



**WSC 2021**  
WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

www.wsc2021.com.au • CANBERRA  
The Australian National University

**18-22 January 2021**

# First Circular and Call for Abstracts

Conducted under the auspices of the International Association for Sanskrit Studies

## Announcing...WSC2021

We are pleased to announce that, as agreed by the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) at the last World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver, the 18th World Sanskrit Conference will be held in Canberra, Australia's capital city, from 18 to 22 January 2021.

The World Sanskrit Conference is the premier international forum for professional researchers and educators of the Sanskrit language and its literatures, and of the history, religion and cultures of premodern South Asia. This will be the second time that this prestigious triennial event is being held in Australia, the first being in Melbourne in 1994. WSC 2021 is proudly hosted by the College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University.

The theme of WSC2021 will be 'Future Directions'. We want to take this opportunity to look forward with strength and optimism to imagine together where Sanskrit studies might be headed in the decades to come. How will globalisation, information technology, new theoretical approaches and interdisciplinary interactions shape our work in future?

We envisage a conference that draws on the best of Australian culture and hospitality, a conference that is relaxed, informal, friendly and inclusive. It will be our pleasure to welcome you to Canberra, a city planned as the capital of Australia and designed to harmonise with its setting in the surrounding landscape. It is known as 'the bush capital'—and, yes, kangaroos do hop down suburban streets.

This first circular provides preliminary information, important dates and deadlines, and an overview of the format and procedures for WSC2021.

## General Information...

WSC2021 will be held on the campus of The Australian National University, in Canberra, Australia. The conference will feature 22 regular thematic sections, listed below. For each section, a set of invited convenors, specialists in the respective fields, will assist in maintaining a high scholarly standard for the conference. Convenors will select individual papers for presentation at WSC2021 and nominate session chairs. The convenors will also be in charge of selecting and editing papers for publication in the proceedings, details of which will be announced in future communications.



For up-to-date information and all important announcements, please visit [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au), where you can also join the official WSC2021 email list. Conference registration, paper submissions, accommodation information and payment of fees will all be conducted through this website portal.

## Call for Papers and Special Panels...

WSC2021 invites individual papers to be presented in one of the 22 regular sections. We are also calling for proposals for special panels. Interested scholars are welcome to submit either an abstract for an individual paper to a regular section or to propose a special panel of four to six participants through the conference website at [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au). The deadline for panel proposals is 30 June 2019, and the deadline for individual paper abstracts is 31 March 2020. Successful panel proposals will be announced in the Second Circular. Scholars will be invited to submit abstracts to these special panels after that date.

Each paper will be allotted a time of 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. Papers may be delivered in English or Sanskrit. We encourage scholars who are presenting a paper in Sanskrit to provide a summary in English.

## Key Dates and Deadlines...

Note that these dates are subject to change. For the latest information, visit our website: [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

Individual speakers and titles of papers accepted for presentation at WSC 2021 will be announced through the conference website in late 2020.

First circular and call for papers	31 January 2019
Special panel proposal deadline	30 June 2019
Special panel notification	30 September 2019
Second circular and call for papers for special panels	31 October 2019
Third circular and registration opens	31 January 2020
Individual paper abstract deadline	31 March 2020
Notify presenters of paper acceptance	30 June 2020
Presenters confirm attendance	31 July 2020
Early bird registration closes	31 August 2020
Final registration for presenters	30 September 2020
Fourth circular	31 October 2020
Conference opens	18 January 2021
Conference excursions	20 January 2021
Conference ends	22 January 2021

All participants who plan to present a paper must pay their registration fee by 30 September 2020, or their paper will be cancelled. Last minute registration will be available only for non-presenting participants and guests.



## Registration Fees...

We will attempt to keep the registration fees as low as possible. Registration will open on 31 January 2020.

## IASS Membership...

As agreed with the International Association for Sanskrit Studies, all WSC2021 registrations will include a three-year membership of IASS ([www.sanskritassociation.org](http://www.sanskritassociation.org)). You will have the option to opt out.

## Regular Sections...

The 22 regular sections are listed below.

