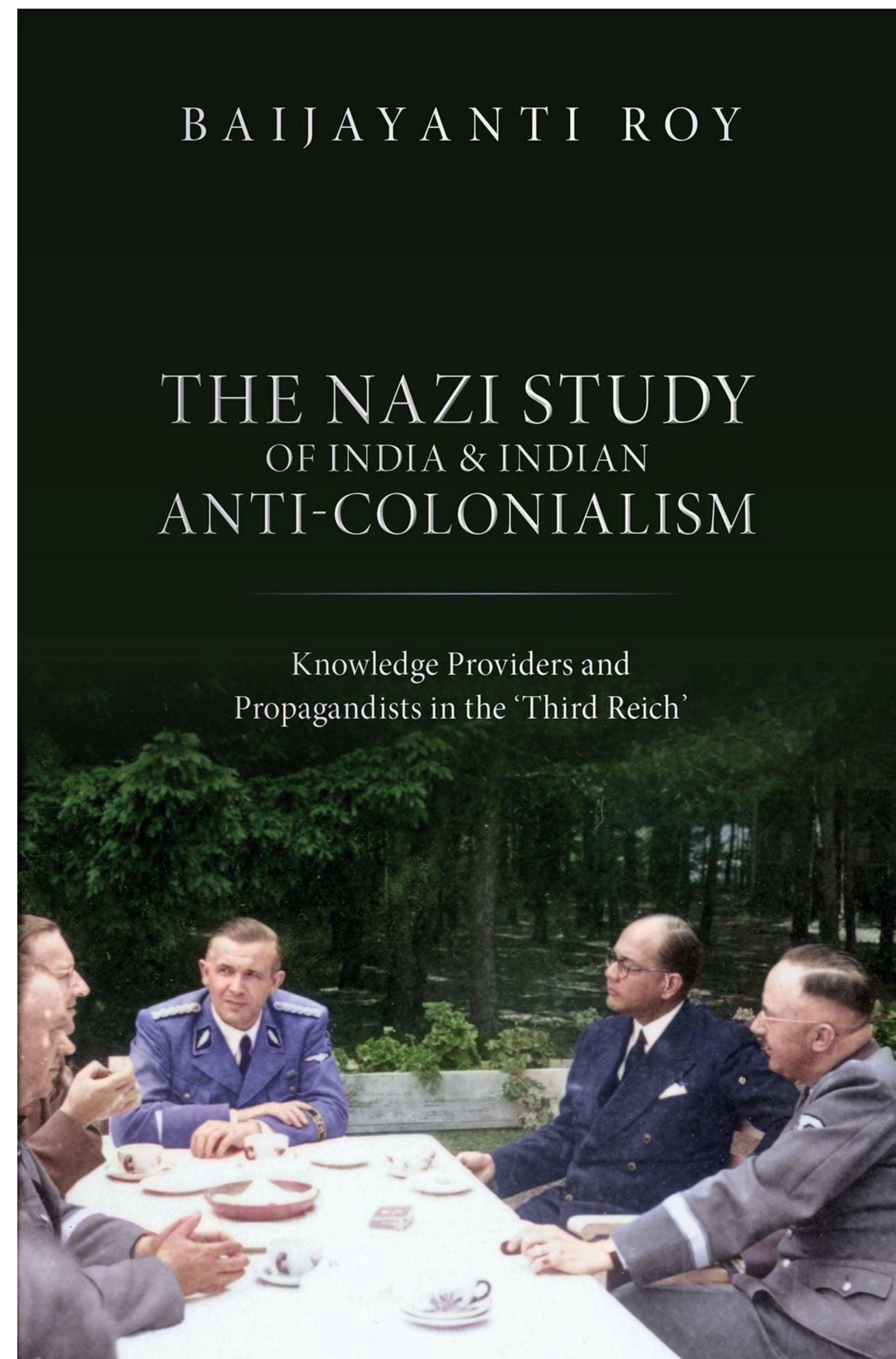
# Aryanism as Nazi Cultural Politics: The India Institute of the Deutsche Akademie

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**17. Juni 2026, 18 Uhr c.t., Theologicum Raum -1.113 (UG)**

This talk is based on *The Nazi Study of India and Indian Anti-Colonialism: Knowledge Providers and Propagandists in the 'Third Reich'* (Oxford University Press, 2024). The book explores the role of a number of German Indologists and non-academic 'India experts' in furthering certain cultural-political goals of the Nazi regime, by looking at four organizations which deployed different forms of knowledge pertaining to India. Among these organizations, the India Institute of the Deutsche Akademie, an apparently non-political organisation, stands out as the only one to invoke Aryanism to conduct Nazi propaganda in India, particularly among the Hindus.

After providing a brief outline of the book, the talk will discuss the trajectory of the India Institute. The focus will primarily be on the role played by German and Indian academics, intellectuals and mystics associated with this institute, as well as on the tropes related to Aryanism which they disseminated as part of Nazi cultural politics with regard to India.



Dr Baijayanti Roy is a part-time lecturer and researcher affiliated to the Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She received her PhD from the same university in 2014. Her dissertation has been published as a monograph titled *The Making of a Gentleman Nazi: Albert Speer's Politics of History in the Federal Republic of Germany* (Peter Lang, 2016). She has published and spoken on different subjects including Nazi Germany, Hindu nationalism, German Indology and the history of Germany-India relationship. Her second monograph, *The Nazi Study of India and Indian Anti-Colonialism: Knowledge Providers and Propagandists in the Third Reich*, has been published by Oxford University Press (Oxford) in 2024.