

Khyentse Center Guest Lecture Series

10.06.2026
16:00 Uhr
ESA-OST, Raum 120

Prof. Dr. Jim Rheingans
(University of Vienna)

A Non-sectarian Scholar of Central and Southern Tibet: Dagpo Tashi Namgyal's (1399–1458) Education and Impact

Among Tibetan scholar-meditators of the long 15th century, Dagpo Tashi Namgyal (Dwags po bKra shis nam rgyal) stands out as non-sectarian erudite, fond of both Sakya teachings and Tsongkhapa, while also having links to Kagyu masters and being portrayed as reincarnation of Longchenpa. Having studied with the eminent scholar Rongtön (1367–1449), he became his successor at the Sakya-seat of learning Nālandra, where he was renowned for his exposition of the *Abhisamayālaṅkāra* and served as lineage holder for several tantric instructions such as the path and fruit (*lam 'bras*). The “Spiritual Biography of the Omniscient bKra shis nam rgyal” (*Kun mkhyen bkra shis nam rgyal gyi nam par mthar* (sic!) *pa*) is his extensive hagiography composed by his nephew Karma Thrinlepa (1456–1539). This paper seeks to continue my previous exploration of this and other sources to outline Tashi Namgyal's broad education, with a focus on his distinctive non-sectarian blend of scholarship and meditative training. The paper also attempts to place his portrayal within the overarching concept of being a scholar in the tradition he primarily represented and asks how school demarcations in the sense of socio-political bodies gradually solidified during this period.

Prof. Dr. Dorji Wangchuk (Director) & Dr. Orna Almogi (Co-director)
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