

Comparative Perspectives on Asceticism

Since Autumn 2013 the FOVOG Graduate Programme for the Interreligious Comparison of Monastic Cultures has been examining religious communities in an interreligious perspective, bringing a range of disciplines together into a single research unit. This event will be our second international open conference, following our event on 'Between Community and Seclusion' in late 2015.

Asceticism has been chosen as a theme for this conference. In the last decades, asceticism has become an increasingly prominent focus in religious studies, history, and social theory.

This conference will develop the existing research, through a focus on religious communities from varied traditions. Our aim will be expanding each research field through open discussion around the shared thematic point of ascetic practices. Our hope is to demonstrate both the variations and commonalities which exist in ascetic practices, and to fruitfully exchange analysis through disciplinary dialogue between specialists of respective religious cultures.



Conference Venue:

**Department of South Asian, Tibetan
and Buddhist Studies (ISTB)**

**Seminarraum 1 TB
Spitalgasse 2, Hof 2, Eingang 2.7
1090 Wien**

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Comparative Perspectives on Asceticism

January 12th to 13th, 2017

A conference hosted by

**the Graduate Programme
for the Interreligious
Comparison of Monastic
Cultures**

at the

**Research Center
for the Comparative History
of Religious Orders (FOVOG),
TU Dresden**

and the

**Department of South Asian,
Tibetan and Buddhist Studies
(ISTB), University of Vienna**

Programme

Thursday, 12th January 2017

16:30 Conference Opening / Eröffnung der Tagung
Klaus-Dieter Mathes/Gert Melville

17:00 Opening Lecture
Peter Dinzelbacher
(Vienna/Salzburg)
Der Höhepunkt asketischer Frömmigkeit im Katholizismus: Der spätmittelalterliche Dolorismus

19:00 Dinner

Friday, 13th January 2017

1st session

Chair: Gert Melville (Dresden)

9:00 Karl Baier (Vienna)
Askese aus der Sicht vergleichend-systematischer Religionswissenschaft

09:30 Katrin Rösler (Dresden)
Ambiguous Ambitions. Challenges of Asceticism in Medieval Monastic Communities

10:00 Discussion

10:30 Coffee break

2nd session

Chair: Claudia Rapp (Vienna)

11:00 Richard Valantasis (Santa Fe)
Regulae: Theorizing the Interplay of Individual and Corporate Asceticism in Monastic Rules

11:30 Jules Gleeson (Dresden/Vienna)
Moderating Asceticism at Mount Athos

12:00 Discussion

12:30 Lunch break

3rd session

Chair: Karin Preisendanz (Vienna)

14:30 Federico Squarcini (Venice)
What it is like to be a tapasvin. Controversies, hypocrisy, ambiguity and the 'crazy' lives of 'Greater Maghadian' ascetics

15:00 Edgar Leitan (Dresden/Vienna)
Ascetic Discourses as Markers of Normative Identity: Case of Forest Hermits and Renouncers

15:30 Discussion

16:00 Coffee break

4th session

Chair: Klaus-Dieter Mathes (Vienna)

16:30 Jim Rheingans (Bonn)
The Meaning and Use of the Terms 'Renunciation/Letting Go' (nges 'byung) and 'Reverting Attachment' (zhen log) in Selected Tibetan Mahāmudrā Instructions

17:00 Gabriele Coura (Dresden/Vienna)
Asceticism for Beginners: The Preliminary Practices (sngon 'gro) in the Tibetan Karma bKa' brgyud Tradition

17:30 Discussion

19:00 Dinner