

Einladung zu einem Gastvortrag

von

Herrn
Prof. Dr. Vincent Eltschinger
(École Pratique des Hautes Études, PSL University, Paris)

über das Thema

The *Yogācārabhūmi* against Superstitious Beliefs and Astrology

In its so-called *paravāda* section, the *Yogācārabhūmi* (300–350 CE) presents and criticizes sixteen “alldoxies” (*paravāda*), predominantly non-Buddhist doctrines, practices and institutions, some of which had already been targeted in canonical texts such as the *Brahmajāla*- and the *Śrāmanyaphalasūtras*. The newly added doctrines include Sāṅkhya and perhaps grammatical ideas on causality, orthodox brahmanical conceptions of ritual violence, the caste-classes and purification. The last among these alldoxies is labelled *kautukamaṅgalavāda*, that is, “the doctrine of festive ceremonies and auspicious things,” which comes very close to the Western idea of “superstition” in its perceived opposition to reason. Quite unexpectedly though, what the *Yogācārabhūmi* criticizes under that name is astrology both as a determinist theory of human destiny and as a body of propitiatory practices. In challenging superstition and astrology for their incompatibility with reason and karmic determinism, the *Yogācārabhūmi* often echoes Sarvāstivāda texts such as Kumāralāta’s *Kalpanāmaṅḍitikā* and the *Saddharmasmṛtyupasthānasūtra*. After tracing the genealogy of the Indian Buddhist treatment of superstitious beliefs and practices, the talk will address the *Yogācārabhūmi*’s and parallel texts’ arguments against them.

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15.01.2020

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16:00 Uhr

ESA-OST, Raum 120

Prof. Dr. Dorji Wangchuk (Director)
Khyentse Center for Tibetan Buddhist Textual Scholarship (KC-TBTS)
Abteilung für Kultur und Geschichte Indiens und Tibets, AAI, Universität Hamburg
Alsterterrasse 1, D-20354 Hamburg