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Einladung zum Vortrag

Prof. Dr. Francesco Sferra
(Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale")

Freitag, 23. Januar 2015, 15h c.t.

Seminarraum 1, Bereich Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde
Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde,
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New Materials for the Study of the Buddhist Saṃmitīya Tradition

Francesco Sferra studied philosophy and Indology at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" under the guidance of Prof. Raniero Gnoli, Prof. Raffaele Torella and Prof. Corrado Pensa. He was awarded a doctorate in Sanskrit by the same University in 1999.

He holds a permanent appointment for the teaching of Sanskrit Language and Literature at the University of Naples "L'Orientale".

His main research areas are the tantric traditions in pre-13th century South Asia, especially Vajrayāna Buddhism, Śaivism, and classical Indian philosophy of language.

The Saṃmitīya school is one of the less known traditions of Indian Buddhism. Only a few works ascribable to this school are available to scholars in their original Indian languages; therefore, our knowledge of the Saṃmitīyas is mostly an indirect one, filtered by their treatment in the doxographic literature of other Buddhist traditions.

The talk will focus on a newly rediscovered text of the Saṃmitīyas, which allows us to shed more light upon its main doctrinal tenets.