



## Prof. Dr. Anna Filigenzi

Dipartimento Asia, Africa e Mediterraneo, Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale"

### "Jātaka stories in visual art: Pedagogic value and contextual utility"

The colorfulness of familiar elements of folklore which tinged Buddhist edifying tales is one of the reasons for the popularity enjoyed by *jātaka* stories. At the same time, the diverse cultural and social contexts which formed the ancient Buddhist *oecumene* probably led to different reactions to the various stories, and thus the same *jātaka* may have been felt to be comprehensible and congenial, or alien and baffling, depending on the specific time and place. Additionally, some *jātakas* appear to have become deeply interwoven with a Buddhist rhetoric of power. The lecture will present an inquiry into the topic from the viewpoint of visual art, which offers interesting clues about the *jātakas'* circulation, distribution and embedded social meanings.

**Montag, 20.5.2019, 9:00-10:30, SR 2 TB**

Gastlehre im Rahmen der LV von Horst Lasic, "Jātaka-Texte"(UE, BA12b UE a)

**Alle interessierten Studierenden und Mitarbeiter sind herzlich willkommen!**

Śaśajātaka - Shailatharama Vihara, Sri Lanka





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## “The art of Gandhara: an Indian 're-use' of Hellenistic visual forms”

Ever since its re-discovery in the first half of the nineteenth century, the art of Gandhāra (North-Western Pakistan, 1st-3rd cent. CE) made a deeper impact on Western audiences than any other phenomenon of ancient Indian art. Gandharan art was, to the eyes of western scholars and amateurs, the felicitous amalgamation of two clearly understandable components: Buddhist doctrine and Hellenistic visual models. However, modern archaeology and art historical studies are throwing new light on Gandharan art as a whole, and in particular on the cultural sub-layers of its narrative depictions and on the meaning of its Hellenistic forms.

**Donnerstag, 23.05.2019, 16:00-17:30, SR 1 TB**

Gastlehre im Rahmen der LV von Verena Widorn, “Die indische Skulptur” (VO, BA13, EC1-3)

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A nobleman and his attendant make an offering to the Buddha. From Butkara (Swat, Pakistan)



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## **"One step away from Buddhist Himalayan art: the early medieval sculpture of Pakistan and Afganistan"**

The aftermath of the "classical" Gandharan art and architecture is still little-known and under-estimated. However, in the course of the second half of the second millennium CE important changes took place in sculptural and architectural patterns across neighbouring regions of modern-day Pakistan and Afghanistan. A new aesthetics developed, which was evidently patterned on parallel developments in Buddhist thought and practice. With the help of recent advancements in our knowledge, we can start exploring new interpretive models for evaluating the historical and cultural ties between the early medieval art of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the art which we observe later on in Himalayan countries.



**Donnerstag, 23.05.2019, 17:45-19:15,  
SR 1 TB**

Gastlehre im Rahmen der LV von Verena Widorn,  
"Die indische Skulptur" (VO, BA13, EC1-3)

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Head of a bodhisattva. From Tapa Sardar (Afghanistan), 7th/8th century CE