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Einladung zum Vortrag

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Seminarraum 1, Bereich Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde
Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde,
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The Circulation of Divinities in South Asia

Pantheons of Gandhāra

Located at the crossroads of Central and South Asia, the historical region of Gandhāra was, between the 5th centuries BCE and CE, ruled by successive waves of invaders coming from the Western Mediterranean, the Iranian and Deccan Plateaus and the Central Asian Steppes. The religious images which were produced in the region, once a Buddhist “Holy Land”, have been shaped by the broad scope of cultural and religious interactions. By focussing on selected depictions of Buddhist, Classical, Brahmanic and Zoroastrian divinities, this paper will highlight modes of inclusion, assimilation or equation between gods belonging to the diverse pantheons coeval in Gandhāra. Particular attention will be given to the geographic distribution of the portrayals and to their iconographic and formal local variations across the region in order to sketch a map of interreligious encounters.