

Khyentse Center Guest Lecture Series

01.07.2026
16:00 Uhr
ESA-OST, Raum 120

Prof. Dr. Douglas Duckworth
(Temple University)

“The Three Mañjuḥoṣas of Tibet”: An Arrangement of a Harmonic Ensemble

This paper discusses the relationship between three figures who since the nineteenth century came to be known as “the three Mañjuḥoṣas of Tibet.” Sakya Paṇḍita (1182–1251), Tsongkhapa (1357–1419), and Longchenpa (1308–1364) are identified with the “gentle and splendid voice” of the bodhisattva of wisdom, Mañjuśrī. Sakya Paṇḍita initiated a transition between old and new schools of Tibetan epistemology; Tsongkhapa initiated a transition between old and new interpretations of Madhyamaka, and Longchenpa, as the systematizer of the Great Perfection (*rdzogs chen*), initiated a transition to systematic thought on the unconditioned nature of mind in the Great Perfection. Jamyang Khyentsé Chökyi Lodrö (1893–1959) aligned each of them with one of three dimensions of the Buddha’s mind in a devotional text he wrote where Sakya Paṇḍita embodies wisdom as Mañjuśrī, Tsongkhapa embodies compassion as Avalokiteśvara, and Longchenpa embodies power as Vajrapāṇi. This paper shows how these three figures represent a diversity of Buddhist views voiced in Tibet as well as considers how they might be harmonized.

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