

Between Empires – Transfer of Buddhisms between Hubs in Eastern Central Asia (9th to 13th c.)

Since the research consortium in Bochum is concerned to untangle also building blocks that constitute religious transfer processes, this workshop aims to explore the case study of the formation of Buddhisms, particularly Tantric Buddhism, in Eastern Central Asia. It seeks to investigate local contributions to Buddhism as the tradition spread through a network of Buddhist hubs along the main trading routes in Eastern Central Asia between the 9th and the 13th centuries — a period that was a time of creative upheaval between the demise of the great empires of the Uyghurs (840), the Tibetans (848) and the Chinese (fall of Tang in 906) and the Mongolian conquest of large parts of Eurasia (ca. 1227-1241). During these centuries of local rule at various oases (e.g. Dunhuang, Guazhou, Liangzhou, etc.) different ethnic groups such as the Uyghurs, Kashmiri, Chinese, Tanguts, and Tibetans contributed to the development of Buddhisms. The workshop will examine the relations and power relations between these ethnic groups and various oases in the formation of local expressions of Buddhism that later partly turned into mainstream in Tibet and China. In other words: the workshop would test the hypothesis if the particular space and time of interest were prerequisites to allow for a creative development of Buddhisms. To narrow the perspectives, an emphasis should be on textual and visual transfer processes of Buddhist traditions and on the different ethnic cultural agents. The workshop is thus organised in four sections: (1) an introductory part “circumstances for transfer processes along the Silk Road” to give an overview of the how political, economy and cultural factors shaped Central Asian oases as Buddhist hubs; (2) a section on “textual transfer” to elaborate on textual transmission — also between the different ethnic groups and oases; (3) a section on “visual transfer” to explore the making of Buddhist art at various sites; and (4) a section on “transfer agents” that would illustrate how Kashmiri, Uyghurs, Chinese, Tanguts, and Tibetans contributed to particular local textual and/or visual forms of Buddhism.

Thursday, 20 September 2012

13.00–13.30	Registration
13.30–13.45	Welcome and Introduction Carmen Meinert (Bochum)

Circumstances for Religious Transfer Processes along the Silk Road
Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum)

13.45–14.15	Nomads and Oasis Cities in Central Asia, 9th to 13th Centuries Liu Xinru (New Jersey)
14.15–14.45	Discussion
14.45–15.15	Tea Break

Textual Transfer

Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)

15.15–15.45	Textual Transmission and Ritual Contexts Sam van Schaik (London)
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Visual Transfer

15.45–16.15	The Tibetan Himalayan Style of the 10th century and the Connections to Central Asia on the Basis of an Analysis of the Paintings of the sGo khang of the Tabo Monastery, 996 Linda Lojda/Deborah Klimburg-Salter (Wien)
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16.15–17.00	Discussion
17.00–17.30	Tea Break

Transfer Agents

Chair: Sven Bretfeld (Bochum)

17.30–18.00	“The Glorious Kashmirian”: Kashmirian Tantric Buddhist Masters in India and Central Asia Harunaga Isaacson (Hamburg)
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18.00–18.30	Buddhism in the West Uyghur Empire and Beyond Jens Wilkens (Göttingen)
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18.30–19.15	Discussion
20.00	Dinner

Friday, 21 September 2012

Transfer Agents

Chair: Christoph Anderl (Bochum)

10.00–10.30	Esoteric Buddhism at the Cross-Roads: A Study of the <i>Ruyilun wang Monizhubatuo biexing fa</i> from Dunhuang Henrik Sørensen (Kopenhagen)
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10.30–11.00	The Lam 'bras Teaching of Sa skya pa in Chinese Translation and the History of Tibetan Tantric Buddhism in the Tangut Xia Kingdom Shen Weirong (Beijing)
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11.00–11.45	Discussion
11.45–12.15	Tea Break

12.15–12.45	Negotiating Tantric Buddhism between Tibetans, Chinese and Tanguts Carmen Meinert (Bochum)
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Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum)

12.45–13.45	Final discussion
13.45	Catering at the end of the workshop

DIRECTIONS

Public Transportation:

Take the U35 towards Bochum Querenburg (Hustadt) from Bochum Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and get off at the stop »Ruhr-Universität«. 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:

The quickest route is via the motorway junction Bochum/Witten, where the A43 and A44 meet. Simply take the exit Bochum-Querenburg, follow the signs "Ruhr-Universität" and then the (electronic) information boards.



CONFERENCE CONCEPTION

Carmen Meinert

E-mail: carmen.meinert@rub.de

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Gwendolin Arnold

Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Käte Hamburger Kolleg »Dynamics in the History of Religions between Asia and Europe«

FNO 02 / 72

Universitätsstr. 150

44780 Bochum

Tel. +49 (0)234 - 32 23341

E-mail: gwendolin.arnold@rub.de

KHK.CERES.RUB.DE

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Cakrasamvara
Dunhuang yanju yuan, Dunhuang shiku yishu. Mogaoku di 465 ku,
Jiangsu meichu chubanshe, 1996, S. 84.

RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

BETWEEN EMPIRES – TRANSFER OF BUDDHISMS BETWEEN HUBS IN EASTERN CENTRAL ASIA (9TH TO 13TH C.)

20 – 21 September 2012 | FNO 02/40-46

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