

GUEST LECTURE IN INDOLOGY AND TIBETOLOGY

Montag, 3. Juli 2023, 18–20 Uhr s.t., Ludwigstr. 31, 427

Buddhism on the West Coast: The ancient sites of Sopara and Kanheri in Konkan

Prof. Dr. Pia Brancaccio (Drexel University)



Abstract

This talk will discuss the Buddhist centers of Sopara and Kanheri that flourished around the beginning of the Common Era on the ancient estuary of the river Ulhas. The two sites will be presented in relation with each other. In particular, their distinctive patronage base, long-distance reach, and the role they played in maritime Buddhist networks will be addressed, in order to shed light on the later phases of Buddhist activity in the region of Konkan.

About the speaker

Pia Brancaccio is Professor in the Department of Art and Art History at Drexel University in Philadelphia, USA. Her research focuses on early Buddhist art and long-distance exchange in South Asia with a regional emphasis on the visual cultures of ancient Gandhara (Pakistan) and the Deccan Plateau (India). She has published extensively on the Buddhist caves in Western Deccan, including a monograph on *The Buddhist Caves at Aurangabad* and the edited volume *Living Rock*. She has been also a longstanding collaborator of the ISMEO-Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan and has written on architecture, visual narratives, artistic workshops and the multicultural fabric of Buddhism in Gandhara.