

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together textual experts and art historians around the same table and discuss which texts have inspired the artists and their mentors when depicting the events related to the life of the Buddha. The important events in the life of Gautama Buddha are not consistently depicted in the ancient and contemporary art schools of Asia, and it is quite possible that these differences are due to confusion and irregularity in the way events are narrated in the sacred texts.

It is important to examine how the *Lalitavistara*, the *Mahāvastu* and the *Buddhacarita*, as well as the Chinese and Tibetan translations of the original Sanskrit texts of the *Abhiniṣkramaṇa sūtra* and the *Mūlasarvāstivāda vinaya*, have inspired the South Asian artists and their mentors. In addition to the well-known Sanskrit texts, many other insights into the history of Buddhism have gradually emerged from the efforts of several scholarly projects based on Gāndhārī Buddhist literature.

In contrast, the *Nidānakathā*, the *Jinacaritaṃ*, the *Dhammapadāṭṭhakathā*, the *Mahāparinibbāṇa Sutta* in the *Dīgha Nikayā*, among many Pāli sources composed in Sri Lanka, inspired Sri Lankan and to a certain extent Southeast Asian iconographies.

In this exercise, we also hope to discuss the Vedic inspirations of Buddhist literature and art. It will be important to highlight the sensitive links between text and image in both lineages, in order to better understand what is represented and why.



Contact

osmund.bopearachchi@ens.fr
gducoeur@unistra.fr

Sacred Texts and Iconographies relating the Life of the Buddha Contradictions and Confusions



Colloque international

11 - 12 juin 2024

Salle de conférence de la MISHA
allée du Général Rouvillois — Strasbourg

MARDI 11 JUIN

- 09.00 Accueil des participants
- 09.20-09.40 Ouverture du colloque
Guillaume DUCŒUR (Université de Strasbourg)
Osmund BOPEARACHCHI (CNRS-ENS, AIBL)
- 09.40-10.20 Oskar von HINÜBER (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)
Text is Text and Art is Art, but always the Twain should meet. Some Thoughts Based on Images of events in the Life of the Buddha
- 10.20-10.40 Susmita BASU MAJUMDAR (University of Calcutta)
Transcending Boundaries in Honour of Professor Bopearachchi
- 10.40-11.00 Pause
- 11.00-11.40 Norihisa BABA (University of Tokyo)
Dharmacakra and Dharmatrāta

Présidence
Henri-Paul FRANCFORT
(Membre de l'Institut)

- 14.00-14.40 Richard SALOMON (University of Washington)
Gandhari Materials Concerning the Biography of the Buddha
- 14.40-15.20 Jessie PONS (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Roy TZOHAR (Tel Aviv University)
Multi-modal Buddhist history: Exploring Narrative Traditions through the Analysis of Text-image. Relations, Āśvaghoṣa and Gandhāra
- 15.20-15.40 Pause
- 15.40-16.20 Max DEEG (University of Cardiff)
Locating Which Biography? The Life of the Buddha According to Xuanzang's 'Record of the Western Regions' (Datang Xiyu ji)
- 16.20-17.00 Robert GOLDMAN (University of California, Berkeley)
The Tales of Two 'Ghoṣas' Some Interesting Variants in the Two Accounts of the Early Life of the Buddha as Narrated by Āśvaghoṣa in his Buddhacarita and the Pali Atthakathā, or Nidāna Dubiously Attributed to Buddhaghōṣa

MERCREDI 12 JUIN

Présidence
Osmund BOPEARACHCHI
(CNRS-ENS, AIBL)

- 09.00-09.40 Peter SKILLING (Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok)
Agonizing about Texts, celebrating Mythography
- 09.40-10.20 Kyong-kon KIM (Université de Strasbourg)
L'avant dernière existence du futur Buddha Śākyamuni au ciel des Tuṣita
- 10.20-10.40 Pause
- 10.40-11.20 Monika ZIN (Universität Leipzig)
Key experiences of the young Siddhārtha
- 11.20-12.00 Guillaume DUCŒUR (Université de Strasbourg)
Marier le Buddha à postériori : approche textuelle et iconographique d'un rite domestique

Présidence
Céline REDARD
(Université de Strasbourg)

- 14.20-15.00 Robert H. SHARF (University of California, Berkeley)
What Ānanda Teaches Us about Siddhārtha's Awakening
- 15.00-15.40 Osmund BOPEARACHCHI (CNRS-ENS, AIBL)
The Life of the Buddha as depicted on the Sāñcī Stūpa: Distinct Visual Narratives in the Absence of written Textual Sources: Seven Weeks after his Enlightenment and Twin Miracle
- 15.40-16.00 Pause
- 16.00-16.40 Lilian HANDLIN (University of Harvard)
The Burmese Buddha Biography. Weathervane for Changing Times
- 16.40-17.00 Conclusion, bilan et perspectives
Osmund BOPEARACHCHI (CNRS-ENS)
Guillaume DUCŒUR (Université de Strasbourg)