

Interreligious Relations in Early Southeast Asia: Encountering Buddhists, Brahmins and Indigenous Religions

Over the last two or three decades, scholarship on Southeast Asia has largely contributed to the reappraisal of the process of 'Indianisation' of the region. Though not standardized and having changing meaning according to Indian and Western academic cultures, this paradigm can be broadly understood as the diffusion and adoption of Indian cultural values to Southeast Asia from the first few centuries following the turn of the Common Era onwards. Critical of this Indiacentric model, scholars have proposed alternative approaches to the study of interactions between South and Southeast Asia which have oscillated between that of externalist influence, that of the local or autonomous specificity or that which have focused on the circulatory dynamics of transfer of cultural, religious, diplomatic and economic values through maritime trade routes across Asia.

Against the framework of these second-order reflections, the workshop will investigate different levels of relationship between Hindu, Buddhist and non-Indic religions during ancient and early medieval times. It will examine issues related to the multi-directional transfer of mythologies, belief-systems, practices and material culture between the Indian sub-continent and what is commonly referred to as Southeast Asia. In this respect, it aims at shedding further light on the agencies in the spread of religious concepts and material objects, the dialectics between their received or assigned or reinterpreted meaning, and the modifications brought about by their adoptions and/or adaptations.

Thursday, 16 January 2020

09:30 - 09:45 **Welcome Address**

Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)

09:45 - 10:00 **Introduction to the Online Journal *Entangled Religions***

Julia Heinig (Bochum)

10:00 - 10:30 **Introduction to the Workshop**

Jessie Pons & Patrick F. Krüger (Bochum)

10:30 - 10:45 **Coffee Break**

_____ **Session 1: Frameworks to the Study of Religious Encounters in Southeast Asia**

Chair: Carmen Meinert (Bochum)

10:45 - 11:30 **Religion, Diplomacy, Trade: Networks of Exchange in Early Southeast Asia**

Pierre-Yves Manguin (Paris)

11:30 - 12:15 **Religious Transfer, Appropriation, and Indic-local Dynamics in the "Cultural Matrix" of Monsoon Asia**

Andrea Acri (Paris)

12:15 - 12:45 **Discussions**

12:45 - 02:00 **Lunch**

_____ **Session 2: Archaeology of Buddhism & Local Traditions**

Chair: Jessie Pons (Bochum)

02:00 - 02:45 **The Ancestors and the Buddha early Evidence from Sri Ksetra in Myanmar**

Janice Stargardt (Cambridge)

02:45 - 03:30 **Time in the Religious Landscape of First Millennium CE Myanmar**

Moore Elizabeth (London/Singapore)

03:30 - 04:00 **Discussions**

04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee Break**

_____ **Session 3: Buddhism & Local Traditions: Material and Literary Cultures**

Chair: Iain Sinclair (Bochum)

04:30 - 05:15 **Local Practices within the Realm of Buddhism (13th/14th C.): Megaliths and Gold on Sumatra, Indonesia**

Mai Lin Tjoa-Bonatz (Frankfurt)

05:15 - 06:00 **Pali at Bagan: The *lingua franca* of the Theravada Buddhist Ecumene**

Tilman Frasch (Manchester)

06:00 - 06:30 **Discussions**

07:00 **Dinner**

Friday, 17 January 2020

_____ **Session 4: Religious Encounters and Objects of Art I**

Chair: Patrick F. Krüger (Bochum)

10:00 - 10:45 **Between Continuity and Reinterpretation – Cases of Indian Buddhist Imagery and its Appropriation in Mainland Southeast Asia**

Marion Frenger (Bonn)

10:45 - 11:30 **The Śrāvastī Miracle: Some Relationships between Narrative and Visual Representations in Southeast Asia**

Natchapol Sirisawad (Bangkok)

11:30 - 11:45 **Coffee Break**

11:45 - 12:30 **Whose Heads did Mahākāla hunt? Interreligious Contacts among Forgotten Kingdoms in Sumatra**

Iain Sinclair (Bochum)

12:30 - 01:15 **Discussions**

01:15 - 02:30 **Lunch**

_____ **Session 4: Religious Encounters and Objects of Art II**

Chair: Adam Knobler (Bochum)

02:30 - 03:15 **The Myth of Kaundinya and Perceptions of Indianization in Southeast Asia**

William Southworth (Amsterdam)

03:15 - 04:00 **From India to the Lower Mekong. Religious Transfers visualized by Religious Objects of Art**

Adalbert Gail (Berlin)

04:00 - 04:30 **Coffee Break**

04:30 - 05:15 **Southeast Asia's "in-between" Art. Collections and Entangled Histories from the Museum Rietberg, Zurich**

Johannes Beltz (Zürich)

05:15 - 05:45 **Discussions**

06:00 - 07:00 **Dinner**

_____ **Final Discussion**

Chair: Jessie Pons & Patrick F. Krüger (Bochum)

07:00 - 08:00 **Between Research Institutions, Museums and Political Claims: The Future of Researching Religions in Early Southeast Asia**