

Applications are invited for a two-year position at the rank of research assistant at the University of Florence. The post holder will join the research project entitled: "The Wheel of Time: An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X-XIII cents.)" funded by the Italian Ministry of Research (PRIN 2022).

Project's Description:

While engaging in a double competition with Śaivism and Vaiṣṇavism and with the Islamic culture in defense of an Indic, orthodox identity, the early Kālacakra masters developed a new system of soteriological practices. They created one of the most impressive Buddhist religious and philosophical literatures, both in terms of the production of new scriptures and of a huge exegetical literature. The project develops into two lines of inquiry: The first one, of a historical and hermeneutical nature, is an investigation into the dynamics of legitimation and the strategies adopted by the first Kālacakra masters to impose their system and influence on religion, politics and society. This research will be carried out mainly on primary sources, particularly on unpublished manuscripts, but also on iconographies and epigraphs. The focus will lie on the Kālacakra's interaction, confrontation, and assimilation with the coeval Indian tantric and philosophical-religious traditions. The second line of inquiry is purely philological in nature and involves the edition of the Paramārthasevā and the Gūḍhapadā.

The post holder will be an integral member of the research team led by the project's PI, Prof. Francesco Sferra (University of Naples L'Orientale).

The candidates will have expertise in Tantric/Tibetan Buddhism and a proven record of research based on primary sources in Sanskrit and/or Tibetan. Knowledge of Italian is not obligatory. Applications are welcome from those who hold a PhD (or are close to completion).

This is a full time, fixed term post commencing 1st of December 2023. The interview of shortlisted candidates will take place online on 9th November 2023 at 10 am (GMT+2).

Closing date for completed applications is 19 October 2023 at 00.00 (GMT+2)

For informal enquiries regarding this post, please contact Dr. Aleksandra Wenta at aleksandra.wenta@unifi.it

Further information on how to apply can be found here:

<https://titulus.unifi.it/albo/viewer?view=files%2F005207066-UNFICLE-0828c5c4-c068-4174-8878-6a42feebf3d-000.pdf>