

IKGA NEWSLETTER No. 3 / March 2023

Although the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic continued to mark the year 2022, the Institute was nonetheless very active. We witnessed important new research developments, were able to welcome a number of visitors, hosted several events, both hybrid and on site, and made new plans.

Please let us know by e-mail to office.ikga@oeaw.ac.at if you do not wish to receive future issues of our Newsletter, or would like to receive it at a different e-mail address.

Further and more detailed information about the Institute, its history, and its activities—including upcoming events—can be found on our [website](#).

THE INSTITUTE AND ITS ACTIVITIES

As one of twenty-five institutes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (AAS), Austria’s leading non-university institution for science and research, the IKGA facilitates long-term research on Asian cultures, above all research dealing with questions concerning cultural and intellectual history. In 2022, twenty-nine scholars were employed at the Institute, doing work in the fields of Buddhist Studies, Indology, Tibetan Studies, Japanology and Chinese Studies.

The Institute welcomed two new research fellows in 2022.



Calahan Morse | © Private

Calahan Morse began working at the IKGA in August. After completing his Master’s degree in the United States in 2020, Morse moved to Vienna out of a desire to improve his competence in historical and philological methods. He is now a doctoral student at the University of Vienna under the supervision of Birgit Kellner. The subject of his dissertation is Dharmakīrti’s theory of perception, with a focus on Dharmakīrti’s use in his works of two apparently contradictory philosophical perspectives, namely, Sautrāntika-like representationalism and Yogācāra-like idealism. Morse is



The Buddhist scholar Nāgārjuna and his disciple Āryadeva (Eastern Tibet, 19th c.)
© Rubin Museum of Art, New York

examining the arguments Dharmakīrti uses for each position, as well as how some of Dharmakīrti's commentators interpret his shifts between these two viewpoints. At the IKGA Morse is also assisting in the development of the [EAST](#) database ("Epistemology and Argumentation in South Asia and Tibet," a collection of bio-bibliographical information on epistemology and argumentation in South Asia and Tibet).

Akane Saito (PhD Kyōto University) is a post-doc working on Indian epistemology, philosophy of language, and Śaiva dualistic philosophy. She joined the IKGA in June 2022, continuing three projects she initiated during a previous long-term stay in India, where she worked in close cooperation with Indologists and pandits at the École Française d'Extrême-Orient in Pondicherry (EFEO). These projects include: 1) A study of Maṇḍana Mīśra's *Bhāvanāviveka* (8th century) with critical editions of its two commentaries, in collaboration with Dr. Hugo David (EFEO) and Dr. Elliot M. Stern; 2) a study of an anonymous commentary on Śrīkaṇṭha's *Ratnatrayaparīkṣā* (10th century), including a critical edition and translation, together with Prof. Dominic Goodall (EFEO) and Prof. Francesco Sferra (University of Naples); and 3) a study of the *Vivaraṇa*, a commentary on the *Yogasūtrabhāṣya*, traditionally attributed to Śāṅkara (8th century), including a critical edition of the commentary on 3.17. With these three projects, Saito augments many of the other editing projects being undertaken at the IKGA.

For more than twenty years, the Institute was expertly managed by Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek, who retired from her position as chief administrator in October 2022. Besides taking care of all organizational aspects large and small involved in the running of a research institute, Peck-Kubaczek supported the international research community at the IKGA with her cosmopolitan outlook, her empathetic demeanor, as well as her sheer inexhaustible energy. As a cellist and passionate music teacher, she also imparted aspects of the rich cultural life of Vienna to our many members over the years, as well as visitors from abroad, and in a very special way served as a cultural communicator at the intersection of scholarship and the arts. Last, but not least, she copy-edited many of our English-language publications, and helped improve them in the process with her astute and probing questions. We wish her all the best for the new period in her life, and hope she will remain connected with the Institute in the future.

