

ABSTRACT

'Tantra' is an ambiguous discourse rather than an empirical object of research. Dismissed during the colonial period as a set of sinister black magical practices, it has, in recent decades, become a topic of the most elaborate philological research on speculative philosophy and soteriology. It seems that the very definition of tantra has thereby shifted from impure substances, shocking rituals and magical claims to power to philosophical or soteriological speculations in esoteric, classical Sanskrit texts.

This workshop aims to bring scholars with different academic training and expertise into interdisciplinary dialogue. Philologists, historians, and anthropologists specializing in tantra in South, Central and Southeast Asia are invited to engage in an interdisciplinary exchange regarding tantric text practices to cast new light not only on the transcultural history of tantric traditions, but also on the respective reasons for its lasting relevance in different Asian societies.

The workshop is organized by the CRC 933 subproject C07 "Sacred and Holy Scripture. On the Materiality and Function of Competing Systems of Writing during the Formation of the Religious Field in Bali".

CONTACT




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SFB 933 "MATERIALE TEXTKULTUREN"

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In Kooperation mit:



Gefördert von:



WORKSHOP

TANTRIC TEXT PRACTICES AS INTERSECTION

BETWEEN MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE AND
SELF-LIBERATION

28.–29. Oktober 2022



PROGRAMME

Friday, 28. Oktober 2022

SEKTION I: TWO DEFINITIONS OF TANTRA –
PUBLIC RITUAL VS MAGICAL TEXTS
AND PRACTICES (INDIA, TIBET, BALI)

14.00–16.00 Sacrificial Tantrism
GAVIN FLOOD (Oxford)

Elements of Tantrism in Balinese Rituals
IDA BAGUS PUTU SUAMBA (Denpasar)

16.00–16.15 Coffee Break

16.15–18.15 Between Magic Rituals and Liberation:
The Case of the Vajrabhairavatantra
ALEKSANDRA WENTA (Firenze)

Popular Tantra in North India: a Com-
parison of Tantrik Practice in Garhwal
with the Shabara Tantra(s)
WILLIAM SAX (Heidelberg)

Saturday, 29. Oktober 2022

SEKTION II: TANTRA BETWEEN MUNDANE MAGIC,
ELITE LITERACY AND SOTERIOLOGY
(INDIA, JAVA, BALI)

10.00–13.00 Tantra as post-emic: Towards compara-
tive and transregional ethnographies of
lived Tantra
CAROLA LOREA (Singapore)

Vajrayāna, the State, Black Magic,
and the Possibility of Śaiva-Bauddha
Syncretism – The View from India
PETER-DANIEL SZANTO (Budapest)

Tantra in the Pre-Islamic Sunda
ADITIA GUNAWAN (Paris)

13.00–14.00 Lunch Break

14.00–16.00 The figure of Kawi in Old Javanese
textual tradition: priest of a literary
magic or a worshipper of Kāma?
JIRI JAKL (Heidelberg)

«Theory» vs. «Practice» in the Java-
nese-Balinese Śaiva Textual Corpus
ANDREA ACRI (Paris)

16.00–16.15 Coffee Break

16.15–18.15 Tantric Ambiguities. Locating Bali's
Esoteric Text Practices between Magic
and Moksa
ANNETTE HORNbacher (Heidelberg)

Some Tantric Careers
GEOFFREY SAMUEL (Sydney)

18.15–19.00 Final Discussion

