

Einladung
zu einem Gastvortrag
von

Frau
Dr. Cristina Pecchia
(University of Vienna & Austrian Academy of Sciences)

über das Thema

**The Buddha's Authority:
Omniscience as a Problem in Dharmakīrti's Philosophy**

How do we know that the Buddha's teachings are reliable? This question, which has been significant from the beginning of the history of the Buddhist dharma, has received different answers in the history of Buddhism in South Asia. The answer of the Nikāyas to this question predominantly points at "relying on the dharma and not the person" (Harrison 2003). However, relying on the dharma to some extent entails trusting the words of the Buddha. Especially in negotiating the competition with different opponents, early Buddhist literature points at special characteristics of the Buddha that make him authoritative with regard to the dharma. Omniscience is sometimes mentioned in this connection. This paper examines how the Buddhist philosopher Dharmakīrti (6th–7th century) frames his discussion of omniscience in his larger discourse on the Buddha's authoritativeness. His arguments develop in two opposite directions, namely from the authority of the person to that of the dharma and, in reverse, from the dharma to the person. While considering the Buddhist concerns of which the idea of an omniscient Buddha was part as well as the conceptual paradigms within which Dharmakīrti interpreted this idea, a view of omniscience is outlined that depends on fundamental features of the Buddhist doctrine as well as the larger religious and philosophical terrain in which it develops.

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22.11.2023
um
16:00 Uhr

ESA-Ost, Raum 120

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