

XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

August 10 to August 15, 2025

Leipzig University, Germany

SECOND CIRCULAR: APRIL 2024

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present the Second Circular for the XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS) to be held at Leipzig University, Germany, from August 10th to 15th, 2025. On behalf of the IABS, Leipzig University, and the Planning Committee of the Congress, I kindly send you this circular to announce the panels that will be presented, to invite individual papers for the panels and sections, and to provide detailed timelines and additional information. We encourage you to share this Second Circular, through various media, with colleagues, students, and supporters who may be interested in participating.

General Information

The XXth IABS Congress aims to bring together scholars from around the world to share their scholarly achievements. I would remind everyone who wishes to participate in the XXth Congress of IABS that they must hold a fully paid IABS membership for the year 2025 in order to attend the event, deliver a paper, and/or sit on a panel in Leipzig. To be a member of the association in 2025, one should send a request for membership through the [IABS website](#) and will need to pay their IABS dues by December 31st, 2024.

All participants will also need to pay a Congress registration fee, which is used to help us cover the cost of hosting the event, as stipulated below. Online Congress registration and payment will open on November 1st, 2024, and will remain open until June 30th, 2025, on the [XXth Congress website](#). Kindly keep in mind that, to complete the process of registration, the aspiring participants will be required to provide proof of their IABS membership for the year 2025.

Although our field encompasses a multitude of linguistic regions and our members come from diverse language backgrounds, please be advised that, in accordance with IABS policy, all official Congress proceedings, including papers and presentations, should be conducted in an English-language medium.

Timeline:

- June 15, 2024 Online submission of individual paper proposals for sections opens
- October 1, 2024 Deadline for panel convenors to submit complete packages of paper abstracts

- November 1, 2024 Online submission of individual paper proposals for sections closes (submissions after this date will not be considered)
- November 1, 2024 Online conference registration opens
- December 31, 2024 Deadline for IABS 2025 membership application and payment
- June 30, 2025 Online conference registration closes

To stay updated on the XXth IABS Congress and receive Congress news, we encourage all prospective participants to subscribe to our [newsletter](#) or follow our social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#). For general inquiries, please contact us at info.iabs2025@uni-leipzig.de.

Academic Program

In line with past Congresses, the proceedings in Leipzig will feature two types of sessions: panels and paper sections.

Each conference day will consist of one morning session (9 am–12:30 pm) and one afternoon session (2–6 pm), with several panels and sections convening concurrently.

Each presentation, either in a panel or in a section, should not exceed 20 minutes in length and will be immediately followed by a 10-minute discussion. A coffee and tea break is also planned for each session, generally after the first three papers. The organizers and I will strive to ensure that presentations in each session begin and end in unison so that participants can move between multiple panels and sections of their choice.

To enhance the diversity of Congress contributors and facilitate maximum participation, attendees are limited to acting in **only one** official capacity at the Congress: this limit extends to presenting a paper, convening a panel, or acting as designated discussant.

(1) Panels

Panels for the XXth IABS Congress are coordinated by their respective convenor(s), who are responsible for ensuring thematic cohesion, maintaining academic standards, and overseeing the timely submission of the panel papers.

Submission of panel proposals for the XXth Congress has closed, and we extend our sincere gratitude to all contributors. Below are the accepted panels:

Title	Convenor(s)	Contact Email(s)
Around Kālacakra: New Sources and New Perspectives	Francesco Sferra Serena Saccone	serenasaccone@gmail.com

