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DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN BUDDHIST STUDIES
PROMOTIONSPROGRAMM BUDDHISMUS-STUDIEN



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Lecture by Prof. Bart Dessein

Prof. Dr. Bart Dessein, Ghent University

Date: Friday, October 20th, 2017

Time: 14:00 o'clock (c.t.)

Location: Geschwister-Scholl Platz 1, Room A 020

Madhyamaka critique on the Sarvāstivādin interpretation of causality

An important outcome of the Madhyamaka development of the Sarvāstivādin atomic vision of reality has been that the mundane world was seen as devoid of any self-nature. This conclusion has had major ramifications for the concept of the working of 'causality'. In this lecture, this development will be discussed using the relevant passages of three main textual sources: the Chinese translation of the Sarvāstivādin **Saṃyuktābhīdharmahr̥daya* (*Za apitan xin lun*, T.1552), the Chinese translation of the Madhyamaka **Dvādaśadvāraka* (*Shi'er men lun*, T.1568), and Jizang's commentary *Shi'er men lun shu* (T.1825) on the latter text.

About the Speaker:

Bart Dessein (PhD. 1994, Ghent University, Belgium) is full professor at the Department of Languages and Cultures of Ghent University Belgium. He currently is the President of the European Association for Chinese Studies and the Vice President of the European Association for Chinese Philosophy. He also is the Director for the Class of Humanities of the Belgian Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences. He has published mainly on early Buddhist philosophy (Sarvāstivāda, Mahāsāṃghika, Madhyamaka).