

## Einladung

zu einem Gastvortrag

von

**Dr. Vincent Eltschinger**

(Austrian Academy of Sciences)

über das Thema

„The *Yogācārabhūmi*’s Systematic Critique of Vedic Ritual Violence (*himsā*)“

5<sup>th</sup>- and 6<sup>th</sup>-century Buddhist “śāstric” literature reflects interesting and at times formally sophisticated debates between Buddhist intellectuals and Brahmanical ritualists on the issue of sacrificial violence/killing (*himsā*). This is the case of the *Nyāyānusāra* (early 5<sup>th</sup> century?) and the *Madhyamakahrdaya* (mid 6<sup>th</sup> century?) whose authors, respectively Saṅghabhadra and Bhāviveka, criticise early Mīmāṃsaka attempts to dissociate ritual killing from the inauspicious karmic results generally to be expected from murder, ritual or not. In other words, is killing beyond ethical reproach when it is connected to ritual, sanctioned by an authoritative scripture and accompanied by mantras? Saṅghabhadra’s and Bhāviveka’s polemics have been studied by K. Kataoka in a recent paper. However, these Buddhist authors’ critique of the ritualists’ arguments is likely to be indebted to an earlier Buddhist treatise, the *Yogācārabhūmi* (3rd–4th century), whose *paravāda* section (dedicated to the critical examination of sixteen allodox or heterodox beliefs and practices) contains a systematic critique of Brahmanical opinions regarding the moral status of sacrificial violence. The present lecture is aimed at exhibiting the sources, the structure and the posterity of the *Yogācārabhūmi* arguments.

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um  
18.00 Uhr

ESA 1 Hauptgebäude Raum 118

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