Artistic Connections in Premodern Buddhist Asia	Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran Clara Ma	Clara.Ma@metmuseum.org Kalyani.Ramachandran@metmuseum.org
Breathing – Body, Mind, Word	Stephan Licha	lich@uchicago.edu
Buddhism and Law	Christian Lammerts	dcl96@rutgers.edu
Buddhist Philosophy between India and China: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun and	Rafal Stepien	Rafal.Stepien@oeaw.ac.at
Buddhist Responses to Nature, Ecology, and the Climate Crisis	Dagmar Schwerk	dagmar.schwerk@uni-leipzig.de
"BuddhistRoad" and Beyond	Yukiyo Kasai Carmen Meinert	yukiyo.kasai@rub.de
Candrakīrti's Madhyamaka	Jan Westerhoff	jan.westerhoff@theology.ox.ac.uk
Constructing, Deconstructing, and Reconstructing Buddhist Authority(ies)	James Benn Huajie Fan Tiantian Cai	bennjam@mcmaster.ca hf5ff@virginia.edu tcai34@wisc.edu
Could there be a Buddhist Illusionism?	Mark Siderits	msideri@ilstu.edu
Dharma in Motion: Intersecting Pathways of Buddhism and Film	Gloria Chien	chien@gonzaga.edu
Elite Buddhist Monastics in Contemporary China: Life Stories and Institutional Framework	Zhe Ji Carsten Krause	zhe.ji@inalco.fr carsten.krause@uni-hamburg.de
Emotional States and Buddhist History, Literature, and Practice	Natasha Mikles	n.mikles@txstate.edu
Exegesis, Commentary, and Scholasticism in Chinese Buddhism: The First 600 Years	Fedde De Vries	fedde_devries@berkeley.edu
From the Early Yogācāra to its Later Tradition in India	Jowita Kramer Keiki Nakayama	jowita.kramer@uni-leipzig.de nakayamakeiki396@gmail.com
Gandhāra Corpora	Charles DiSimone	Charles.DiSimone@UGent.be
Guardians of the Path: The Multidimensional Role of Protection of Buddhism	Xingyi Wang	xingyi-xy.wang@polyu.edu.hk
Idioms of Newar Buddhist	Christoph Emmrich	christoph.emmrich@utoronto.ca
Indigenous Buddhist Culture of the Tocharians of Kucha	Monika Zin	m.zin@t-online.de

Kālacakra Studies	K l a u s - D i e t e r	kdmathes@hku.hk
Light on the “Dark Mountain”: Buddhism in First-Millennium Kanheri	Pia Brancaccio Akira Shimada Vincent Tournier	pb69@drexel.edu shimadaa@newpaltz.edu vincent.tournier@lmu.de
Looking into the Future: Influential Buddhist Women in Living Buddhist Traditions	A m a n d i n e Péronnet	peronnet.amandine@gmail.com
Machine Translation, Large Language Models, and Buddhist	M a r c u s Bingenheimer	m.bingenheimer@gmail.com
Mystics and/or Scholars? Knowledge Transfer in Tibetan Meditation Traditions	Jim Rheingans Drölma Chökyi	jim.rheingans@univie.ac.at
Negation and Truth in Buddhist Philosophy	Sangyop Lee	sangyoplee@snu.ac.kr
New Studies in Vinaya Manuscripts	Jens Wilhelm Borgland	jwborgland@gmail.com
Newar Buddhist Visual and Material Culture	Miroj Shakya	mirojs@UWEST.EDU
On Sakya Paṇḍita’s Treasury of Epistemology (tshad ma’i rigs)	Douglas Duckworth	duckworth@temple.edu
Pali Literature in the Second Millennium: South Asia	Ujjwal Kumar	ujjwal1980@gmail.com
Pali Literature in the Second Millennium: Southeast Asia	Tony Scott	anthony.scott@utoronto.ca
Prajñākaragupta’s Philosophy and Its Influence: Perception, Causation, and Non-duality	Eli Franco Shinya Moriyama Davey Tomlinson	franco@uni-leipzig.de smoriyam@shinshu-u.ac.jp david.tomlinson@villanova.edu
Premodern Globalisation and Intra-Religious Communication across the Buddhist World	Sven Bretfeld Lewis Doney	sven.bretfeld@ntnu.no doney.lewis@gmail.com
Rare Texts and Popular Religion: Buddhism as Collected by Van	Berthe Jansen	b.k.jansen@hum.leidenuniv.nl
Reading, Writing, and Rewriting Buddhist Genders	Jue Liang MK Long Bruno Shirley	jxl3138@case.edu mk.long@dartmouth.edu bruno.shirley@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de

