

## IKGA NEWSLETTER No. 2 / April 2022

In 2021, the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia (IKGA) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While most of the year continued to be marked by lockdowns and limited travel due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the Institute nonetheless had an active year. We witnessed important new research developments, were able to welcome some visitors, hosted several online and hybrid events, and jointly developed new plans. This second issue of our Newsletter covers all these aspects. A positive side to the pandemic has been the ease with which hybrid events can now take place, which enables interested persons anywhere in the world to take part in our lectures, workshops, symposia and source reading sessions. We look forward to continuing this opportunity.

Please let us know by e-mail to [office.ikga@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:office.ikga@oeaw.ac.at) if you do not wish to receive future issues of the 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 Buddhist scholar Nāgārjuna and his disciple Āryadeva (Eastern Tibet, 19<sup>th</sup> c.)  
© Rubin Museum of Art, New York

## THE INSTITUTE AND ITS ACTIVITIES

This being the second of our Newsletters, we would briefly like to thank our colleagues, friends, collaborators and contacts around the world for their continued interest in the IKGA and the work being done here. As introduced last year, the Institute is one of 25 institutes of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OeAW), the leading Austrian non-university institution for science and research, with a history extending back 175 years. At the IKGA we conduct long-term research on Asian cultures, above all research dealing with questions concerning cultural and intellectual history. Formally founded in 1991 with seven research fellows, the Institute continues not only to grow, but also to expand its areas of study. In 2021, thirty-three scholars worked at the Institute, doing research in the fields of Buddhist Studies, Indology, Tibetan Studies, Japanology, and Chinese Studies.

## BIRGIT KELLNER ELECTED FULL MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY



Birgit Kellner | © ÖAW

In 2021, the director of the IKGA, Birgit Kellner, was elected a Full Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Kellner had been elected a member of the Young Academy (then called “Junge Kurie”) in 2008, at the time that corresponding body was first established. In 2014 she was elected a Corresponding Member Abroad, when she was a professor at the University of Heidelberg. After being appointed director of the IKGA in 2015, she became a Corresponding Member in Austria.

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## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS 2021

A major highlight of 2021 was the commencement of the project “The Dawn of Tibetan Buddhist Scholasticism (11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> c.)” (TibSchol), which has enlarged the IKGA’s long-term research focus on Tibetan scholasticism considerably. The project is being funded for five years through a Consolidator Grant from the European Research Council (ERC) ([ERC CoG 101001002](#)). With this sponsorship, five new scholars were employed at the Institute in 2021.

Under the leadership of Pascale Hugon, the project involves the first wide-ranging exploration of the formative phase of the Tibetan Buddhist scholastic tradition in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. By examining this exceptionally active period, a phase of Tibetan history marked by highest levels of intellectual creativity, the project will integrate Tibetan thinkers into the global history of philosophy and into world intellectual history at large.



Pascale Hugon | © Private

The scholars in the project are undertaking pioneering work on a large corpus of manuscripts that has newly become available as part of the *Bka’ gdams gsung ’bum* collection. Individual sub-projects are devoted to scholarly networks and to hermeneutical and philosophical topics. The development and adaptation of various digital tools have been initiated, including a prosopographic database being maintained by the OeAW’s Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage (ACDH-CH), and a text recognition model for Tibetan manuscripts in cursive script using the internationally renowned “Transkribus” platform, a platform that has been developed in Austria.

Moreover, five new research projects with funding from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) were begun at the IKGA in 2021. They pursue new questions while at the same time supporting and enhancing existing areas of strength and long-term research foci.

The first, also a Tibetological project, involves an examination of the history of the most widespread narrative on the origin of the “Tibetans.” Also directed by Pascale Hugon, with Reinier Langelaar as the main researcher, it is combining historical studies and

ethnographic field research with the philological examination of early materials from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the initial phase of the project, an investigation was begun on versions of the *Bka' chems ka khol ma*, a historical work central to the project.

