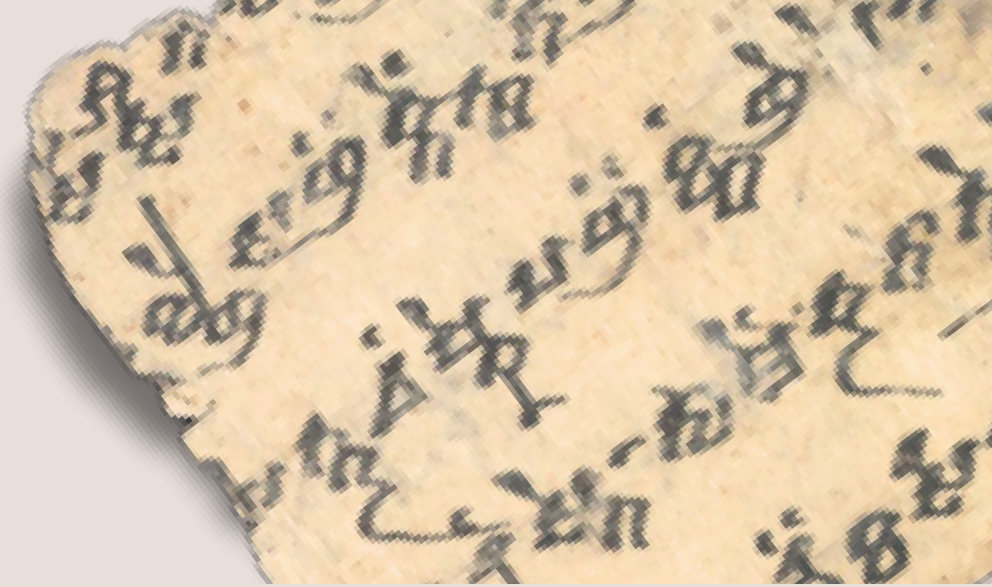




Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



16–20 Nov 2026

HISTLING Exchange Workshop on Buddhist Philology (SSATH associated program)



ELTE EÖTVÖS LORÁND
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SSATH
Summer School for Ancient
Trans-Himalayan Languages



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

HISTLING Exchange, hosted by the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies and supported by the Trinity Centre for Digital Humanities, is an interdisciplinary event that brings together philologists, computational linguists, and scholars of religious studies to offer a comprehensive investigation into the future of Buddhist philology in the age of digital humanities and AI research.

Péter-Dániel Szántó

Textual Criticism of Late Indian Buddhist Literature

Ruixuan Chen

Beyond Kucha: Tracing a Distinct Regional Buddhist
Tradition in Yanqi/Agni

Kai Golan Hashiloni

From a Scholar's Problem to an AI Task: How to Translate
Buddhist Philology Work Into Solvable Tasks for AI Systems

Jake Moore

Responsible AI-Assisted Textual Scholarship

Roudtable Discussion

Buddhist Philology in the World of AI

Form & Schedule



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Trinity College Dublin
Lectures in Classical, South Asian Studies
The University of Dublin



Workshop on Buddhist Philology (SSATH associated program)

Date: November 16 - 20, 2026.

Location: Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Trinity College Dublin

Organisers: Lijing Peng and Josiah Medin

Hybrid Workshops

Contact: ssathtcd@gmail.com



Péter-Dániel Szántó started his higher education at ELTE, Budapest with a degree in Tibetan Studies (2004) and a degree in Indology (2006). He wrote and defended his thesis at Oxford University (2012), where in the following years he was a research fellow at Merton College (2010-2013) and All Souls College (2014-2019). From 2019 to 2022, he worked at Leiden University for the Open Philology project. From 2022 he is associate professor and head of two departments at his alma mater, ELTE. His research focuses on the literature of Indian Buddhism with special emphasis on tantric texts. He is the co-author (with James Mallinson) of *The Amṛtasiddhi and the Amṛtasiddhimūla, The Earliest Texts of the Haṭhayoga Tradition* (Pondicherry, 2021), co-author (with Serena Saccone) of *Tantra and Pramāṇa, A Study of the Sāramañjarī* (Napoli, 2023), co-author (with Klaus-Dieter Mathes) of *Saraha's Spontaneous Songs* (New York, 2024), as well as of more than 50 papers on a variety of subjects. He directs two translation groups for 84000

Translating the Words of the Buddha (Siddham and Buddhapīṭha), where he also works on some solo projects and other cooperative projects.

Textual criticism of late Indian Buddhist literature

As Al-Bīrūnī observed around 1030 C.E., “Indian scribes are careless, and do not take pains to produce correct and well-collated copies.” This holds true to an even greater extent for mediaeval Buddhist manuscripts. The workshop introduces later Indian Buddhist literature, identifying specific problems of textual transmission and suggesting methods for addressing them — whether in the production of critical editions or in ordinary reading. Presentations will move between broader issues and granular textual problems that illuminate them; abstract philological concepts will throughout be grounded in concrete examples. These will be drawn from Buddhist homiletical texts (Nāgārjuna's *Suḥrillekha*, *Ratnāvalī*, **Saddharmaparīkathā*) and tantric texts (*Gurupañcāśīkā*, *Catuspīṭhatantra* and its commentaries). I shall argue that there are no “one size fits all” solutions; the method must always be in tune with the nature of the textual material.



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SSATH
Sanskrit Studies Association for The History of Languages

Workshop on Buddhist Philology (SSATH associated program)

Date: November 16 - 20, 2026.

