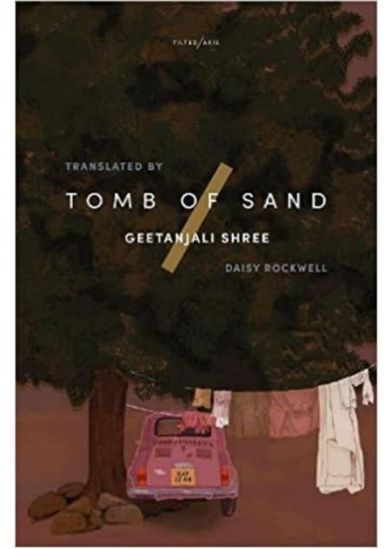
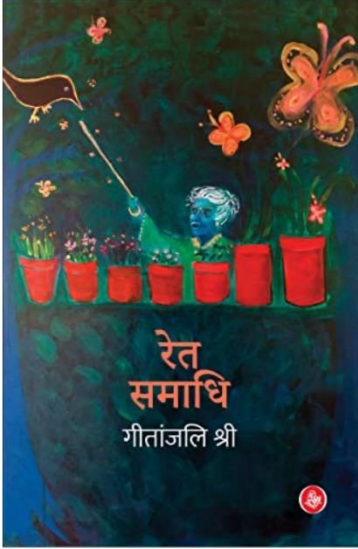


**Guest Lecture: Dr. Justyna Kurowska (SAI, University of Heidelberg)**  
on Geetanjali Shree's Award-winning Hindi Novel  
*Ret samādhi* (Tomb of Sand) and the Art of Storytelling



Time: Tuesday, 24th January 2023, from 16.15 – 17.45  
University of Göttingen, Waldweg 26, 37073 Göttingen, Room 0.116

Organized by the Department of Indology & Tibetan Studies, University of Göttingen,  
in collaboration with Literaturforum Indien e.V.

### Abstract

In 2022, the English translation of Geetanjali Shree's sixth novel created stir in the literary world by winning the prestigious International Booker Prize-awarded for the first time to a book written in a South Asian language. The polyphonic novel, centred on a middle-class Indian family and its octogenarian matriarch, lends itself to be read simultaneously as Partition literature, feminist fable, and road literature, as well as through the lens of trauma or post-memory. It forms an intertextual dialogue with a slew of other significant Hindi and Urdu works, exposing the destructive effects of borders and boundaries, whether between religions, countries, or genders, on human lives. The novel can be analysed through the concept of "aesthetic worldedness" (Hyot 2012), given its appetite to create its own world through the deployment of a playful yet deeply satirical tone as well as the use of wordplays, multiplicity of voices, digressions, stream of consciousness, and the seamless weaving of extraordinary elements into ordinary everyday situations. In the course of this talk, we will look at the variety of storytelling devices employed by Shree and the relation the novel establishes between the world inside and the world outside it, with the aim to unpack this "tale which tells itself."

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