Reformulating Buddhism: Conceptual Debates and Strategy Creation of Buddhist Groups in the Sinophone Sphere	Philip Clart Shi-Yu Su	shi-yu.su@uni-leipzig.de
Southeast Asian Buddhist Epigraphy: New Directions	Anne M. Blackburn Trent Walker	amb242@cornell.edu ttwalker@umich.edu
Stories Beyond Borders	Naomi Appleton Yael Shiri	Naomi.Appleton@ed.ac.uk
Studying the Bka' 'gyur and Bstan 'gyur: Advancing the Understanding of Buddhist Ritual, Doctrine, and Textual	Adam C. Krug	adam.krug@84000.co
Surveying the Field of Tibetan Pilgrimage	Kate Hartmann Michael Ium	Catherine.Hartmann@uwyo.edu michael.i.um@utoronto.ca
Tangut Buddhist Studies: Conceptualizing a Field	Zhouyang Ma	Zhouyang.Ma@oeaw.ac.at
Tantric Ethics and Buddhist Monasticism	Taiken Kyuma	kyuma.human@mie-u.ac.jp
Temples as Platform of Contemporary Buddhist Art	P a t t a r a t o r n Chirapravati	p a t c h i r a @ c s u s . e d u mlpattaratorn.c@ntu.edu.sg
The INTELLEXUS Project: Mapping the Indic and Tibetic Buddhist Text Corpora	Orna Almogi Shai Fine Harunaga Isaacson Dorji Wangchuk	orna.almogi@googlemail.com
The Notion of Reliance in Sanskrit and Tibetan Textual	Diane Denis	diane.denis@ryi.org
Towards a Buddhist Sacred Geography of the Himalayas	Parjanya Sen	parjanyasencsscal@gmail.com
Tracing the Early Contours of Japanese Buddhist Philosophy	M a t t h e w McMullen	mcmullen@nanzan-u.ac.jp
Transmission in the Archive: The Place of the Local in Buddhism's Global Past	Amanda Goodman Meghan Howard Masang	amanda.goodman@utoronto.ca meghan.howard@yale.edu
Wrathful Deities: Transcultural Vectors of Tantric Buddhism	Aleksandra Wenta Amanda Brown	abrown7@fsu.edu

Should you wish to contribute a paper aligned with one of the announced panels, please contact the convenor(s) directly via the provided email address(es) before submitting an individual paper proposal to a section. The convenors will decide on the acceptance of a paper in consultation with the Planning Committee.

Information for convenors:

The panel convenor(s) may chair/moderate their own session or find someone else to do so. The names of the convenors, speakers, and discussants (if you choose to have one) will appear on the program list.

We kindly ask the convenor(s) to ensure that **no more than six papers** constitute any one panel (with the exception of the panels that have been pre-approved by the Planning Committee, in special cases, to accommodate more than six papers). Additionally, the convenor(s) should remind their panelists that they may not commit to joining other panels. Once panels have been filled, the convenors can close the panels and direct further submissions to paper sections instead.

Convenors should email a complete package of paper abstracts, with each abstract not exceeding 500 words, directly to jowita.kramer@uni-leipzig.de no later than October 1st, 2024.

(2) Sections

Sections are to be compiled from individual submissions. Those who wish to present a paper in one of the listed sections should submit a paper abstract, as directed below.

The themes for the sections are outlined as follows.

- ❖ Abhidharma Studies
- ❖ Buddhism and Gender
- ❖ Buddhism and Its Relation to Other Religions
- ❖ Buddhism and Ritual Practices
- ❖ Buddhism and Society
- ❖ Buddhism in the Contemporary World
- ❖ Buddhism in the Himalaya(s)
- ❖ Buddhist Art and Architecture
- ❖ Buddhist Ethics
- ❖ Buddhist Hermeneutics, Scholasticism, and Commentarial Techniques
- ❖ Buddhist Literature
- ❖ Buddhist Music
- ❖ Buddhist Psychology

- ❖ Buddhist Studies and Digital Humanities
- ❖ Early Buddhism
- ❖ East Asian Buddhism
- ❖ Epistemology and Logic in Buddhism
- ❖ Global Buddhism
- ❖ Mahāyāna Buddhism
- ❖ Manuscripts, Codicology, and Epigraphy
- ❖ Meditation Theories and Practices
- ❖ South Asian Buddhism
- ❖ Southeast Asian Buddhism
- ❖ Tantric Buddhism
- ❖ Tibetan Buddhism
- ❖ Vinaya Studies
- ❖ Yogācāra Buddhism

Individual Paper Proposals

The Planning Committee cordially invites scholars, students, and independent researchers from across the spectrum of Buddhist Studies to submit abstracts for individual papers aligned with the sections listed above. Submissions will be accepted from June 15th, 2024, to November 1st, 2024.

Paper abstracts should not exceed 500 words. In order to contribute a paper to a specific section, please upload your abstract to the Congress website at <https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/iabs2025/submissions/> and indicate the section it addresses. Some submissions might fit under several section headers, but please limit your selection to one section.

The planning committee reserves the right to accept or reject a paper on the basis of its abstract. All participants will be informed by email regarding the acceptance of their paper proposal no later than January 15th, 2025.

