



MARTIN-LUTHER UNIVERSITY  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



# Studies on Buddhist Monastic Cultures

## German-Japanese Collaboration (Part 2)

**March 16, 2022 (Wed.) 09:00–12:00 (CET) / 17:00–20:00 (JST)**

09:00–09:10 **Opening Address**, TAIKEN KYUMA, Mie University, Faculty of Humanities, Law and Economics

**Opening Address**, SATOSHI OGURA, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Institute of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Research Institute of Languages and Cultures of Asia

09:10–10:10 **New Perspectives on Late Indian Buddhism, and Our Methods for Understanding It, from a Nālandā Inscription by a Lineage from Somapura Mahāvihāra**

CHARLYN EDWARDS, University of Hamburg, Asia and Africa Institute, Department of Indology and Tibetology

**Abstract:** This lecture presents new discoveries and further questions about late Indian Buddhism in the *mahāvihāra*, and our methods for understanding it, with a new edition and interdisciplinary commentary on “The Nālandā Stone Inscription of Vipulaśrīmitra”. The inscription, from perhaps the last *vihāra* at Nālandā, reflects centuries of Indian traditions, textual and non-textual, and not exclusively ‘Buddhist’. The donor of the Nālandā *vihāra* is from Somapura *mahāvihāra* with each of the members of his teaching lineage portrayed with a different Buddhist textual tradition. He is said to have made donations at many locations. His donations are presented as *vidyādāna*, gifts of knowledge, as described for instance in the Śaiva *Śivadhamottara*. I continue to investigate whether literary convention or ‘history’ is predominate in this inscription.

10:10–10:25 **Questions and Answers**, Discussant: ANNETTE SCHMIEDCHEN, ERC-Project “DHARMA”, Humboldt-University Berlin, Institute for Asian and African Studies

10:25–10:45 Break

10:45–11:45 **Spatial and Somatic Aspects of Early Buddhist and Non-Buddhist Meditations**

PHILIPP MAAS, Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Oriental Institute, Seminar for Southasian Studies and Indology, Indology

**Abstract:** The earliest unambiguous textual references to meditation practice in premodern South Asia are brief stock phrases preserved in the Pāli canon, the origin of which is dateable to the earliest phase of Buddhism, i.e., to the lifetime of the historical Buddha or shortly thereafter around 400 BCE. However, these stock phrases are problematic since they do not reveal which posture exactly meditating monks perform. By drawing upon the commentarial literature of the Pāli canon, artefacts, the Mūlasarvāstivāda Vinaya and Āsvaghoṣa’s *Buddhacarita*, this presentation identifies the Buddhist meditation posture as performed at least from the first century of the Common Era onwards. In addition, it analyses quite comprehensive accounts of Buddhist meditation from the *Śrāvakabhūmi* and the *Mahāprajñāpāramitā-sāstra* to draw a more comprehensive picture of the spatial and somatic aspects of early Buddhist meditation. The emerging conceptions of the early Buddhist meditation posture and the appropriate locations for its practice are then compared to early Non-Buddhist accounts as they occur in the *Bhagavadgītā*, the *Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad*, the *Pātañjalayogaśāstra* and its *Vivaraṇa*, the *Nyāyabhāṣya* and Kālidāsa’s *Kumārasambhava*. Finally, the presentation concludes that the early Non-Buddhist meditation practice may have been profoundly influenced by its Buddhist analogue.

11:45–12:00 **Questions and Answers**, Discussant: JOWITA KRAMER, University Leipzig, Institute for Indology and Central Asian Studies

**Closing Address**, JOWITA KRAMER

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvf-itpjlHNFo44whGNTXBLLuK9rw6Roe>





MARTIN-LUTHER UNIVERSITY  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



# Studies on Buddhist Monastic Cultures

## German-Japanese Collaboration (Part 2)

**March 23, 2022 (Wed.) 09:00–12:00 (CET) / 17:00–20:00 (JST)**

- 09:00–09:10 **Introduction**, TAIKEN KYUMA, Mie University, Faculty of Humanities, Law and Economics
- Welcome Address**, OTTFRIED FRAISSE, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Oriental Institute, Seminar for Jewish Studies
- 09:10–10:10 **Evidence of Buddhism in 15th-Century Eastern India: Dated Colophons of Sanskrit Manuscripts in Old Bengali Script**  
SHIN'ICHIRO HORI, International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo
- Abstract:** The destruction of the major Buddhist monasteries, including Vikramaśīla, by Turkic Muslims around the turn of the 13th century delivered a disastrous blow to the Buddhist institutions. However, this did not mark the complete demise of the Buddhist faith in Eastern India. Dated colophons of several Sanskrit manuscripts in Old Bengali script clearly show that Buddhists still survived in some rural areas in Bihar until the middle of the 15th century in spite of the effective rule of a series of Islamic dynasties. In this presentation I will establish the exact dates of the following four manuscripts, attempt to identify the village names recorded in the colophons, and deal with personal names and their titles including the name of a king unknown elsewhere.
1. *Kāraṇḍavyūha* (1456 CE), 2. *Kālacakratāntra* (1447 CE), 3. *Bodhicaryāvatāra* (1436 CE), 4. Sanskrit grammatical texts of the Kātantra school originally owned by Vanaratna (1421/1422 CE).
- 10:10–10:25 **Questions and Answers**, Discussant: TAIKEN KYUMA
- 10:25–10:45 Break
- 10:45–11:45 **Buddhist Monasteries to the South of the Tianshan Mountains in the 5th-8th Centuries CE**  
CHAO-JUNG CHING, Kyoto University, The HAKUBI Center / The Institute for Research in Humanities
- Abstract:** This paper focuses on the complexes of Buddhist monasteries situated to the northern rim of the Tarim Basin (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China) and their development from the evidence of Chinese literature, historical texts and unearthed documents. The economic base of a few sites around today's Turfan and Kucha will be examined in depth, and their institutional change after the conquest of the Tang 唐 Dynasty (618–907) will be traced.
- 11:45–12:00 **Questions and Answers**, Discussant: YUKIYO KASAI, ERC-Project "Buddhist Road", Ruhr-University Bochum
- Closing Address**, PHILIPP MAAS, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Oriental Institute, Seminar for Southasian Studies and Indology, Indology

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvd-ygqTgjG91dBIJLr8ExJZDx3H9qNzVM>

