

**Einladung**  
zu einem Gastvortrag  
von

Frau  
**Dr. Ligeia Lugli**  
(Mangalam Research Center, Berkeley)

über das Thema

**A Fork in the Middle Path: Empty Words and Mahāyāna  
Hermeneutics in the *Bodhisattvabhūmi***

If intellectual historians could dream up their ideal object of study, they would dream up the *Bodhisattvabhūmi*. Placed at the confluence of Śrāvakayāna, Madhyamaka and Yogācāra, and pervaded by a keen hermeneutic awareness, this text offers invaluable material for the study of the philosophical tensions stirring ancient Buddhist thought. The idea that words are empty designations and commonly experienced reality amounts to ‘only names’ (*nāmamātra* or *prajñaptimātra*) constitutes an important node in the *Bodhisattvabhūmi*’s articulation of the Buddhist tradition and of its own place in it.

This paper investigates the *Bodhisattvabhūmi*’s reformulation of “name only” as a form of semantic middle way between the reification of the referents of language and the total denial of any ontic ground for words. It discusses how this text grapples with competing interpretations of scriptural assertions on *nāmamātra* on

the part of Śrāvakayāna and "śūnyavāda" circles, and highlights the conservative logic that lies behind its own elaborations on this Mahāyāna theme.

am  
**15.04.2015**  
um  
**16:00 Uhr**

**ESA-OST, Raum 209**

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