

## 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**

### Contact:

**Dr. Katrin Rösler**

[katrin.roesler@tu-dresden.de](mailto:katrin.roesler@tu-dresden.de)

**+49/173/5873598**



## Comparative Perspectives on Asceticism

**January 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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

### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

### 4<sup>th</sup> 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