Please be advised that in the event that the number of qualified entries to a given section is insufficient, the Planning Committee reserves the right to cancel the said section. Accepted papers will then be reassigned to another section with a similar theme, and the time slot will be allocated to a section with a surplus of submissions.

Conference Schedule

Date	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
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Sunday, August 10, 2025		Opening Session	Welcome Reception
Monday, August 11, 2025	Panels/Sections	Panels/Sections	
Tuesday, August 12, 2025	Panels/Sections	Panels/Sections	
Wednesday, August 13, 2025	Panels/Sections	Panels/Sections	
Thursday, August 14, 2025	Panels/Sections	Excursions	
Friday, August 15, 2025	Panels/Sections	Panels/Sections	Farewell Reception

Registration Fee

To facilitate the organization of the event, we have established the Congress registration fee at €380. This fee encompasses conference attendance, tea/coffee, and lunch during the academic sessions, as well as meals at the Opening and Closing Receptions. Additionally, it covers printing costs for paper programs. Please note that the registration fee does not cover transportation, accommodation, excursions, or special events.

Those registering before March 31st, 2025, will enjoy a discounted fee of €350, while graduate students are entitled to a rate of €330 with confirmation of enrollment status.

As a special feature of the XXth IABS Congress, we are considering offering live streaming of the entire event for a reduced fee of around €200. This option is tailored for individuals who wish to participate remotely as part of the audience. Please be aware that, during the live stream, interactions with presenters or other participants will not be available. The streaming option is currently under consideration, and if it is confirmed, you will find it available on the registration page.

Registration fee payment should be made online through our website at <https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/iabs2025/registration/>. As mentioned above, you will be expected to provide proof of payment of your IABS membership fee for 2025 at the time of registration. The registration/payment will open from November 1st, 2024, to June 30th, 2025.

Posters and Exhibits

There will be a session dedicated specifically to posters, during which each poster contributor will have the opportunity to give a brief presentation to conference delegates.

We also invite exhibitors to provide professional services or products, such as books. For further information, please contact us at info.iabs2025@uni-leipzig.de.

Visa Requirements

Due to the varied visa requirements based on the attendee's country of origin, we regret to inform you that we are unable to offer guidance or assistance with visa applications for travel to Germany. We strongly encourage potential attendees to consult the German Embassy or Consulate in their home country or country of residence at their earliest convenience. Additionally, travel agencies may provide helpful information regarding the visa process.

To support visa applications, we can provide letters confirming registration or participation in the Congress upon request. If you require such a letter, please contact us at info.iabs2025@uni-leipzig.de.

Airline and Train

Leipzig/Halle Airport is the closest airport to the conference venue. However, only a limited number of international airlines provide direct flights to this airport. If you are traveling from abroad, we recommend considering major international airports in Germany, such as Berlin Brandenburg Airport, Frankfurt Airport, or Munich Airport.

Berlin Brandenburg Airport offers the shortest connection to Leipzig. From Berlin Brandenburg Airport, you can easily reach Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (Leipzig Central Station) by train, with a travel time of approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Trains depart regularly throughout the day.

If you arrive at Frankfurt Airport or Munich Airport, you can also travel to Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (Leipzig Central Station) by train. The journey typically takes around 3 to 3.5 hours from Frankfurt Airport and 4 to 4.5 hours from Munich Airport. Alternatively, direct flights from Frankfurt and Munich to Leipzig/Halle Airport are also available.

Train tickets are purchasable [online](#). I wish to kindly remind everyone that Congress attendees are responsible for their own travel expenses to and from Leipzig.

Accommodation

There are a number of accommodation options in the city center of Leipzig.

Attendees of the Congress are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and covering all associated expenses.

Below is a list of accommodations near Leipzig University. A range of options has been provided to suit the different needs of our Congress attendees.

Please be advised that August is one of the busiest times of the year, so kindly book early if possible.

