

ÖAW

AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

TUESDAY, 16 APRIL 2024
START: 5 PM CEST
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASSE 19, 1010 VIENNA
AND VIA LIVE STREAM



GEORG BÜHLER LECTURES

BEYOND INDIA

ABOUT SCRATCHINGS, SCRIBBLINGS AND
BUDDHISTS IN THE WEST OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

INGO STRAUCH

University of Lausanne

WELCOME

BIRGIT KELLNER | *Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia,
Austrian Academy of Sciences*

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 recent years, a considerable number of Indic epigraphic documents have been discovered that originated outside the Indian subcontinent. Most of them are directly related to the commercial activities of Indian merchants and seafarers across the complex network of trade routes that connected the Indian world with the West in the early centuries of the Common Era.

These inscriptions are of various types – from short scratches on broken shards, scribbled graffiti in a remote natural cave on the isolated island of Socotra, to a recently discovered Buddhist dedication in a temple of Isis on the Red Sea coast. Although many of them are short and not always easy to evaluate, these scattered texts are of eminent importance for our knowledge of Indian Ocean trade links and the role of Indian merchants in these trading activities.

The lecture will reassess the available epigraphic evidence and discuss its implications for the history of intercontinental trade in the first centuries of the Common Era.



Ingo Strauch is Professor for Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies at the University of Lausanne. His research focuses on the history and literature of early South Asian Buddhism and on Indian epigraphy and palaeography.

Please register, using the QR code or visit www.oeaw.ac.at/veranstaltungen/aktuelle-veranstaltungen
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.