

EurAsia Summer Academy
Vienna Summer School
on the Cultural and
Intellectual History of Asia

MANTRAS

BETWEEN LANGUAGE, RITUAL, AND MATERIALITY

**July 6-13,
2026**

This year's Vienna Summer School on Asian History and Culture will introduce the participants to the subject of mantras or "potent formulas" in South Asia. The Summer School consists of a one-week intensive seminar that comprises expert-led Sanskrit readings and lectures that provide a comprehensive overview of the most important research approaches and theories in Mantra Studies. Participants will engage intensively with Sanskrit texts from various periods and traditions, including the Vedic tradition, Mīmāṃsā, Āyurveda, and Tantra. To round off the seminar, participants will also be introduced to non-textual and modern aspects of mantras by staff from the ERC-Synergy Project MANTRAMS, whose main host is the University of Vienna.

During the seminar, we will discuss a variety of questions that are fundamental to Mantra Studies, based on key passages from original sources: What are mantras? How do mantras work? How are mantras used in rituals? In what other contexts are mantras used? Are mantras language? How do the different forms of mantras – oral, aural, written, and material – relate to each other?

For more
information,
please visit:



Image: Bazaar art, mid-1900s, public domain

Teaching staff

From the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia of the Austrian Academy of Sciences:

Dr. Dominik A. Haas, Dr. Vitus Angermeier, Dr. Marion Rastelli, Dr. Akane Saito

From the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies of the University of Vienna:

Dr. Lucy May Constantini

From the University of Oxford:

Dr. Finnian Moore Gerety (keynote lecture)

Registration will close on 15 May, 2026.

For more information and to apply, please send a CV and a short cover letter (c. 250 words) to **Dr. Dominik A. Haas** (dominik.haas@oeaw.ac.at).

The Summer School is hosted by the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies (University of Vienna) and offered as a EurAsia Summer Academy within the framework of the Cluster of Excellence "Eurasian Transformations." The instructors at the Academy and University possess a combination of philological, religious-historical, philosophical, and anthropological expertise that enables them to offer a globally unique approach to Mantra Studies.