Alexandra Wedekind became the Institute's chief administrator in October 2022. Born in Ilmenau, Germany, she holds a Master's degree in East Asian Art History and Classic Chinese Studies from Heidelberg University. During an internship at Friedenstein Palace in Gotha, Germany, Wedekind worked on the Palace's collection of Asian art, including inventory and cataloging, and curated a special exhibition on art of the Far East. She then moved to Vienna to take on a post as teaching assistant at the



Cynthia Peck-Kubaczek and Alexandra Wedekind
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Institute for Art History at the University of Vienna. With her multi-faceted interests, skills in Chinese and graphic design, and wide-ranging general knowledge about Asia, she is a welcome new member of the IKGA team.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Two third-party funded projects were approved in 2022. Both are beginning at the IKGA in 2023.

We are particularly happy to announce that the European Research Council (ERC) approved a second project to be hosted at the IKGA. The five-year Starting Grant project “The Ethics of Empty Beliefs: Chinese Buddhist Philosophy in the ‘Period of Disunity’ (between fall of the Han and beginning of the Tang)” will be headed by Rafal Stepień, who is currently an assistant professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Focusing on the relationship between ethics and belief in the teachings of the Chinese Buddhist *Sanlun* school, the project will undertake the first comprehensive elaboration of the *Sanlun* in a Western language. Stepień will join the IKGA in July 2023, whereupon he will assemble his project team.

Through the new ESPRIT program (Early-Stage-Programme: Research–Innovation–Training) of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), funding was also granted for a project headed by Channa Li, “The future Buddha’s past lives: On the *Maitreyapariṣcchā*.” Li has been a post-doc fellow at the IKGA since 2019; she is beginning this new project in March 2023. The *Maitreyapariṣcchā* is an important source on the cult of the Bodhisattva Maitreya. Li will be examining the work from the perspective of a Buddhist history of ideas, and in the context of Buddhist translation history between China and Tibet.

CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE “EURASIAN TRANSFORMATIONS”

Several IKGA members devoted a great deal of time in 2022 to preparing and drafting a “Cluster of Excellence” grant application entitled “EurAsian Transformations – Resources of the Past and Challenges of Diversity,” together with scholars at several other AAS institutes, the University of Vienna, the University of Innsbruck, and the Central European University. After a highly competitive evaluation process, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) approved five Clusters of Excellence in March 2023, including the above project. Each has received funding for an initial five-year period to pursue broad research questions that are not only scientifically and scholarly significant, but also socially relevant. The Clusters are being formed as collaborations between institutions in Austria as well as international partners. An aim is to build lasting structures for research, training, and knowledge transfer.

For the Cluster of Excellence “EurAsian Transformations,” funding of altogether 15.5 million Euros has been contributed by the Austrian Science Fund and the participating institutions. Within the Cluster’s framework, various history and intellectual culture disciplines with a record of scholarly strength in Austria will be integrated and

developed further to investigate significant issues related to human interaction across the huge space of the Eurasian landmass. Individual research lines have been bundled into three major areas: “Geographies of Power,” “Communication and Mobility,” and “Identities and Religions.” The Cluster’s core team currently includes IKGA scholars Birgit Kellner, who is a member of the Board of Directors, and Nina Mirnig and Pascale Hugon, who are both key researchers. Other IKGA members were also active in the application drafting process.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT THE IKGA 2022



Patrick McAllister
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Work related to digital humanities has been pursued at the IKGA for several years within individual projects. This has been strengthened and given a longer-term perspective for development through the successful AAS tenure assessment in June 2022 of Patrick McAllister. McAllister conducts research on Indian Buddhist philosophy, including philological work within the IKGA’s central long-term research focus “Sanskrit Texts from Tibet.” Major interests of McAllister include digital philology and machine learning techniques. He also coordinates the general efforts of the Institute in digital humanities. These include creating digital editions, developing digital text collections in TEI/XML, improving search technologies for texts in Asian languages, also through machine learning, and improving hand-written text recognition (with a focus on Tibetan cursive script within the ERC-supported project [TibSchol](#)).

