Heinz Werner Wessler is working on contemporary Dalit literature in Hindi. The former “untouchables” of India have started to utter the Dalit voice in several Indian languages including Hindi in recent decades and to discover genuine Dalit perspectives on the history of cultural and literary history. Several translations and articles have already been published. A monographic publication is planned for 2012. At the same time, the edition of a volume with about 10 research papers is planned in collaboration with Eddy Rodriguez (University of Mumbai) on “Dalit voices beyond victimization”.

The late William Smith (1942-2009), Professor of South Asian Literatures and Cultures in Uppsala 2004-2009 had a research focus on the Ramayana traditions in New Indo-Aryan Languages in Eastern India. His latest research during 2007-2009, however, was mainly concerned with Mahabharata traditions in Bengal and adjacent regions. Unfortunately, his untimely death prevented him from getting the book published himself. A posthumous publication is planned in collaboration with Mirja Juntunen.

Tilak Raj Chopra and Heinz Werner Wessler are working on a project on Sikh literature in Old Panjabi and Braj. A selection from the holy scriptures of the Sikhs in German translation with extensive commentary will be published soon (“Verlag der Weltreligionen”).

Alessandra Consolaro (University of Turin, Italy) was at our institute as a visiting scholar in 2010. Since then, she has been working on a project on the younger generation of authors in contemporary Hindi short story writing. Together with Heinz Werner Wessler, she is preparing a special section of the journal Orientalia Suecana issue of 2011 on “Dissent, opposition and minority in contemporary literature and film from South Asia and the South Asian Diaspora”, going back to a panel during the 21. European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies in Bonn (Germany) in July 2010.