A long-term focus of the IKGA is the study of rare Sanskrit manuscripts from the Tibetan Autonomous Region. Some of this work is being done under the auspices of the cooperation agreement concluded in 2004 between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the China Tibetology Research Center (CTRC) in Beijing. In 2021, two FWF projects were begun as part of this research focus. To augment editing work being done on Jinendrabuddhi's *Pramāṇasamuccayaṭīkā* by Horst Lasic and Patrick McAllister, Miyuki Nakasuka joined the IKGA in December 2021 within the framework of a new project that concentrates on this work's fifth chapter dealing with the theory of universals and concept-formation (i.e., *apoha* theory). The second new project within this focus, "Dialectics, Logic and Philosophy in Indian Buddhism," is being headed by Yasutaka Muroya. Its aim is to publish both diplomatic and critical editions of Sāntaraksita's (ca. 725–788 CE) *Vādanyāyaṭīkā* on the basis of new manuscript material as well as the one known Tibetan translation.

Two new projects were begun the past year in the field of Indology. The first, "Truth, Knowledge and Metaphysics in Traditions of Vedānta" (project head: Marcus Schmücker; research fellow: Michael Williams), is dealing with the intellectual history of philosophical debates about the nature and purpose of knowledge in the early modern period, focusing on Vyāsātīrtha (1460–1539); it expands the IKGA's traditional strengths in research on South Asian logical and epistemological discourse to a new period and field. The second Indological project, "Universals in Indian Philosophy of Language" (project head: Marco Ferrante), aims at producing a new critical edition of Bhartṛhari's *Jāṭisamuddeśa*, which is a section of the philosopher's masterpiece, the *Vākyapadīya*. The section in question examines the role played by universals in semantics; this project has close ties to research being pursued at the IKGA on Buddhist theories of universals.



Palmleaf manuscript of Dharmakīrti's *Pramāṇavārttika*, early Bengali script, 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> c.  
From: *Manuscripta Buddhica* 1, Rome 2008.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES AT THE IKGA: “IKGA@SARIT”

The web platform and digital library “Search and Retrieval of Indic Texts” (SARIT), in whose creation IKGA members were involved, strives to offer high-quality electronic versions of texts in Indic languages and multiple scripts. The texts in the collection are encoded in XML according to the guidelines specified by the [Text Encoding Initiative](#). In addition to making these texts freely available, a further aim of this undertaking is to contribute to developing best practice models for digital philology.

The IKGA has commenced an initiative to enhance SARIT with new texts under the label IKGA@SARIT. For this, nine texts were prepared in 2021. They were digitized from printed editions, marked up, and supplied with metadata. With their addition to SARIT, scheduled for summer 2022, SARIT will offer the world’s richest collection of freely available texts for research on South Asian Buddhist epistemology and logic. The collection will also serve as a source for applying innovative methods in computer-assisted textual analysis, whose development the IKGA plans to pursue in the future.

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## IKGA GUESTS IN 2021

Although the Institute’s activities in 2021 were still impacted by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, we were able to welcome two guests from abroad for collaborative work.

Amit Chaturvedi, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Hong Kong University, visited Vienna for two months in autumn 2021. Hosted under the IKGA Visiting Fellows Programme, Chaturvedi collaborated with Patrick McAllister on an edition and translation of Ratnakīrti’s *Citrādvaitaparakāśavāda*, an 11<sup>th</sup> century Sanskrit work on the Buddhist philosophy of the mind.

Miyuki Nakasuka came from Hiroshima to Vienna for six months in the spring and summer of 2021 to work at the IKGA on the Buddhist *apoha* theory with funding from the prestigious Bukkyō Dendo Kyōkai (Society for the Promotion of Buddhism). To the great fortune of the Institute, in December it was possible to employ her as a post-doctoral research fellow in the newly initiated FWF project on Jinendrabuddhi’s *Pramāṇasamuccayaṭīkā*, mentioned above.

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## PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS 2021

Eltschinger, Vincent; Kellner, Birgit; Mills, Ethan; Ratié, Isabelle (eds.), *A Road Less Traveled : Felicitation Volume in Honor of John Taber* (Wiener Studien zur Tibetologie und Buddhismuskunde 100). Vienna: Arbeitskreis für Tibetische und Buddhistische Studien, Universität Wien, xxii + 542 pp. (open access [link](#)).

Ferrante, Marco, *Indian Perspectives on Consciousness, Language, and Self : The School of Recognition on Linguistics and Philosophy of Mind*. New York: Routledge, vii +156 pp.

Hartmut Walravens, Agnes Stache-Weiske (eds.), *Der Linguist Anton Schiefner (1817–1879) und sein Netzwerk – Briefe an Emil Schlagintweit, Leo Reinisch, Franz v. Miklosich, Vatroslav Jagić, K.S. Veselovskij, Eduard Pabst, Vilhelm Thomsen und andere* (Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 105). Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 973 pp.