IKGA GUESTS IN 2022

In 2022, we were able to welcome five guests from abroad for collaborative work within the framework of the IKGA’s Visiting Fellows Programme. Each guest stayed in Vienna from between two weeks and a month.

Prof. Jongbok Yi from Stockton University, New Jersey, USA, came to Vienna as a research guest of the project “The dawn of Tibetan Buddhist scholasticism (11th–13th c.)” (TibSchol). Yi conducted joint readings with the TibSchol team on hermeneutic techniques.

Dr. Joanna Bialek of the Humboldt University of Berlin cooperated with Reinier Langelaar on research into the historical developments of the Tibetan toponym for “Tibet” (*bod*). The two scholars also wrote a joint an article on this topic.

Prof. Hisao Ueda from Kanazawa University, Japan, conducted a series of reading sessions on Japanese paleography together with the Japanese Studies group. In these sessions, early modern manuscripts from the Okayama and Mito domains were transcribed and discussed. The results have proven vital for the FWF-supported project “Hanryō shintō: Regional Shintō reforms in early modern Japan,” headed by Bernhard Scheid.

Prof. Kei Kataoka from Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan, and Prof. John Taber from the University of New Mexico, USA, joined the Institute for reading sessions on Kumāriḷa's *Ślokavārttika* and its commentaries with members of the working groups Indology and Buddhist Studies. The sessions focused on the *śūnyavāda* chapter as a key source for Buddhist–brahmanical debates on the nature and structure of consciousness. Several additional experts from abroad were able to join the hybrid online sessions.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS 2022

Lasic, Horst; Li, Xuezhū; MacDonald, Anne (on the basis of preparatory work by Helmut Krasser †), *Candrakīrti's Madhyamakāvatārabhāṣya : Chapters 1 to 5. Critically and diplomatically edited.* (Sanskrit Texts from the Tibetan Autonomous Region 22) Vienna: VÖAW; Beijing: CTPH, xxvii + 124 pp. (open access [link](#)).

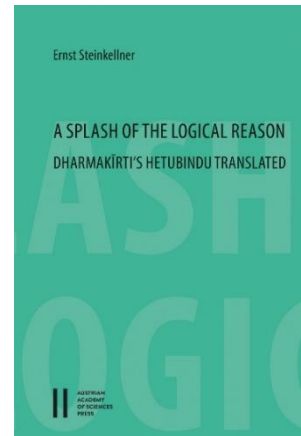
Li, Channa, By no means doodles or scraps: Reading manuscripts IOL Tib J 3 and 218 as bilingual Dunhuang Vinaya works. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 85.2 (2022) 265–305.

Rastelli, Marion, *Nāḷīs, Prāṇas, and Prāṇāyāma: A Yogic Text Crossing the Boundaries of Tradition.* In: Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat, Dominic Goodall, Peter Pasedach (eds.), *Mélanges à la mémoire de Pandit N.R. Bhatt : Studies in Memory of Pandit N.R. Bhatt.* Pondichéry: EFEO/IFP, pp. 101–158.

Steinkellner, Ernst, *Dharmakīrti's Sambandhaparīkṣā and Devendrabuddhi's Sambandhaparīkṣāvṛtti. Critically edited.* (Sanskrit Texts from the Tibetan Autonomous Region 23) Vienna: VÖAW; Beijing: CTPH, xxxii + 89 pp. (open access [link](#)).

Steinkellner, Ernst, *A splash of the logical reason : Dharmakīrti's Hetubindu translated.* (Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 108) Vienna: VÖAW, xxxv + 54 pp. (open access [link](#)).

To purchase copies of Austrian Academy of Sciences Press publications, please visit its [website](#).



EVENTS 2022

The IKGA held twenty-one academic events in 2022, of which six were organized in cooperation with other institutions.

