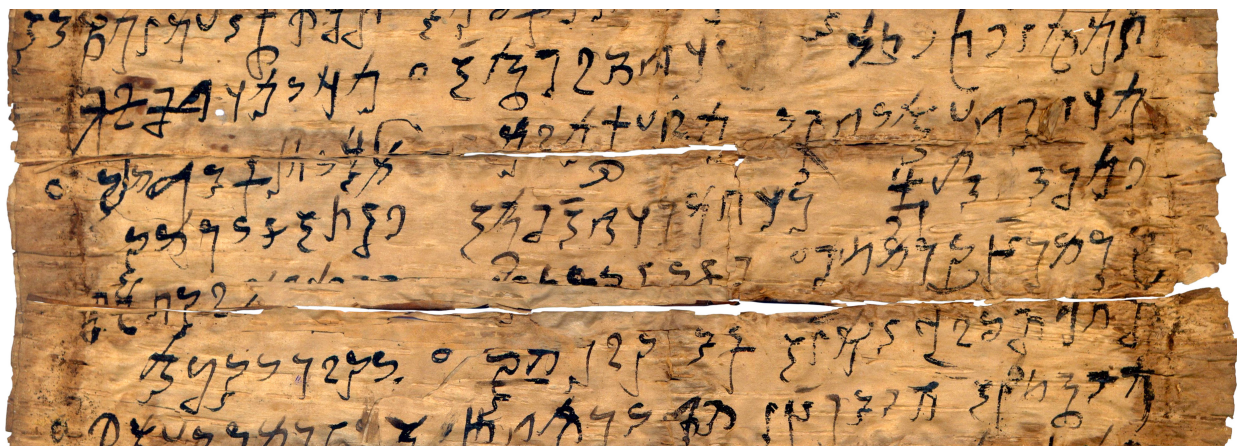


Workshop and colloquium on an early *rājanīti* text from Gandhāra

1–3 July 2025

IBZ, Amalienstraße 38, 80799 München

The central topic of the workshop is an early *rājanīti* text from about the 2nd century A.D. It has come down to us on a unique birch bark scroll (Bajaur Collection 9), which is one of the oldest known manuscripts of Buddhism and the South Asian cultural area in general. While the verso contains a scholastic text that can be clearly attributed to Buddhism, the text on the recto contains no specifically Buddhist terms. It consists of forty verses addressed to an unnamed king, giving him advice on governance and warfare. The manuscript is written in Kharoṣṭhī script in a Sanskritized form of the Gāndhārī language.



The two-day workshop and the subsequent one-day colloquium accompany the edition of this manuscript as part of the academy project “Early Buddhist Manuscripts from Gandhāra” (Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities / LMU in collaboration with Prof. Ingo Strauch from the Université de Lausanne).

The workshop (July 1 and 2) will discuss difficult or unclear text passages. The colloquium (July 3) serves to evaluate the historical context, which will be examined in short lectures and discussion rounds.

Leading experts from around the world have been invited to this event. Among them, Prof. em. Patrick Olivelle will give a public lecture on July 1, entitled “Origins of Dharmaśāstra. Why? Who? When?”; a topic that is of great importance not only for the understanding of the manuscript text, but also for Indology in general.

While the workshop itself is reserved for the smaller circle of experts, the lecture and colloquium are aimed at all interested listeners, whom we cordially invite to attend.



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DEPARTMENT FÜR ASIENSTUDIEN
INSTITUT FÜR INDOLOGIE UND TIBETOLOGIE



IBZ, Amalienstraße 38, 80799 München

Tuesday, 1 July 2025

16:30–18:00 **Prof. em. Patrick Olivelle**, University of Texas, USA
Origins of Dharmaśāstra. Why? Who? When?

In this talk I want to pose a question central to the history of Dharmaśāstra. Why are there Dharmaśāstras rather than no Dharmaśāstras? Or to put it more prosaically: How and why did the genre of literature called Dharmaśāstra come into being? Who invented it and for what reasons? We can and must ask historical, sociological, political, and economic questions as to their origins. That is the only way we can posit an adequate and solid basis for any further inquiry into them. That is what I want to explore here. There will be no earth-shattering revelations, but just a preliminary outline, a sketch of a beginning.

Thursday, 3 July 2025

Colloquium to discuss the historical context of the manuscript.

- 10:00–10:15 **Dr. Andrea Schlosser**, LMU
Introduction and open questions
- 10:15–11:15 **Prof. Mark McClish**, Northwestern University, USA
Genres and forms of the early Nīti tradition
- 11:15–12:00 **Dr. Gudrun Melzer**, LMU
Arthaśāstra and Nīti texts in the Gilgit manuscripts
- 12:00–13:00 Lunch
- 13:15–14:00 **Dr. des. Kelsey Martini**, LMU
The importance of economics in the *Adhyakṣapracāra* and BC 9r:
An examination of historical influence
- 14:00–14:45 **Alessandro Giudice**, M.A., Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Italy
The contents of BC 9r compared to (what can be reconstructed about)
the administration of Gandhāra
- 15:00–16:00 **Prof. Tournier, Prof. Squarcini, Dr. Baums, Dr. des. Barchi**, and guests
General feedback
- 16:00–17:00 **Prof. Ingo Strauch**, Université de Lausanne
Concluding remarks

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