



universität
wien

Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und
Buddhismuskunde
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.1 / 2.7
1090 Wien

Einladung zum Vortrag

Dr. David Higgins

Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde,
Universität Wien

Freitag, 17. Oktober 2014, 15h c.t.

Seminarraum 1, Bereich Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde
Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde,
AAKH, Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2.7
1090 Wien

*Bodhigarbha:

Introducing an Early Tibetan Family of Buddha Nature Ideas

David Higgins is a Research Fellow in the Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde at the University of Vienna where he is exploring the relationship between Mahāmudrā and gZhan stong traditions in bKa' brgyud scholasticism during the post-classical period (15th to 16th centuries). His research interests include Indo-Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and epistemology with a particular focus on bKa' brgyud Mahāmudrā and rNying ma rDzogs chen doctrinal systems. His recent book *Philosophical Foundations of Classical rDzogs chen in Tibet* provides a philosophical analysis of rNying ma views on the nature of mind that traces their evolution and complex relationships with Indian Cittamātra, Madhyamaka, pramāṇavāda, and Vajrayāna views.

It has recently been alleged by scholars of the Tibetan rNying ma tradition that although buddha nature theory was well-known in Tibet from as early as the eighth century, it played quite an insignificant role in pre-classical rDzogs chen exegesis. This lecture challenges this claim by demonstrating that buddha nature ideas played a highly significant part in early rDzogs chen thought (8th to 12th centuries), albeit mostly in the form of indigenous **bodhigarbha* (Tib. *byang chub snying po*) concepts rather than the well-known Indic counterpart *tathāgatagarbha*. The lecture clarifies how this "bodhi nature" was understood by early rDzogs chen authors, why it was distinguished from Mahāyāna-based buddha nature ideas, and how it eventually became overshadowed by these latter during the period of Monastic Hegemony as Indian buddha nature theories and controversies took centre stage.