

## Khyentse Center Guest Lecture Series

29.04.2026  
16:00 Uhr  
ESA-OST, Raum 120

Dr. Dylan Esler

(84000)

### **Translating Etymologies: Etymological Allusions in the Root and Explanatory Anuyoga Tantras and the Indian Tradition of Semantic Etymology (*Nirvacana*)**

This lecture will look at some etymological allusions found in the root tantra of the Anuyoga tradition, the *Sūtra of All-Embracing Awareness* (*Kun 'dus rig pa'i mdo*, Toh 831), as well as its explanatory tantra, the *Sūtra Comprising the Intentions* (*dGongs pa 'dus pa'i mdo*, Toh 829). It will examine these etymological allusions in the light of the Indian tradition of semantic etymology (Skt. *nirvacana*) and will show how such etymologies can shed light, along with other factors, on the processes of localization and indigenous adaptation that informed the compilation of these scriptures on Tibetan soil or, in other words, the creation of *buddhavacana* for local Tibetan conditions. In this respect, some of the findings presented in this lecture will resonate with observations of a similar nature made by scholars studying some of the other scriptures of the Ancient Tantra Collection (*rNying ma rgyud 'bum*).

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