



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



Numata Zentrum  
für Buddhismuskunde

ספקנות

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies  
JEWISH SCEPTICISM

# WORKSHOP BUDDHISM AND SCEPTICISM: HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

- **MARK SIDERITS** (SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY)

## PARTICIPANTS

- **AMBER CARPENTER** (YALE-NUS COLLEGE)
- **GORDON DAVIS** (CARLETON UNIVERSITY)
- **DONG XIUYUAN** (SHANDONG UNIVERSITY)
- **VINCENT ELTSCHINGER** (ÉCOLE PRATIQUE DES HAUTES ÉTUDES)
- **ELI FRANCO** (LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY)
- **GEORGIOS T. HALKIAS** (UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)
- **ADRIAN KUZMINSKI** (INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR)
- **ETHAN MILLS** (UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA)
- **SERENA SACCONI** (AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES)
- **JAMES MARK SHIELDS** (BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY)

## CONVENOR

- **OREN HANNER** (UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG/GERMANY)

From their earliest stages, Buddhist traditions have displayed a sceptical attitude towards various types of accepted knowledge. Buddhist thinkers, beginning from the historical Buddha, questioned metaphysical assumptions, the realistic view of the world, and the reliability of our sources of knowledge, and expressed doubt about common social norms and religious views. In this way, philosophical scepticism played a pivotal role in the way Buddhist thought evolved. It served both as a method for arriving at a reliable and liberating understanding of reality and, as some argue, as an aspect of spiritual practice.

The conference on Buddhism and Scepticism investigates the place of scepticism in the development of classical Buddhist thought from historical and philosophical perspectives. From a historical standpoint, the conference explores the development of sceptical strategies in Buddhism and their relation to non-Buddhist systems of thought in Europe and Asia. From a philosophical point of view, it explores the ways in which sceptical arguments are used in Buddhist philosophical works, and how they resemble, and differ from, sceptical methods in other, non-Buddhist philosophies.



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MAIMONIDES CENTRE  
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

SEMINAR ROOM 5060  
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The event is open to the public, with  
advance registration via e-mail:  
[maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:maimonides-centre@uni-hamburg.de)

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