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This talk will discuss two forms of yoga present among Nāth Yogīs in India today. On the one hand, the talk will provide ethnographic data to illustrate the “traditional” ascetic understandings of yoga and haṭha-yoga and the form of practices associated with these terms. On the other hand, it will be presented how some Nāth Yogīs have been involved in teaching of a more “commercial” form of yoga to lay people and foreigners, attempting to reconnect the order to the practice of yoga, particularly haṭha-yoga. Hence, it will be shown how a “re-appropriation” of haṭha-yoga aims to build and consolidate the identity of the Nāth sampradāya in the wake of today’s international popularity of yoga, while also providing an opportunity to gain authority and power in India and abroad.



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The Yoga(s) of the Nāth Yogīs:

Ethnographic Perspectives on the Adaptation of Traditions

