

International symposium “In and Around Early Tibetan Scholasticism” 4–6 June 2025

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA), Austrian
Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Vienna

Seminar Room (Besprechungsraum) 1, Area D, Level 3, Österreichische Postsparkasse (PSK)
Georg-Coch-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna



Mural in Bemjee (Bhutan) : Scholars in debate session. Photo : Sonam Tobgye, 2016. CC BY-NC 4.0 (<https://images.mandala.library.virginia.edu/image/mural-scholars-debate-session>)

Schedule

Wednesday, June 4	
10:15–10:45	Registration and Coffee
10:45–11:00	Welcome & Introduction <i>Chair: Jonathan Samuels</i>
11:00–11:45	Kyeongjin Choi, <i>Tshad ma as Buddhavacana? Tracing the Buddha's Voice Cited in Tibetan Epistemology</i>
11:45–12:30	Leonard van der Kuijp, <i>bTsun pa sTon gzhon's Sources and Methods While Composing his 1297 Commentary on the Pramāṇavārtika</i>
Lunch break	
14:30–15:15	Kalsang Norbu Gurung, <i>'A zha Blo gros rgyal mtshan and His Commentary on Epistemology</i>
15:15–16:00	Maho Iuchi, <i>The Influence of the Descendants of the Tibetan Empire to Bka' gdams School: A History of sPyil phu Monastery</i>
Coffee break	
17:00–18:45	KEYNOTE: Marta Sernesi, <i>The Thorny Plant and Other Brambles: History, Doxography and Polemics in the Early Second Millennium</i>
Thursday, June 5	
<i>Chair: Lobsang Yongdan</i>	
9:30–10:15	Dorji Wangchuk, <i>A Multilayered Apology of Abhiṣeka ("Empowerment/Initiation") With Special Reference to Rong-zom-pa's Employment of the Idea of the Ablution of the Baby Buddha</i>
10:15–11:00	Matthew T. Kapstein, <i>A Tantric Theology From Twelfth-century Tibet: On the Puzzles of Omniscience (online)</i>
Coffee break	
11:30–12:15	Orna Almogi, <i>Libraries as a Means of Profiling Intellectual Ecosystems: The Case of Rong zom Chos kyi bzang po and His Virtual Library</i>
12:15–13:00	Chizuko Yoshimizu, <i>Kamalaśīla in Early Tibetan Scholasticism</i>
Lunch break	
14:45–15:30	Kevin Vose, <i>Where are the Prāsaṅgikas? An Investigation Into the Early Transmission of Candrakīrti's Works in Tibet</i>
15:30–16:15	José I. Cabezón, <i>The Record of an Exchange of Letters Between dGe bshes Sha ra ba and Pa tshab Lo tsā ba</i>
Friday, June 6	
<i>Chair: Zhouyang Ma</i>	
9:30–10:15	Kazuo Kano, <i>Scholastic Works by Tantric Authors: A Miscellaneous Collection of Minor Sanskrit Treatises in a Palm-leaf Bundle from Norbulingka</i>
10:15–11:00	Ryan Conlon, <i>Mapping Secrets: The Influence of the Scholastic Turn on Tibetan Overviews of Tantric Buddhism</i>
Coffee break	
11:30–12:15	Daisy Cheung, <i>How Should One Begin a Commentary? The Preamble in Indo-Tibetan Tantric Buddhist Scholasticism, with a Focus on the Exegeses of the Guhyasamājatantra</i>
12:15–13:00	Jim Rheingans, <i>Tibetan Abhidharma-Debates in Context: Critique of Śākya mchog ldan (1428–1507) in Mi bskyod rdo rje's (1507–1554) Abhidharmakośa Commentary</i>
Lunch break	
14:30–15:00	Saranya Balasubramanian & Pascale Hugon, <i>Presentation of TibSchol Database</i>
15:00–16:00	Roundtable discussion, closing remarks, and publication plans