



Image: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Intellexus Guest Lecture Series

Wednesday 23 October 16:00

ESA-Ost, Room 120 & Zoom

Prof. Dr. Judit Törzsök

(EPHE/PSL University, Paris)

Burnt Clay, Skull Topped Vases and Other Curiosities— Some Points of Contact Between Buddhist and Śaiva Tantras

The dependence of several Buddhist tantras on Śaiva, or more precisely Śākta, scriptures has been demonstrated with ample evidence by Alexis Sanderson (2001, 2009), while the common ritual syntax of early tantras has been analysed by Dominic Goodall and Harunaga Isaacson (2016). This paper first focuses on various passages of the *Laghuśaṃvara* to show that, in addition to long textual parallels with the *Brahmayāmala* pointed out by Sanderson, its idiom also seems to share many features of the *Brahmayāmala*. Further results may be obtained by computer assisted analysis of the two texts, which could be carried out in the framework of the Intellexus project. A few newly discovered parallels with other Śākta tantras are then examined, some of which involve ritual similarities without strict textual equivalences. These may point to a shared pool of ritual procedures, which could also be further investigated in the Intellexus project. Finally, a provisional conclusion is drawn on the nature of the *Laghuśaṃvara*.