The WMU Comparative Religion Department proudly presents

Dr. Tyler Williams
University of Chicago
Assistant Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations

"The Tongue and the Pen: Two Takes on Reading and Writing in Islamicate North India"

The establishment of Sultanate rule in northern India during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries brought new practices of reading and writing to the region; as the vernacular came to be written and theorized as a literary language, new ideologies of reading and writing gradually formed within and around it. This talk will explore two very different approaches to writing, the first that of Kabir, a saint-poet revered by Muslims and Hindus, the second that articulated by the Sufi poets Da’ud, Qutaban, and Jayasi.

Tyler Williams teaches courses on Hindi-Urdu literature, South Asian literature, aesthetics, and intellectual history in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. His research interests include book history, literacy, aesthetics, and merchantile religious and literary culture in South Asia. Williams received a BA in South Asian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, an MA and MPhil in Hindi literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and a PhD in Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies from Columbia University, New York.

Thursday, April 21, 2016, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Fetzer Center,
Western Michigan University

The talk is free and open to the public.
Complementary parking for the event is available in lot 72-F.
For overflow, please use lot 61.

The talk is part of the Department of Comparative Religion’s Islam in Global Perspectives Speaker Series.
For more information visit: wmich.edu/religion/islam-speaker-series-review

For more details, please contact:
alisa.perkins@wmich.edu or nathan.tabor@wmich.edu