Two workshops were supported by the AAS-funded research platform “Global Eurasia – Comparison and Connectivity,” which was initiated to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between AAS institutes in the humanities and social sciences. One workshop was entitled “Agents of Knowledge – Cultural Brokers” (8 April, online), the other, “Diffusion of knowledge and transformations of spaces of knowledge” (28–29 April, hybrid).

At the end of October, the two-day symposium “Canons, Kanjurs, and Collections: Multidisciplinary Approaches in the Study of Tibetan Canonical Literature” was held in honor of the Tibetologist Helmut Tauscher of the University of Vienna. The study of Tibetan canonical literature has seen particularly dynamic developments over the past decades. This has been fuelled by the availability of new materials, the proliferation and combining of different methodological approaches, and the advancement of investigative techniques within them. The symposium was organized together with the University’s Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies.

Also together with the University of Vienna, the Institute organized the first Vienna Summer School on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia. For more details, see below.

Georg Bühler Lecture Series of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

In honor of Georg Bühler (1837–1898), one of the most eminent Indologists of the 19th century and a prominent member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, a lecture series was established in 2021 to celebrate the 140th anniversary of his taking up the Chair for Philology and Antiquities of Ancient India at the University of Vienna.

The five events attracted altogether 622 listeners from 34 countries. The lecture series was initiated and organized by Birgit Kellner and Nina Mirnig from the IKGA, in cooperation with Hannes Fellner from the University of Vienna.

The distinguished speakers’ lectures offered either new insights into Bühler’s activities, or recent research advances in fields of his expertise. The inaugural lecture held by Indra Sengupta (German Historical Institute London) in December 2021 was dedicated to the significant role played by Bühler in knowledge production during the 19th century. In March 2022, Richard Salomon (University of Washington, Seattle) discussed Georg Bühler as a father of



Kashmiri pandits, c. 1890
British Library, public domain

modern Indian epigraphy. In recognition of Bühler’s achievements in the field of Indian law, in May, Stephanie Jamison (University of California, Los Angeles) explored the evidence – or lack thereof – for legal provisions and legal language in Vedic texts. In a tandem lecture in November, Annette Schmiedchen (Humboldt University of Berlin) and Arlo Griffiths (Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient) addressed the theme of epigraphy and history in the 21st century. Schmiedchen reviewed 140 years of Maitraka and Rāṣṭrakūṭa epigraphy, while Griffiths presented a digital database of South and Southeast Asian epigraphy currently under development as part of the ERC project “The Domestication of ‘Hindu’ Asceticism and the Religious Making of South and Southeast Asia.” Finally, in

December Diwakar Acharya (University of Oxford) celebrated Bühler's pioneering work on poetry by exploring poetic devices and compositional strategies in Indic epigraphs.

It is planned to publish the lectures in an edited volume as part of the series "Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens" of the Austrian Academy of Sciences Press.

IKGA Lectures 2022

The following eight lectures were held at the IKGA in 2022:

- ❖ *Rong zom pa on the Concept of Pramāṇatraya (tshad ma gsum)*
Dorji Wangchuk (University of Hamburg)
23 May 2022
- ❖ *Scythian Philosophy: Logic and Epistemology in the Earliest-Attested Texts*
Christopher Beckwith (Indiana University, Bloomington)
14 June 2022
- ❖ *1. Garshuni Malayalam script and literature in Kerala: Rediscovering a forgotten patrimony*
István Perczel (Central European University)
2. The Paravur Dialogues: The first early modern multifaith dialogue between two Jews, a Christian, a Muslim and a Hindu
Emy Merin Joy (Central European University)
21 June 2022
- ❖ *The Significance of Tangut Buddhist Sources in the Study of Tibetan Intellectual History: The Case of Tibetan Buddhist Epistemology and Logic*
Zhouyang Ma (Harvard University)
1 July 2022
- ❖ *An investigation of imperial mausoleums and their rituals at the end of the Edo period and the Meiji restoration in Japan / 幕末維新期の天皇陵の考証と祭祀 (in Japanese)*
Hisao Ueda (Kanazawa University)
16 September 2022
- ❖ *Some remarks on painted coffin panels from the far north-east of the Tibetan plateau*
Shawo Khacham (Tibet University, Lhasa)
9 November 2022 (co-organized with the AAS Institute for Social Anthropology)
- ❖ *Life suspended in death: On studying the Tibetan Buddhist 'tukdam' practice*
Numata Chair Lecture
Tawni Tidwell (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
6 December 2022

