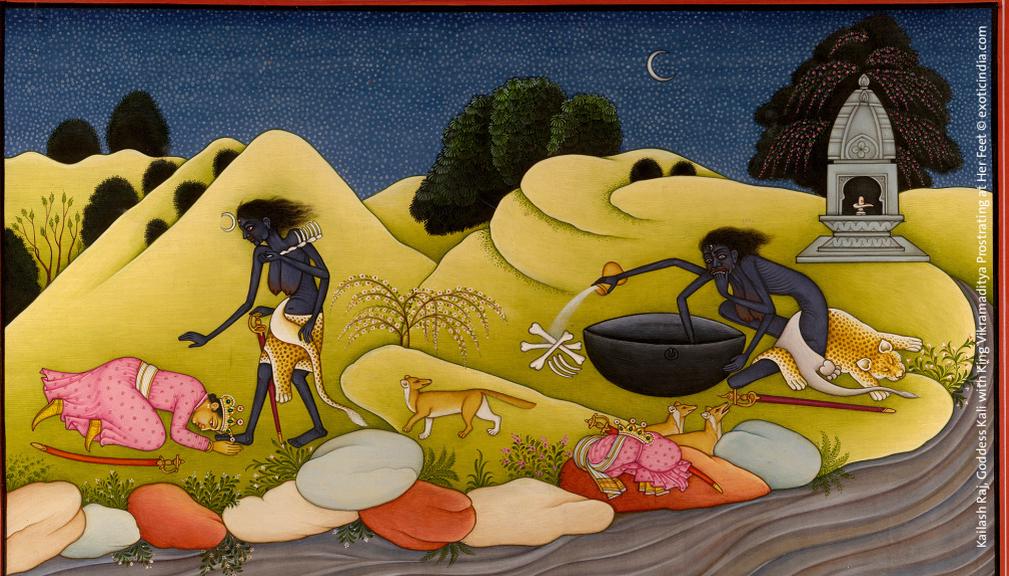




University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies – Indian Studies  
University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe



1<sup>st</sup> Zurich International Conference on  
Indian Literature and Philosophy (ZICILP)

“Transgression and Encounters  
with the Terrible in Buddhist  
and Śaiva Tantras”

University of Zurich, 19–20 February 2016

Religious-philosophical texts, doctrines and practices referred to by scholars as “Tantric” are renowned for propagating not only liberation, but also the acquisition of extra-ordinary powers as a goal initiated adepts should strive for. The latter includes also ritual practices that entail an infringement of the (often Veda based) rules and norms that usual regulate socio-ritual behaviour. For instance, the ritual consumption of “impure” products of the body, ritualized cannibalism, the use of body parts of the victim in a variety of magic procedures, illicit sexual practices belong to a typical set of transgressive practices that can be found in many early Śaiva and Buddhist Tantras. Encounters with frightening, terrible aspects of gods and goddesses as well as with horrible demonic and other non-human powers are also important aspects of the empowerment of the adepts. These elements are characteristic for Tantrism as a religious formation that has been followed across various Hindu and Buddhist traditions not only in South Asia, but also in South-East and East Asia.

The conference aims to explore different levels at which Buddhist and Śaiva Tantras are interconnected. The focus is on the ritual and dogmatic similarities between these two religious traditions in relation to transgressive rituals and encounters of the practitioners with frightening and ambivalent beings (*yoginīs, dākinīs, rākṣasas*, etc.) brought about by those rituals. It shall be discussed how the inclusion of transgression and the horrible is conceptualized in Buddhist and Śaiva texts, and in which ways such practices are related to or embedded in standard normative contexts.

This event inaugurates the **Zurich International Conference on Indian Literature and Philosophy (ZICILP)**. This conference is dedicated to the study of the history and selected themes of Indian Literature and Philosophy in the past and present. This international conference aims to bring together scholars from various fields for discussing their research and further developing the scope and the methods of study. The conference is regularly hosted by the Department of Indian Studies of the Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich.

#### **Location**

University of Zurich  
Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies  
Room RAA E-29  
Rämistrasse 59  
CH-8001 Zurich

#### **Organizers**

Prof. Dr. Angelika Malinar  
Dr. Olga Serbaeva

#### **Contact**

[olga.serbaeva@aoi.uzh.ch](mailto:olga.serbaeva@aoi.uzh.ch)

## Day 1: Friday, 19 February 2016

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- 9:30-10:15**     **Angelika Malinar and Olga Serbaeva, University of Zurich**  
Welcome  
Introduction: Configurations of the Terrible in Indian Religions
- 10:15–11:00**     **Harunaga Isaacson, Hamburg University**  
The Interrelations of Śaiva and Buddhist Tantric Traditions
- 11:00–11:30**     **Coffee Break**
- 11:30–12:15**     **Péter-Dániel Szántó, Oxford University**  
Unknown Fragments of Cakrasaṃvara Literature
- 12:15–13:00**     **David Gray, Santa Clara University**  
Laughing in the Face of Fear: Horror and Terror in Yoginītantras
- 13:00–14:15**     **Lunch**
- 14:15–15:00**     **Tsunehiko Sugiki, Kaichi International University**  
Maṇḍalas of the Heart, Quasi-heart, and Armor Mantras in the Cakrasaṃvara Buddhist Literature—Kambala’s Sādhananidhi Chap 8, the Abhidhānottara Chaps 37, 51, 52, and 59, and the Two Sādhanas from the Sādhanamālā
- 15:00–15:15**     **Coffee Break**
- 15:15–16:00**     **Olga Serbaeva, University of Zurich**  
Killing a Seven-times-born: Saptajanmapaśu in Śaiva Traditions and in the Abhidhānottara
- 16:00–16:45**     **Shaman Hatley, University of Massachusetts**  
Khatvāṅgalakṣaṇa: The Fashioning of a Tantric Skull-staff
- 16:45–17:30**     **Yonghyun Lee, Sungkyunkwan University**  
The Significance of the Kālacakramaṇḍala for Abhayākara Gupta’s Vajrāvalī System
- 19:00**             **Conference Dinner**

## Day 2: Saturday, 20 February 2016

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- 9:30–10:15**    **Somdev Vasudeva, Kyoto University**  
Disease-provoking Yoginīs
- 10:15–10:45**    **Coffee Break**
- 10:45–11:30**    **Judit Törzsök, Lille University**  
Who Are the Śākinīs? Explorations into the Yoginī Typology of Early Śākta Tantras
- 11:30–12:15**    **Andrea Acri, Nalanda University and ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute**  
The Many Faces of Bhairava. Power, Transgression, and the Terrific Numinous in the Javano-Balinese World
- 12:15–13:00**    **Jung Lan Bang, Hamburg University**  
Cheating Death in the Tantrasadbhāvantra and related Śaiva and Buddhist texts
- 13:00–14:15**    **Lunch**
- 14:15–15:00**    **Elisa Ganser, Zurich University**  
When Dramatic Performance Domesticated Tantric Ritual: Insights on Mimicry, Parody and Oblivion of Transgressive Practices from Medieval Dramaturgical Sources
- 15:00–15:30**    **Coffee Break**
- 15:30–16:30**    **Closing Discussion**  
Modalities of the Terrible and Transgressive in Buddhist and Śaiva Tantras
- 16:30–18:30**    **Workshop**  
Abhidhānottaratantra: Why Would We Need a Critical Edition?

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