



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE
Department of Cultural and
Religious History of South Asia



**UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG**
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

DEPARTMENT COLLOQUIUM

Introduction to the Kāśyapaparivarta, an Early Mahāyāna Sūtra, & the Reading of a Passage Thereof

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*In me the tiger sniffs the rose. Look in my heart, kind friends, and tremble, Since there your
elements assemble.*

Siegfried Sassoon (1886–1967)

“In me, past, present, future meet”

What happens to a yogic practitioner who realizes Emptiness of all objects? Why is such a mental image described as a peril? Is it possible to disentangle an intriguing simile from various interpretations superimposed on it by the traditions? How does literary playfulness interact with philosophical innovation in a Buddhist context? The present speaker is going to address these questions through the looking lens of the Kāśyapaparivarta, an early Mahāyāna sūtra. The talk starts with a general introduction to the text with special focus on its textual history and doctrinal background. The introduction is followed by a case study, which navigates the audience through the passage §68 of the Kāśyapaparivarta, which consists of an idiosyncratic simile likening a monk seeing all objects as void to a magician devoured by his own magical creation. Recondite as it may seem, the simile has been subject to some well-contrived interpretations in the Yogācāra tradition. Having examined the various interpretations and textual witnesses, the speaker argues that all the translators and commentators, both ancient and modern, have overlooked a pun inherent in the simile, the source of which is to be sought in Middle Indic.

Tuesday, May 7th,

16.00 - 18.00 Hrs (c.t.)

VENUE:

CATS, Building 4010, EG/SR 06 (010.00.06)