    

**VERNACULAR BUDDHISM IN ASIA AND EUROPE**

**May 4-6, 2023**

**University of Tartu, Estonia**

**I International Multidisciplinary Conference**

***All event times listed here follow the time in Tartu, Estonia (GMT+3)***

**Welcome to our Conference!**

**More details:** [**https://kultuuriteadused.ut.ee/en/content/conference-vernacular-buddhism-asia-and-europe**](https://kultuuriteadused.ut.ee/en/content/conference-vernacular-buddhism-asia-and-europe)

**DAY 1**

4 May 2023

**10:00 – 10:30**

*(Address: Lossi 3)*

***Registration and Opening of the Conference***

***Welcoming words of organisers and guests***

**Anti Selart**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Tartu

**Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz**, Head of the Institute for the Science of Religion and Central Asian Studies, University of Bern

**Ülo Valk**, Head of the Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu

**Elo Süld**, Head of the Asia Centre, University of Tartu

**Alevtina Solovyeva**, Head of the Centre for Oriental Studies, University of Tartu

**Madis Arukask**, Estonian Society for the Study of Religions

**Peeter Vähi**, Former head, member of Estonian Buddhist Society

**10:30 – 11:15**

*(Address: Lossi 3)*

**KEYNOTE LECTURE I**

**Prof. Yushuang Yao** (Fo Guang University, Taiwan)

*Buddhism in Taiwan response to the 21 century*

**11:15 – 11:45**

*(Address: Lossi 3)*

**ROUND TABLE:**

(Chair: Alevtina Solovyeva, University of Tartu)

“Sources of Diversity and Research Perspectives in Contemporary Buddhism and Buddhist Studies”

11:45 – 13:00 – Lunch (self-funded)

**13:00 – 15:30**

*(Address: Jakobi 2-114)*

**PANEL I**

**HISTORIES, TEXTS AND CONTEXTS**

(Chair: Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz, University of Bern)

**Bor-Yann Chen** (National I-Lan University, Taiwan)

*Deciphering Characteristics of Herbal Medication for Antiviral Treatment Through Ancient Oriental Philosophy*

**Teet Toome** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

*Two Buddhas in the Lotus Sutra*

**Mart Tšernjuk** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

*Early Buddhist commentaries on the Zhuangzi*

**Elli Marie Tragel** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

*Investigating transformations of meaning-making in mozhao Chan*

14:10 – 14:20 - Coffee-break

**Tenzin Tsenyi** (University of Warsaw, Poland) - **online**

*Mahasiddha Nyag re se bo (1141? -1201) activity at Kam po gnas nang as described in the early 17th-century guidebook from the Pander Collection in Cracow*

**Gyan Prakash** (Indian Institute of Technology, Dhanbad, India) - **online**

*The Buddhist Notion of Avidyā in Translation*

**Tadas Snuviškis** (Lithuanian Culture Research Institute, Lithuania) - **online**

*Eighteenth Century Japanese Buddhists Debating Indian Philosophy: The Case of Kiben Daidōbō (1718-1791, 基辨大同房)*

**Stephen C. Berkwitz** (Missouri State University, USA) - **online**

*Rethinking Vernacular Buddhism: Language and Text in Medieval Sri Lanka*

***Q&A, Discussion***

15:30 – 15:40 – Coffee-break

15:40 – 18:10

**PANEL II**

**IMAGES, TRADITIONS AND TECHNOLOGIES IN BUDDHISM**

(Chair: Mart Tšernjuk, University of Tartu)

**Leho Rubis** (Independent scholar and artist, Estonia)

*Depicting the ineffable. The question of roots and interpretation in Buddhist iconic art vernacular or monastic?*

**Michaela Wisler** (University of Bern, Switzerland)

Mandalas, Bodhisattvas and Dakinis. Buddhist ideas and motives in Contemporary Mongolian Art

**Jane Orton** (Independent scholar, UK)

*Refuge in the Horn of a Yak: Wild Ungulates and Protector Deities of the Northwest Himalayas*

17:00 – 17:10 – Coffee-break

**Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz** (University of Bern, Switzerland), **Alevtina Solovyeva** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

*Exploring vernacular Buddhism through pictures: the translation project of the Vajracchedikā-Prajñāparāmitā commentary*

**Jin Jr Shi** (Dharma Realm Buddhist University, USA) - **online**

*Mindless and/or Mindful Truth(s): Headless Currere with the Lost Luminous Mind*

**Rustam Sabirov** (Moscow State University, RF) - **online**

*Buddha Ex Machina: Robots in East Asian Buddhism*

***Q&A, Discussion***

**18:10 – 19:00 - Concert “Sound of two”**

Tartu University Cafe (Ülikooli 20, Tartu)

**Leho Rubis** (Indian bamboo flute *bansuri*)

**Liina Vainumetsa** (Indian drone instrument *tanpuri*)

**Roland Suits** (Japanese bamboo flute *shakuhachi*)

The concert features traditional Japanese and Indian music. *Shakuhachi* appeared in Japan in the 15-16th centuries, and Zen Buddhism monks had a significant impact on the development of the instrument’s repertoire. The *bansuri*, which plays an important role in Indian mythology, became a popular instrument of North Indian classical music in the mid-20th century.