Location: Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Trinity College Dublin

Organisers: Lijing Peng and Josiah Medin

Hybrid Workshops

Contact: ssathtcd@gmail.com



Ruixuan Chen is a Buddhist studies scholar specializing in the premodern history of Buddhism in South Asia and Central Asia, especially the transmission of Buddhism along the Silk Routes. He studied in China, Germany, and the Netherlands, completing a B.A. at Fudan, a Magister at the University of Munich, and doctoral training at Leiden under Jonathan A. Silk. He taught at Heidelberg from 2018 to 2022 and then joined Peking University. His research focuses on scriptural formation, canonicity, Buddhist anthologies, kingship, and manuscript/inscriptional traditions, using extinct languages such as Khotanese and Tocharian. He has worked on material from the Tarim Basin and contributed to a collaborative translation project on a Sanskrit Buddhist Yoga Manual from Kucha. He won the Ernst-Waldschmidt Prize in 2020 and is the author of *The Nandimitrāvadāna: A Living Text from the Buddhist Tradition* (2018).

Beyond Kucha: Tracing a Distinct Regional Buddhist Tradition in Yanqi/Agni

This workshop will start by examining the corpus of Sanskrit fragments discovered by Chinese archaeologist Huang Wenbi 黃文弼 (1893–1966) at the site of Shikchin/Shorchuk in Yanqi/Agni. This body of material is limited and highly fragmentary, so it demands scholarly attention for its potential to illuminate a distinctive character of Agnean Buddhism in stark contrast to its well-documented Kuchean counterpart, and these Sanskrit sūtra fragments contain pivotal evidence for re-evaluation.

The analysis which will be demonstrated in the workshop adopts an integrated methodology, juxtaposing the philological evidence of Sanskrit texts with iconographic data from mural paintings in local Buddhist caves. This synthesis aims to delineate a constellation of specific features—potentially including doctrinal predilections and ritual practices—that constituted this regional character. From a historical perspective, a remarkable connection with Mahāyāna Buddhism prevailing along the southern Silk Route, especially in Khotan, suggests itself and will be investigated further.

The workshop will also explain the works of scholars such as Ernst Waldschmidt and Klaus Wille in identifying Sanskrit fragments, which underscores the meticulous philological groundwork essential for this investigation. I will also demonstrate my previous study of six Tocharian B fragments from the same site, which deals with the Buddhist purification practices (dhutaṅga). A re-examination of Agnean Buddhist art, notably by Yi Danyun 易丹韻 (2016), with focus on the Dharmadhātu Buddha image in Cave 1 at Shikchin/Shorchuk, will also be explained in the workshop, as it indicates a profound local engagement with specific Mahāyāna traditions.

From a Scholar's Problem to an AI Task:

How to Translate Buddhist Philology Work Into Solvable Tasks for AI Systems

November 16–19, 2025 · Dublin, Ireland



PRESENTER

Kai Golan Hashiloni

PhD Candidate in Computer Science, Reichman University

Kai is a lead researcher in the ERC Synergy-funded Intellexus project, which applies NLP and AI methods to Sanskrit and Tibetan Buddhist text corpora. His research spans computational linguistics, low-resource languages, and digital humanities, with a focus on how large language models understand and represent meaning, abstract concepts, and ideas. He holds an MSc in Computer Science from Reichman University and teaches Data Science and NLP as a lecturer. He is also personally interested in Buddhism from a practitioner's perspective and is curious about its applications in the modern world.



Workshop Overview

This **four-session** workshop introduces humanities scholars to the practical use of AI and NLP tools — no prior technical background required. Beginning with how to use AI effectively in daily life and as a research companion in scholarly work, sessions progressively build toward a deeper understanding of how AI systems actually work. Topics include basic AI usage, prompting strategies, and the fundamentals of language model training and evaluation. The workshop then explores the methodology of translating a humanistic research question into a well-defined computational task, and demonstrates these principles through a live showcase of NLP methods from the Intellexus project, drawing on materials from the workshop week to illustrate both the possibilities and the limits of AI as a collaborator in philological research.

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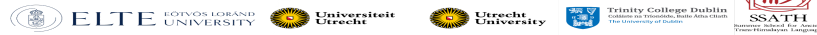
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AI-Assisted Textual Scholarship (SSATH associated program)

Date: November 20, 2026.

Host Institute: Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, Trinity College Dublin

Organisers: Lijing Peng and Josiah Medin

Online Workshops

Contact: ssathcd@gmail.com



Jake Moore is a computer scientist specializing in applications of artificial intelligence to Buddhist Studies. His current research focuses on multimodal system architectures for transcription, translation, and archiving of the Tibetan tradition. He earned a BA in philosophy from Bowling Green State University in 2015, an MA in philosophy from Wayne State University in 2017, and an MS in data science from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2024. He is currently a PhD candidate in computer science at Lawrence Technological University. Jake serves as the AI Scientist & Engineer for the Khyentse Vision Project, where he works alongside scholars, translators, and archivists to produce technical tools that support their work.

Responsible AI-Assisted Textual Scholarship

This presentation demonstrates how artificial intelligence can be utilized as a verifiable assistive technology at different stages of the textual scholarship lifecycle. Using a scanned manuscript as a case study, this talk will provide a step-by-step walkthrough of a multimodal system architecture designed for low-resource languages. We will trace the life of a text through three distinct phases:

1. Digitization: Transforming raw scans into structured digital text using specialized Optical Character Recognition (OCR).
2. Error Management: Examining how the AI outputs assist in human transcription, editing and emendation work.
3. Computer-Assisted Translation: Utilizing language models within a "human-in-the-loop" framework to accelerate the drafting process without sacrificing the nuanced interpretation required by the scholar.

Rather than reducing the process to an automated black box, this approach demonstrates how well-orchestrated and thoughtful AI-supported pipelines can serve as sustainable infrastructure for scholarly work.