

ÖAW

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TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2022
START: 5 PM CET
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELLSGASSE 19, 1010 VIENNA
AND VIA LIVE STREAM



GEORG BÜHLER LECTURES

POETIC DEVICES, LITERARY STYLES, AND COMPOSITIONAL STRATEGIES IN EARLY INDIC EPIGRAPHS

DIWAKAR ACHARYA
Oxford University

WELCOME

Ernst Steinkellner | Professor emer. for Buddhist Studies and Tibetology at the University of Vienna, former Director of the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

Organization and Moderation:

Hannes Fellner | Department of Linguistics, University of Vienna
Nina Mirnig | Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences

In honour of Georg Bühler's achievements in the field of Indian epigraphy and his pioneering work on epigraphical poetry, this talk will discuss poetic devices, literary style, and compositional structures and strategies found in a number of early Sanskrit and Prakrit inscriptions up to the end of the sixth century CE. However, going beyond the typical eulogical *praśasti* inscriptions – that is to say the genre of epigraphical composition in praise of the ruler – this talk will examine the entire corpus of early Indic inscriptions, tracing the gradually increasing incorporation of formalising elements such as blessings or *maṅgala* verses, regnal years, royal genealogies, formulaic instructions providing political and administrative information, descriptions of donations, warnings, and dates. It will then further explore and analyse these elements in some selected inscriptions of the Indian Satavahana, Andhra Ikshvaku, Western Kshatrapa, Gupta, and Nepalese Licchavi kings.



Diwakar Acharya (PhD in Indology, University of Hamburg, 2004) is Spalding Professor of Eastern Religions and Ethics at the University of Oxford and a fellow of All Souls College. His research covers a wide range of topics in Sanskrit literature, Indian religious and philosophical traditions, and the early history of Nepal. His publications include *Vācaspatimiśra's Tattvasamīkṣā* (Stuttgart 2006), *The Little Clay Cart* (New York 2009), and *Early Tantric Vaiṣṇavism* (Paris/Pondicherry 2015). He has also published numerous articles on a wide array of topics in Indology, ranging from the early Upaniṣads to the philosophical systems of South Asia, from early inscriptions to pre-modern documents, and from poetry to ritual literature.

Please register, using the QR code or visit

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If you have selected to attend the event via live stream, you will receive the log-in details via email after registering.

You are warmly invited to join us for a reception after the lectures.

ORGANIZER: Austrian Academy of Sciences

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We would like to inform you that photos and film recordings (image and sound) will be made during the lecture.