



universität  
wien Institut für  
Südasi-,  
Tibet- und  
Buddhismuskunde

**Dr. Borayin Larios**

Ass.-Professor für Moderne Südasienskunde

Email: [borayin.larios@univie.ac.at](mailto:borayin.larios@univie.ac.at)

Office: Spitalgasse 2-4 / Hof 2.1

Phone: +43-1-4277-43512

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/bdev45sp>

**Predoctoral Researcher: Study on the Materiality of Mantras in Popular Hinduism**

**Job Description**

The University of Vienna invites applications for a Predoctoral Researcher position within the ERC-funded Synergy Project MANTRAMS, Mantras in Religion, Media, and Society in Global Southern Asia. This role will focus on the study of the materiality of mantras in popular Hinduism, exploring how these sacred sounds are inscribed, displayed, and embodied in contemporary religious practices.

**Position:** Predoctoral Researcher

**Department:** Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies

**Job Vacancy Starting:** November 1, 2024

**Working Hours:** 75%

**Contract Duration:** 36 months (not extendable)

**Your Field of Activity:**

You will work within Task Force 3 (TF3) of the MANTRAMS project, which focuses on the materiality of mantras in their various forms—inscriptional, visual, embodied, and digital. Research Component 6 within TF3 specifically examines how mantras in popular Hinduism are materially represented across different objects and surfaces and how these representations intersect with identity politics, social hierarchies, and commodification in both local and global contexts.

**Your Future Tasks:**

- Develop and pursue a doctoral project that aligns with the objectives of the MANTRAMS project.
- Engage in interdisciplinary research focused on the materiality of mantras in popular Hinduism, including gathering data through fieldwork and archival research.
- Study the multimodal media aspects of mantras, focusing on their manifestation in artifacts used in contemporary Hindu traditions, particularly in urban environments like Mumbai and Pune.
- Develop and pursue a doctoral project aligned with the objectives of the MANTRAMS project.
- Contribute to the publication of research findings in academic journals and edited volumes, and present your work at international conferences.
- Collaborate with our digital humanities expert in a supportive capacity to assist with the development and data curation for the "OMnibus of Mantras" project website. This involves contributing to the mapping and archiving of sonic and visual representations of mantras across global Southern Asia, and occasionally updating the research blog with accessible findings.
- Support the MANTRAMS team in organizing academic events, such as conferences and workshops, and contribute to the preparation of project reports.

**Your Profile:**

- Completed MA, Mag.phil., MPhil, or an equivalent degree in South Asian Studies, Religious Studies, Anthropology, or a related field.
- Strong interest in material religion and contemporary Hindu practices, with a focus on mantras.
- Some experience and willingness to conducting fieldwork in South Asia.
- Proficiency in Hindi or a modern South Asian language; knowledge of Sanskrit is advantageous.

**Additional Skills:**

- Strong analytical and organizational skills.
- An interest in digital humanities methods is a plus.
- Strong communication skills in English, with a working knowledge of German or a demonstrated commitment to learning it if it is not your native language.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a collaborative, interdisciplinary team.

**What We Offer:**

- Flexible working hours and a supportive work-life balance.
- A vibrant and inclusive international academic environment.
- Opportunities for funded fieldwork and participation in academic conferences and workshops.
- Access to extensive academic resources.
- Competitive salary.

**Application Process:**

Please submit by **September 22, 2024**, in a single PDF file:

- A cover letter detailing your research interests and how they align with the MANTRAMS project.
- A brief proposal for your doctoral research within the Task Force “Materiality of Mantras.”
- A scientific curriculum vitae.
- A list of relevant publications (if applicable).
- Two letters of recommendation (sent directly by the recommenders) to [borayin.larios@univie.ac.at](mailto:borayin.larios@univie.ac.at).

For all inquiries, contact:

Borayin Larios, [borayin.larios@univie.ac.at](mailto:borayin.larios@univie.ac.at)