

Workshop: Reconsidering the Historiography of the Madhyamaka School

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In Person & by Zoom

Keynote Speech

- **Leonard van der Kuijp** (Harvard University)

Participants

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- **Ryo Nishiyama** (Kyoto University)
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- **Masaki Tamura** (National Institute of Technology, Kagawa College)
- **Zhouyang Ma** (Harvard University)
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The Madhyamaka school, along with the Yogācāra, is one of the two principal schools of Indian Mahāyāna Buddhism, which was founded by Nāgārjuna (ca. 150–250 CE). The tenet of this school that “all things are *svabhāvasūnya* (devoid of intrinsic nature)” has great influence on Buddhism both inside and outside of India, specifically, East Asia and Tibet. Due to lack of Indian sources, modern scholars have constructed the history of the school, mainly based on Tibetan transmission. However, since 2000, new manuscripts of Mādhyamikas’ basic texts were discovered; the increase in the number of the texts accessible to original Sanskrit has changed significantly the circumstances of Madhyamaka studies. It is therefore time to reconsider and reconstruct the history of the Madhyamaka School. The conference is a kickoff-workshop for investigating the issues. Together with leading researchers in this field, the first conference discusses with methodologies in which the history of the school is restored, and its periodization is made.