	Address & Tel.	Price Range for Single Room (tentative)	Walking Distance to the Congress Venue
Budget			
Ibis Budget Leipzig City	Reichsstr. 19 +49 341 14939420	60-80€	600m
a&o Leipzig Hauptbahnhof	Brandenburger Str. 2 +49 341 250794900	60-100€	1km
B&B Hotel Leipzig	Nikolaistr. 34 +49 341 215800	70-90€	500m
MEININGER Hotel Leipzig Central Station	Brühl 69 +49 341 96219868	70-110€	500m
Vienna House Easy by Wyndham Leipzig	Goethestr. 11 +49 341 9915390	70-110€	500m
Medium			
Ibis Leipzig City	Reichsstr. 17 +49 341 21860	80-100€	500m
Motel One Leipzig-Nikolaikirche	Nicolaistr. 23 +49 341 3374370	80-120€	300m
Motel One Augustusplatz	Ritterstr. 4 +49 341 2527980	80-120€	200m
Travel 24 Leipzig	Tröndlinring 9 +49 341 33173850	90-120€	1.2km
BIG MAMA Leipzig	Kurt-Schumacher-Str. 23 +49 341 98510	90-110€	1.1km
Premier Inn Leipzig City Oper	Goethestr. 9 +49 69 8500690	90-110€	450m
Premier Inn Leipzig City Hahnekamm	Brandenburger Straße 2B +49 69 8500690	90-110€	1km
Felix Suiten	Augustusplatz 1 +49 341 21829910	90-120€	300m

Apartment Central	Pfaffendorfer Str. 3, 4-10/ Dorotheenplatz 3b +49 341 2334422	90-120€	1km
Quartier M	Markgrafenstr. 10 +49 341 21338800	90-150€	600m
Gwuni Mopera	Sternwartenstr. 4a +49 341 69914463	90-150€	600m
Best Western	Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 3 +49 341 12510	100-130€	1km
NH Leipzig Zentrum	Burgplatz 5 +49 341 45080810	100-140€	350m
Royal International Leipzig	Richard-Wagner-Str. 10 +49 341 2310060	100-140€	750m
Seaside Park Hotel Leipzig	Richard-Wagner-Str. 7 +49 341 98520	100-150€	650m
Upscale			
Townhouse Leipzig	Thomaskirchhof 13/14 +49 341 496140	120-180€	600m
Leipzig Marriott	Am hallischen Tor 1 +49 341 9653999	120-180€	700m
Adina Apartment Hotel Leipzig	Brühl 50 +49 341 989860	120-180€	650m
INNSiDE Leipzig	Gottschedstr. 1 +49 341 3937670	150-250€	700m
Steigenberger Icon Grandhotel Handelshof Leipzig	Salzgäßchen 6 +49 341 3505810	180-250€	300m

Student Travel Bursaries

We are happy to announce that the IABS will provide 10 student travel bursaries to help facilitate student attendance at the XXth IABS Congress. Each travel bursary will consist of a contribution of up to \$1,000 toward travel, conference registration and/or subsistence expenses while in Leipzig. Further details mapping the application process will be published by June 1st, 2024, on the IABS website: Conferences (<http://iabsinfo.net/conferences/>). The period for application runs from January 15th, 2025, to February 28th, 2025.

Sustainability, Accessibility, and Inclusion

We are committed to minimizing the environmental footprint of the IABS 2025 Congress by mindfully managing energy and resources. We would be happy if we could count on your support in achieving this goal. For example, we encourage participants to prioritize train or public transport for their travel whenever feasible. Additionally, our aim is to ensure that the event is as accessible and inclusive as possible. Further resources and details about our planned measures will be provided in the Third Circular. We encourage you to reach out to us if you require any assistance or have specific needs.

Website

We will regularly update our website (<https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/iabs2025/>) with the latest information and practical details about the upcoming congress.

Third Circular

The Third Circular will be distributed in May 2025. It will provide a detailed academic program, further information about evening events and excursions, and other practical details concerning the Congress.

We eagerly anticipate your participation in the XXth IABS Congress and look forward to engaging in fruitful discussions and collaborations.

With kind regards,

Jowita Kramer

The Planning Committee of the XXth IABS Congress

President: Jens-Uwe Hartmann

Chair: Jowita Kramer

Academic Coordination: Beier Wang, Feng Yang

Members: Johanna Buß, Volker Caumanns, Philip Clart, Sadananda Das, Franz Xaver Erhard, Michelle Kienzler, Christoph Kleine, Ines Konczak-Nagel, Yasmin Koppen, Cornelia Meinig, Keiki Nakayama, Katrin Querl, Ira Sarma, Dagmar Schwerk, Lilli Sharma, Christof Spitz, Sonam Spitz, Marco Walther, Tenzin Yangzom, Monika Zin

Advisory Board: Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto), Eli Franco (Leipzig University/Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig), Petra Kieffer-Pülz (Academy of Sciences and Literature, Mainz), Michael Radich (Heidelberg University)

Correspondent

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