

Mantra and Dhāraṇī in the Religious Traditions of Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism

The purpose of the workshop, as indicated by the title, is to explore the traditions of mantra and dhāraṇī in Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. The use of these often cryptic texts is ubiquitous in the religions of Asia and the geographical scope of the workshop is accordingly broad - from South and South East Asia to Tibet, Central Asia, China, Korea and Japan. Although these texts are known in a general way, most have been little studied. Moreover, general theories about the use and meaning of dhāraṇī-s and mantra-s are still in their infancy. There is, as consequence, a need for both an understanding of specific mantra and dhāraṇī texts and for general theorization about them at the semantic, religious, social and political levels.

Thursday, 12. April 2012

09.30 h	Welcome Michael Willis (Bochum/London)
10.00 h	Dhāraṇī Pragmatics in Late Classical and Early Medieval Buddhist Texts Ronald Davidson (Fairfield, CT, USA)
11.00 h	A Dhāraṇī for Each Day of the Week: The Saptavāra Tradition of the Newar Buddhists Gudrun Bühneman (Madison, WI, USA)
12.00 h	Lunch break
13.30 h	Linguistic Patterns and Figures of Speech in Dhāraṇī Formulas Pedro M. Castro Sánchez (Valencia)
14.30 h	The Roles of Dhāraṇī in the East Asian Reception of the Avataṃsakasūtra Jörg Plassen (Bochum)
15.30 h	Dhāraṇī Practice at Abhayagiri in Sri Lanka and Mahāvihāra Responses Sven Bretfeld (Bochum)
16.30 h	Tsering Gongkastang (Oxford) will present a thirty minute documentary film he has prepared in Amdo about a festival to mountain deities and the use of Dhāraṇīs in that context
17.00 h	Discussion
19.00 h	Dinner

Freitag, 13. April 2012

10.00 h	The Five Brahma-mantras Reconsidered Peter Bisschop (Leiden)
11.00 h	The Evolution of the Dhāraṇī Genre in the Light of New Evidence from Gandhāra Ingo Strauch (München)
12.00 h	Lunch break
13.30 h	Two Dhāraṇī Prints in the Stein Collection at the British Museum Gergely Hidas (Budapest)
14.30 h	Indian Dhāraṇī-s and Chinese Gāthā-s in Medieval Chinese Buddhism Liyong Kuo (Paris)
15.30 h	Using without Reading: Instructions for the Use of Dhāraṇī Texts in the Tibetan Tradition Michael Willis (Bochum/London)
16.30 h	Discussion
19.00 h	Dinner

Saturday, 14. April 2012

10.30 h	Discussion of Publication in the Bulletin of SOAS
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DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation:

From Düsseldorf Airport via, or directly from, Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) and get off at stop »Ruhr-Universität« (➡) (Ticket needed: Preisstufe A). From there you turn right and cross the pedestrian bridge keeping left while you pass the university library. The FNO building is on your left-hand side.

By car:

Motorway A 43, interchange »Bochum-Witten«, exit at »Bochum-Querenburg/Universität« (exit no. 19). Universitätsstraße direction Universität/Zentrum, exit at »Uni - Mitte« (➡), about 2 km. Free parking is sign posted.



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Courtesy of the British Museum

Contact and Organisation:

Dr. Michael Willis
Gwendolyn Arnold
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Universitätsstr. 150
44801 Bochum
Raum: SH 1/197
Tel.: +49 (0)234-32 23341
E-Mail: gwendolin.arnold@rub.de

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