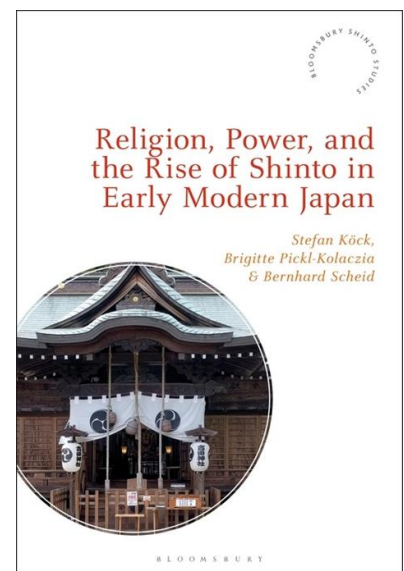
Hugon, Pascale, Mapping recently recovered early Tibetan epistemological works. In: V. Caumanns, J. Heimbel, K. Kano, and A. Schiller (eds.), *Gateways to Tibetan Studies : A Collection of Essays in Honour of David P. Jackson on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday*. 2 vols. Hamburg: Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Universität Hamburg, pp. 415–460.

Kataoka, Kei; Taber, John, *Meaning and Non-existence : Kumārila's Refutation of Dignāga's Theory of Exclusion : The Apohavāda Chapter of Kumārila's Ślokavārttika : Critical Edition and Annotated Translation* (Beiträge zur Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens 102). Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 288 pp.

Köck, Stefan; Pickl-Kolaczia, Brigitte; Scheid, Bernhard (eds.), *Religion, Power, and the Rise of Shinto in Early Modern Japan*. London: Bloomsbury, xii + 287 pp.

Li, Channa, Toward Building a Typology of Chos grub's Tibetan Cursive Calligraphy: A Palaeographical Perspective. *BuddhistRoad Paper* 1.2 (2021) 62 pp. (open access [link](#)).

Pecchia, Cristina; Buß, Johanna; Chudal, Alaka (eds.), *Print Cultures in the Making in 19th- and 20th-Century South Asia : Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries*. Special issue of *Philological Encounters* 6.1-2 (2021), 178 pp. (some articles in open access: [link](#)).



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

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## EVENTS 2021

The IKGA co-organized four major hybrid events in 2021.

- ❖ 12<sup>th</sup> International Indology Graduate Research Symposium (IIGRS 12) (together with the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna) (22–24 July 2021)
- ❖ 26<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) (together with the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna) (26–29 July 2021)
- ❖ International workshop “Oaths in Medieval Japan and Medieval Europe” (together with the Institute for Medieval Research, OeAW) (22–23 October 2021)

- ❖ 11<sup>th</sup> Coffee Break Conference: Arranged Marriages between Disciplines (together with the University of Rome “La Sapienza,” and the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna) (10–11 & 16–17 December 2021)

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## Method and Region Lectures

Bodhisattva (Korea national treasure), c. 600 CE;  
National Museum of Korea, Seoul



Moreover, to mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, the Institute hosted a series of well-received online lectures under the rubric “Method and Region,” jointly organized by Marco Ferrante, Cristina Pecchia and Bernhard Scheid. Five experts from different disciplines were invited to present talks. Each guest offered substantial insights into their research, combined with reflections on methodology prompted by the problems involved in the study of the cultural and intellectual history of Asia using methodological tools and theoretical notions that have been shaped within Europe-oriented disciplines.

- ❖ *Methodology: Meditations of a philosophical Buddhologist*  
**Tom J.F. Tillemans** (Université de Lausanne)  
30 March 2021
- ❖ *Regnum et sacerdotium, by Japanese analogy, and retour*  
**Philippe Buc** (Leiden University)  
20 April 2021 (in cooperation with the Institute for Medieval History, OeAW)
- ❖ *What do we look for and what are we engaged in? Self-confirmation, culture wars, respectful treatment of our subjects – or “all of the above”?*  
**Sonja Brentjes** (Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin)  
25 May 2021 (in cooperation with the Institute for Iranian Studies, OeAW)
- ❖ *What’s a region and what’s in it? What methods are appropriate to use?*  
**Michael Willis** (Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland)  
22 June 2021
- ❖ *Searching for the hidden “One”: Muslim and early European interpretation of the Upanishads*  
**Franz Winter** (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz)  
7 December 2021

### Austrian Academy of Sciences Georg Bühler Lecture Series

Georg Bühler (1837–1898) was one of the most eminent Indologists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was a prominent member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and laid the foundations for South Asian Studies being established in Vienna.