**19:00 - 22:00 - RECEPTION**

Tartu University Cafe (Ülikooli 20, Tartu)

**DAY 2**

5 May 2023

**(Address: Jakobi 2-114)**

**10:00 – 10:45**

**KEYNOTE LECTURE II**

**Prof. Per Kværne** (University of Oslo, Norway) - **online**

*The Concept of Vernacular Religion in the Context of Tibetan Buddhism*

10:45 – 11:00 – Coffee-break

**11:00 – 12:45**

**PANEL III**

**PHILOSOPHIES, ECO-COSMOLOGIES AND PRACTICES**

(Chair: Teet Toome, University of Tartu)

**Zhou Maojia** (Drukmo Gyal) (Tallinn University, Estonia)

*Practising Sowa Rigpa and Buddhist Ethics in the Estonian Healthcare Landscape*

**Bair Kovaeva** *(Kalmyk State University, RF) -* **online**

*The Image of the Doctor Zodv Dava in the Memory of the Kalmyks*

**Kikee Doma Bhutia** (University of Tartu, Estonia)

*Shindré (spirit of the dead): Vernacular Buddhist practices surrounding death and dying among the Lhopo of Sikkim*

**Ellara Omakaeva** *(Kalmyk State University, RF) -* **online**

*The Phenomenon of the Calendar and Holiday of the Kalmyks in the Context of Vernacular Buddhism and Buddhist Astrology*

**Hari Babu Boddu** (Magadh University, India) - **online**

*The Concept of Pilgrimage to Kalyanamitras (Good Friends) to attain Bodhisattva-path: A Unique Mahayana Philosophy as Gleaned from Gandavyuha-Sutra*

**Yu-Yin Hsu** (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany) *-* **online**

*Buddhist Rituals with the Public: The Rebuilding Ceremony of Buddha's Birth in Colonial Taiwan*

**Venerable Shimo Sraman** (Thailand)

*Why Do Human Beings live in Hate: A View from the Buddhist Perspective*

***Q&A, Discussion***

12:45 – 14:00 – Lunch (self-funded)

14:00 – 15:45

**PANEL IV**

**CHANGES AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS**

(Chair: Kikee Doma Bhutia, University of Tartu)

**Martin Baumann** (University of Lucerne, Switzerland) - **online**

*Engaging for the Common Good. Scope and Typology of Civic Engagement in Switzerland*

**Storm Obuchowski** (University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

*Leisure, Opportunity, and Ritual at Rabten Choeling Buddhist Monastery and Centre for Higher Tibetan Studies, Mont Pèlerin, Switzerland*

**Mungunchimeg Batmunkh** (University of Bern, Switzerland)

*Buddhist education in Austria*

**Nattaporn Kaimook, Onusa Suwanpratest** (Naresuan University, Thailand)

*The Divergence of Buddhist Tourism in Contemporary Thai Society: A Case Study of Wat Phra Si Rattana Mahathat Woramahawihan, Phitsanulok Province, Thailand*

**Sonali Kumari** (Banaras Hindu University, India)

*Buddhism and Feminism: Life Narrative Studies and Memoir*

**Sushma Trivedi** (University of Lucknow, India)

The Quasi-Religious Women in Thervada Buddhism: Evaluating the Spiritual Horizon and Social Engagement of Das Sila Māta in Sri Lanka

***Q&A, Discussion***

15:45 – 16:00 – Coffee-break

16:00 – 18:45

**PANEL V**

**COMMUNITIES, STRATEGIES AND LOCAL SOURCES OF DIVERSITY**

(Chair: Ülo Valk, University of Tartu)

**Parjanya Sen** (Deshbandhu College for Girls, University of Calcutta, India)

*From the ‘Canonical’ to the ‘Local’: Whole-Body Relics and Vernacular Buddhism*

**Alok Kumar Verma** (Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, India)

*A Dialogue on Diversity of Buddhism in Asia, Europe, and Western Regions*

**Patawee Promsen** (Naresuan University, Thailand)

*Muban-sin-ha: Vernacular Religion of the Karen in Li District, Northern Thailand*

**Krisztina Teleki** (Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary) - **online**

*Buddhist Landscape of the Khangai Mountains in Mongolia*

**Anastasia Pogadaeva** (Independent researcher, Switzerland)

*Mutual Influence of Korean Buddhism and traditional Beliefs (on the example of ritual songs hyanga and shamanism)*

17:30 – 17:10 - Coffee-break

**Onusa Suwanpratest, Nattaporn Kaimook** (Naresuan University, Thailand)

*Changes in Meanings of Wat Thai: A Case Study of Saman Rattanaram Temple in Chachoengsao province, Thailand*

**Sajal Barua** (The University of Hong Kong, PRC)

*Revival of Buddhism in Bangladesh and its Socio-cultural Challenges*

**Lyudmila Klasanova (**Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Bulgaria) - **online**

Emerging and Development of Buddhist Communities in Bulgaria

**Mykyta Barkovskyi** (Hryhoriy Skovoroda Institute of Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine) - **online**

*The activities of Bhante Narada in the context of the spread of Theravada teachings in Ukraine*

***Q&A, Discussion***

**DAY 3**

6 May 2023

**(Address: Jakobi 2-114)**

**10:00 – 10:45**

**KEYNOTE LECTURE III**

**Dr. Märt Läänemets** (Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, former Head of Centre for Oriental Studies, of the University of Tartu)

*Scholarly Buddhism and Vernacular Buddhism in Estonia and Beyond*

10:45 – 11:30

**Conclusive discussions and future plans**

11:30 – **Cultural program** (for a choice):

1. Excursions in Tartu
2. A Day Trip to the Religious Sites in South Estonia

**Organising Committee:**

**Alevtina Solovyeva** (the main organiser, Centre for Oriental Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Elo Süld** (Asia Centre, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz** (Institute for the Science of Religion and Central Asian Studies, University of Bern, Switzerland)

**Kikee Doma Bhutia** (Asia Centre, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Mart Tšernjuk** (Asia Centre, Estonian Oriental Society, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Teet Toome** (Centre for Oriental Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Ülo Valk** (Department of Estonian and Comparative Folklore, University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Yushuang Yao** (Graduate Institute of Religious Studies, Fo Guang University, Taiwan)