



LUDWIG-
MAXIMILIANS-
UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNCHEN

FAKULTÄT FÜR KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN
DEPARTMENT FÜR ASIENSTUDIEN
INSTITUT FÜR INDOLOGIE UND TIBETOLOGIE



GUEST LECTURE IN INDOLOGY AND TIBETOLOGY

Montag, 12. Juni 2023, 18–20 Uhr s.t., Ludwigstr. 31, 427

The *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā*: An Ancient Yoga Compendium

PD Dr. Philipp Maas (Universität Leipzig)

Abstract

“The Compendium of Dharmaputra” (*Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā*) is a metrical composition on yoga that was possibly composed as early as the sixth century CE by an author who referred to himself as the “son of Dharmaśīla.” This work, which declares itself to be a summary of the yoga teaching first promulgated by Sanaka (one of the mythic sons of the god Brahmā) for the instruction of novices, provides a systematic account of a method to obtain either supernatural powers, possession of a new body, or spiritual liberation. In spite of the extraordinary relevance of this work for research in the early history of yoga and religion in pre-modern South Asia, the *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā* had received comparatively little scholarly attention until the publication of Christèle Barois' seminal research article “The *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā*: Preliminary Notes on an Early Text on Yoga” in the *Journal of Yoga Studies* in 2020. In her almost book-length publication, Barois convincingly argues for an early date of the *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā* and a religious milieu of origin that was only marginally connected with Śaivism. Over the last couple of years, Dr. Barois and I have worked jointly on a critical edition of the *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā* on the basis of the twenty available manuscript sources (including one manuscript from the Institute of Indology at the LMU, Munich) and the printed edition by Yogin Naraharinātha (Kathmandu 1998). Our editorial work has considerably refined our knowledge of Dharmaputra's works, especially concerning its original language of composition, its transmission history, and the usage of Buddhist terminology in the first chapter, “on yogic means” (*sādhana-parakaraṇa*).

About the speaker

PD Dr. Philipp André Maas is a Research Associate at the Institute for Indology and Central Asian Studies at Leipzig University in the research project “Digital Critical Edition of the Nyāyabhāṣya,” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Previously he worked as an Assistant Professor at the Department for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies University of Vienna and as a Research Associate at the University of Bonn. Besides the philosophy of Nyāya, Sāṅkhya-Yoga, Indian medicine (Āyurveda), the history of philosophy and religion in early classical India, Sanskrit narrative literature and the methodology of textual criticism figure prominently in his research and teaching.