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| 1. Veda, वेदः                                    | 13. Religious Studies, धर्मविमर्शः   |
| 2. Linguistics, भाषाशास्त्रम्                    | 14. Philosophy, दर्शनानि, तत्त्वशास्त्रम्  |
| 3. Vyākaraṇa, व्याकरणम्                          | 15. History, Art and Architecture, Epigraphy, इतिहासः कलाः स्थापत्यमभिलेखशास्त्रं च    |
| 4. Epics, रामायणं महाभारतं च                     | 16. Sanskrit and Regional Languages (including Southeast Asia), संस्कृतं प्रदेशभाषाश्च |
| 5. Purāṇas, पुराणानि                             | 17. Sanskrit Pedagogy, संस्कृतशिक्षाशास्त्रम्  |
| 6. Tantra Studies, आगमास्तन्त्रं च               | 18. Modern Sanskrit Writings, आधुनिकं संस्कृतसाहित्यम्                                 |
| 7. Ritual Studies, विध्यनुष्ठानविमर्शः           | 19. Computational Sanskrit and Digital Humanities, संस्कृतं विज्ञानतान्त्रिकी च        |
| 8. Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics, काव्यमलङ्कारश्च | 20. Manuscriptology, हस्तलेखविज्ञानम्  |
| 9. Scientific Literature, वैज्ञानिकं वाङ्मयम्    | 21. Law and Society, धर्मशास्त्रमर्थशास्त्रं च   |
| 10. Buddhist Studies, बौद्धविद्या                | 22. Yoga and Āyurveda, योगायुर्वेदौ  |
| 11. Jaina Studies, जैनविद्या                     |  |
| 12. Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism, वैष्णवमतं शैवमतं च   |  |

## Travel and Visa Arrangements...

We urge participants to make their travel arrangements as early as possible to minimise costs. In addition, participants should familiarise themselves with any visa requirements that they might have for entering Australia.

The Organising Committee cannot offer personal assistance or advice on how to secure the appropriate Australian visa, since the process differs widely from country to country. For more information and guidance, please consult the Australian Government's official website (<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visi>) and contact your local Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for specific instructions as early as possible. The time required for securing a visa can be unpredictable and may be as long as several months.

As soon as your abstract has been accepted, we will be able to provide a letter of confirmation to help you secure your visa or travel funds.

After you register, we will send the Australian government your details to facilitate visa applications. For this purpose, participants will need to supply country of passport, passport number, full name (as in their passport), date of birth, gender, current country of residence, and contact details (i.e., email, telephone, address) when registering.



## Sorry, No Travel Grants...

Travel to Australia is expensive, particularly for scholars coming from South or Southeast Asia, and we are making every effort to keep costs down. However, we regret the WSC cannot offer travel assistance. Participants should seek travel assistance, grants or bursaries from their home institutions or from governmental or international granting agencies.

## Student Prize...

In the spirit of the conference theme, 'Future Directions', and spurred by our shared desire to encourage and support emerging scholars in whose hands the future lies, we will be awarding a prize for the most outstanding presentation by a currently enrolled Masters or PhD student. We will be inviting section convenors to nominate suitable candidates.

## Accommodation...

Canberra offers a wide range of accommodation, both on- and off-campus. Participants will be able to book their own accommodation closer to the conference. The next circular will present a list of suggestions.

## Poets' Forum and Scholars' Debate...

As at previous conferences, we will be hosting a Poets' Forum (*Kavi-samavāya*) and a Scholars' Debate (*Śāstra-cacār*). Further details will be provided at a later date.

## Excursions and Entertainment...

We are keen to showcase the best that Canberra and Australia have to offer, and we are planning an exciting program of entertainment and excursions. Details to follow.

### Local Organising Committee...

Mark Allon, University of Sydney  
Greg Bailey, La Trobe University  
Adam Bowles, University of Queensland  
Barbara Nelson, ANU  
McComas Taylor, ANU (Chair)

### WSC2021 Secretariat...

**Kaigi Conferencing and Events**  
Level 1, The Realm, 18 National Circuit,  
Barton ACT 2600, Australia  
**Email:** [sanskrit@kaigi.com.au](mailto:sanskrit@kaigi.com.au)  
**Phone:** +61 2 6198 3218  
**Website:** [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

## International Steering Committee...

Jayandra Soni	Secretary General, IASS
Georges Pinault	Treasurer, IASS
Donald R. Davis	University of Texas at Austin
James Hegarty	Cardiff University
Kengo Harimoto	Mahidol University
Joanna Jurewicz	University of Warsaw
Shonaleeka Kaul	Jawaharlal Nehru University
Amarjiva Lochan	University of Delhi
Clemency Montelle	University of Canterbury
Wendy Phillips Rodríguez	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Adheesh Sathaye	University of British Columbia
Ye Shaoyong	Peking University



## About our Logo...

The WSC2021 logo includes a globe on the left which represents the universal nature of our conference and is inspired by our motto, *Vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* 'The whole world is our family'. The central element is based on the famous Aśoka-cakra. The wheel is significant for the major Indian spiritual traditions, and is also the national symbol of India itself. The third element is drawn from an Indigenous artistic tradition from Central Australia and represents four people sharing companionship around a fire.

With these three elements the logo expresses our aspiration for the World Sanskrit Conference: that scholars from all over the world will come together to learn from one another and share their love for this precious language.

The WSC2021 logo was designed by Fiona Edge of Edge Design in Canberra. Its creation was sponsored by the Sanskrit scholars of Australia.

## Finally, Contact Us...

**All enquiries:** [sanskrit@kaigi.com.au](mailto:sanskrit@kaigi.com.au) **Website:** [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

