Sacred Geographies: Mosaic History, Hindu Mythologies and the Geographical Imagination of India

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This paper analyses the geographical imagination of eighteenth-century orientalism in India. Orientalist scholarship, in its search for the Judeo-Christian roots of Hinduism, studied Hindu mythological texts for references to Mosaic histories, and in the process ascribed powerful sacred imageries to the Indian landscape. The paper investigates the making of the sacred geographical imagination of India, which in turn shaped the modern Hindu geo-mythological imagination of the Indian subcontinent.