

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

## Sanskrit Texts on Epistemology

03 July - 08 July 2023

The Vienna summer school on the History and Cultures of Asia will offer an intensive one-week seminar on the debate on the nature of knowledge in South Asian philosophical traditions.

The summer school will introduce participants to the epistemological theory used in Sanskrit texts. It is aimed at anyone interested in reading scientific Sanskrit works that refer to epistemological concepts. Participants will be able to work intensively with established experts based at the IKGA and the ISTB, centres renowned internationally for the study of South Asian philosophy of knowledge. The course will touch upon a variety of issues in Sanskrit epistemology, such as those of validity (*prāmāṇya*), the instruments of knowledge (*pramāṇas*), and the nature of truth. The participants will be introduced to the main theories of different schools, including Nyāya, Vyākaraṇa, Buddhist, and Jaina thought. Lectures by experts on individual subjects will be combined with focused readings of relevant texts in the original Sanskrit.

### Organizing Institutions

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences (IKGA).  
Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, University of Vienna (ISTB).

### Course Format

There will be two morning sessions with lectures on the given epistemological topic each day. The first lecture is going to examine the topic in a general way. Two afternoon sessions will be dedicated to reading Sanskrit works related to the topic. Each day will also offer a slot for students for presenting their research interests.

### Teaching Staff

Marco Ferrante (IKGA)

Patrick McAllister (IKGA)

Calahan Morse (ISTB/IKGA)

Cristina Pecchia (ISTB)

Akane Saito (IKGA)

Himal Trikha (ISTB)

Michael Williams (IKGA)

### Excerpts from the following works

Jayatīrtha's *Nyāyasudhā*, Devanandin's *Sarvārthasiddhi*, Bhartṛhari's *Vākyapadīya*, Dharmakīrti's *Pramāṇavārttika*, Maṇḍana Miśra's *Brahmasiddhi*, Ratnakīrti's *Apohasiddhi*, Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa (bhāṣya)*.

### Prerequisites

Intermediate to good knowledge of scientific Sanskrit

### Credits

Students interested in acquiring credit points will obtain 5 ECTS points after a final evaluation and should contact the organizers after registration.

### Fees

350 euro (with accommodation)

100 euro (without accommodation)

### What is included?

Accommodation, including breakfast, for seven nights in central Vienna. Preparatory as well as accompanying course materials.

### Registration

Registration will close on 31 May 2023. To apply, please send a CV and a short cover letter (300 words) to Dr Marco Ferrante ([marco.ferrante@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:marco.ferrante@oeaw.ac.at))

# Programme

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**Monday, 3 July**

**Do we really need *pramāṇas*? (Marco Ferrante)**

- 09.30-11.00 **Marco Ferrante**  
An Introduction to Indian Epistemology
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30-13.00 **Marco Ferrante**  
The epistemology of Bhartṛhari: an integrated view of knowledge
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.30 STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS**
- 15.30-16.30 Reading of Bhartṛhari's *Vākyapadīya* 1.30-44 and *Svavṛtti* thereon.
- 16.30-17.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 17.00-18.00 Continuation of the above reading
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**Tuesday, 4 July**

**Perception and Reasoning (Michael Williams, Himal Trikha)**

- 09.00-09.30 Welcome and Introduction
- 09.30-11.00 **Michael Williams**  
The Problems of Perception in Indian Philosophy
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30-13.00 **Michael Williams**  
Reading from Jayatīrtha's Critique of the Cārvākas' Theory of Perception in the *Nyāyasudhā*
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.30 STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS**
- 15.30-16.30 **Himal Trikha**  
Reasoning and means of knowledge in the Jaina tradition.
- 16.30-17.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 17.00-18.00 **Himal Trikha**  
Devanandin's *Sarvārthasiddhi* on *pramāṇa* and *naya*
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## Wednesday, 5 July

### Is extraordinary knowledge possible? (Cristina Pecchia)

- 09.30-11.00 **Cristina Pecchia**  
Superhuman knowledge: feasibility and problems
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.00-13.00 **Cristina Pecchia**  
Reading from Manorathanandin's commentary on Dharmakīrti's *Pramāṇavārttika*
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.30 **STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS**
- 15.30-18.00 **FREE AFTERNOON**
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## Thursday, 6 July

### Immediate and non-immediate types of knowledge (Patrick McAllister)

- 09.30-11.00 **Patrick McAllister**  
The relationship between conceptual and non-conceptual awareness in the Buddhist epistemological tradition
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30-13.00 **Patrick McAllister**  
Reading of Passages from Ratnakīrti's *Aphasiddhi* and *Citrādvaitaparakāśavāda*
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.30 **STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS**
- 15.30-16.30 **Patrick McAllister**  
Continuation of the above reading
- 16.30-17.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 17.00-18.00 **Patrick McAllister**  
Continuation of the above reading
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## Friday, 7 July

### Theories of Error (Akane Saito)

- 09.30-11.00 **Akane Saito**  
An introduction to theories of error in Indian philosophical traditions
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK

- 11.30-13.00 **Akane Saito**  
Reading from Maṇḍana Miśra's *Brahmasiddhi: the Niyogakāṇḍa* on Error
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.30 STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS**
- 15.30-16.30 **Akane Saito**  
Continuation of the above reading.
- 16.30-17.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 17.00-18.00 **Akane Saito**  
Continuation of the above reading.
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**Saturday, 8 July**  
**Truth and Reality in Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma (Calahan Morse)**

- 09.30-11.00 **Calahan Morse**  
Introduction to the four noble truths, the two truths, Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma, and Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa(bhāṣya)*
- 11.00-11.30 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30-13.00 **Calahan Morse**  
Reading from Vasubandhu's *Abhidharmakośa(bhāṣya)* on the two truths
- 13.00-14.30 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30-15.00 FINAL ROUND-TABLE**
- 15.00-15.30 Certificate giving ceremony
- 19.00 FAREWELL DINNER