To mark the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his taking up the Chair for Philology and Antiquities of Ancient India at the University of Vienna, a year-long lecture series at the Austrian Academy of Sciences is being held. The series was initiated and is being organized by Birgit Kellner and Nina Mirnig of the IKGA, in collaboration with Hannes Fellner from the University of Vienna; Mirnig and Fellner are both members of the OeAW's Young Academy.



Kashmiri pandits, c. 1890 | British Library, public domain

The six scholars presenting in the series are addressing Bühler's intellectual legacy, as well as highlighting new research and latest developments in Bühler's fields of study. The inaugural lecture by Indra Sengupta (German Historical Institute London) took place on 14 December 2021 and was dedicated to Bühler's role in the production of knowledge in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century India. The second lecture, at the beginning of March 2022, was presented by Richard Salomon (University of Washington), who discussed Bühler's role as a father of modern Indian epigraphy. The series is continuing with the following (hybrid) lectures:

- ❖ *What would a Vedic law code look like?*  
**Stephanie Jamison** (University of California, Los Angeles)  
24 May 2022 | 5 pm CEST
- ❖ *Epigraphy and history in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*  
*1: Looking back on 140 years of Maitraka and Rāṣṭrakūṭa epigraphy*  
**Annette Schmiedchen** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)  
*2: Looking forward to a digital database of South and Southeast Asian epigraphy*  
**Arlo Griffiths** (Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient, Paris)  
10 November 2022 | 5 pm CET
- ❖ *Poetic devices and compositional strategies in Indic epigraphs*  
**Diwakar Acharya** (Oxford University)  
13 December 2022 | 5 pm CET

For more details and information on how to register for online participation, please visit the IKGA's [website](#) or the website of the [OeAW](#).

## IKGA Lectures

In the first half of 2022, the IKGA will also be presenting the following four (hybrid) lecture events:

- ❖ *Rong zom pa on the Concept of Pramāṇatraya (tshad ma gsum)*  
**Dorji Wangchuk** (University of Hamburg)  
23 May 2022 | 5 pm CEST
- ❖ *Scythian Philosophy: Logic and Epistemology in the Earliest-Attested Texts*  
**Christopher Beckwith** (Indiana University, Bloomington)  
14 June 2022 | 5 pm CEST
- ❖ 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 | 5 pm CEST
- ❖ *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 | 5 pm CEST

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

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## 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 by opening their doors into the night hours to the general public. After a two-year interruption, Austria's Lange Nacht der Forschung will be held in May 2022.

Since many popular meditation and yoga practices had their origins in Asia, the IKGA is presenting under the title "What was meditation in pre-modern Asia?" (Was war Meditation im alten Asien?).

Several research fellows from the IKGA will be on hand to explain various aspects of meditation in the Buddhist and Hindu traditions. As examples, they will provide images and translations of the ancient texts they are using in their research.



*Place:* OeAW main building  
(1010 Vienna, Ignaz-  
Seipel-Platz 2)  
and in the courtyard  
of the nearby newly  
renovated OeAW  
Campus

*Date:* 20 May 2022

*Time:* 5 pm to 11pm

Entrance is free.



Cover of the *Āryabhadra kalpikānāmahāyānasūtra*, 18<sup>th</sup> cent. | Image © John C. and Susan L. Huntington Archive of Buddhist and Related Art

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## Vienna Summer School on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

As a new initiative, in 2022 the IKGA is inaugurating the Vienna Summer School on the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, which it is co-organizing together with the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies (ISTB) at the University of Vienna. The summer school's title for 2022 is "Theory of Knowledge in Premodern South Asia."

The purpose of the summer school in 2022 is to introduce graduate students of Sanskrit who have a suitable grasp of the language to the main epistemological doctrines that were produced by South Asian philosophers. The program will combine lectures, reading of relevant passages in original sources, and presentations of participating students for feedback on their work. To allow for intensive exchange, the number of participants will be limited to fifteen.

The summer school will be held at the University of Vienna from 18 to 23 July 2022. Information about registration, fees and the exact program will be made available on the websites of the participating institutions.

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