IKGA Lectures 2023

In the first half of 2023, the IKGA is presenting the following four lecture events:

- ❖ *Teaching śūnyatā and the role of Buddhist doctrine in the Madhyamaka system*
Arihiro Kosaka (University of Hamburg)

6 March 2023

- ❖ *Views from Tibet: A guided walk through the forest*
Tom Tillemans (University of Lausanne)

18 April 2023 | 5 p.m. CEST

This lecture celebrates Tillemans' collection of articles *Views from Tibet : Studies on Tibetan Buddhist Logic, the Philosophy of the Middle, and the Indigenous Grammatico-Linguistic Tradition*, recently published by the AAS Press. Click [here](#) for details and open access download.

- ❖ *TBA*

Numata Chair Lecture

Jens-Uwe Hartmann (University of Munich)

20 June 2023 | 5 p.m. CEST

- ❖ *Tanzen für Hideyoshi: Das Toyokuni Fest von 1604 als politische Propaganda*
Anton Schweizer (Kyushu University)

22 June 2023 | 5 p.m. CEST

For more details about further events, as well as information on how to register for online participation, please visit the IKGA's [website](#).

Lange Nacht der Forschung 2022

The [Lange Nacht der Forschung](#) (Long Night of Research) is a well-visited annual public relations event held all across Austria. “Long Nights” are held in a number of European countries to enable institutions with a similar focus to present the work they do to the general public by opening their doors into the night hours. After a two-year interruption, Austria’s Lange Nacht der Forschung was held again on 22 May 2022.

For this event, the IKGA focused on the theme of “meditation” from the perspectives of the various cultures represented in the research of the Institute. Posters illustrating aspects of meditation in Indian, Tibetan and Japanese traditions were presented, and IKGA research fellows were available to answer the many questions from a quite diverse crowd of visitors.



Oriental MS Indic beta 511 Wellcome L0029118.jpg
Wikimedia Commons; CC BY 4.0

Academy in the Classroom

As part of the Academy’s public outreach initiative “Akademie im Klassenzimmer” (Academy in the Classroom), Brigitte Pickl-Kolaczia held a workshop for children aged six to ten on Japanese ghosts and monsters at an elementary school in Vienna. The aim was to introduce the children to one of the cultures being studied at the Institute through age-appropriate stories, in this case, stories rooted in Japanese folk beliefs.

Vienna Summer School on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

In July 2022, the Institute jointly organized the first “Vienna Summer School on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia” together with the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at the University of Vienna. The title of the Summer School was “Theory of knowledge in premodern South Asia: An introduction, with reading of original Sanskrit texts.”



The first Vienna Summer School, July 2022 | © Hinal Trikha 2022

The Summer School offered an intensive one-week seminar on the means for acquiring knowledge as discussed in different South Asian philosophical traditions. Lectures by experts on individual subjects were combined with focused readings of relevant texts in the original Sanskrit. The participants were introduced to the main theories of different schools, including Nyāya, Vyākaraṇa, Buddhist epistemology, and Jaina philosophy. The event gathered twelve motivated students from three continents.

Given the success of this event, the two institutes are planning a second Vienna Summer School from 3 to 8 July 2023. Information about registration, fees and the exact program will be made available on the websites of the participating institutions. Interested students may also contact Marco Ferrante (marco.ferrante@oeaw.ac.at).

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