

Ven. GYALTEN Jigdrel, PhD (Hamburg)

Research Fellow at the [NUMATA CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES, HAMBURG](#)

Translator for 84 000: [TRANSLATING THE WORDS OF THE BUDDHA](#)

Enrolled at [SERA JÉ MONASTIC UNIVERSITY, INDIA](#)

PERSONAL DATA



- * Michael ZRENNER, Aug. 16th 1983 (Munich, GER).
- Research Fellow at the [NUMATA CENTRE, HAMBURG](#)
- Translator for 84 000 ([VINAYA](#))
- Senior editor: [GYALTEN TRANSLATION GROUP](#)
- Board-member: [AWAKENING VAJRA INTERNATIONAL](#)
- PhD in [BUDDHIST STUDIES](#) (Skt. & Tib.), [HAMBURG](#)
- Active on [Academia.edu](#)
- English, German, Sanskrit, Tibetan, French, Russian, Latin
- House N^o 4, Lhopa Khangtsen, Sera Jé Monastery, IND
- +49-1577-230 27 53 or via “michael.zrenner”
- gyalten.jigdrel@gmail.com

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

FEB. 2022	PhD in ‘BUDDHIST STUDIES’, Section ‘Indology’ (Doctoral College , Asia-Africa-Institute at Hamburg), Sanskrit & Tibetan (*submitted 24 th of Feb., 2022) <i>Title:</i> <i>Vijñapti, Avijñapti, and Avijñaptirūpa in the Sphuṭārthābhīdharmakośavyākhyā: a critical edition-cum-translation of Yaśomitra’s commentary to Vasubandhu’s Abhidharmakośa (bhāṣya), IV. §1–4, as transmitted in Sanskrit and Tibetan sources.</i> 1st supervisor: Prof. Harunaga ISAACSON • 2nd supervisor: Prof. Michael ZIMMERMANN
APR. 2015	M.A. in ‘CLASSICAL INDOLOGY’, SAI, University of Heidelberg , Germany Course choice emphasized classical and non-standard Sanskrit language acquisition, textual criticism, and Buddhist philosophy. Master’s thesis title: “ <i>The concept of ‘Prāyaścitta’ in the introductory Passages of the Ratnakaraṅḍikā: Edition, Translation and Analysis</i> ”
JULY 2007	M.PHIL. in ‘TIBETAN AND HIMALAYAN STUDIES’, Oriental Institute , Oxford, UK Course choice emphasized classical and spoken language acquisition, as well as the acquisition of background knowledge of the intellectual, historical, and cultural developments that shaped Central Asian approaches to the practice and scholarship of Buddhism.
JULY 15 TH , 2005	B.A. (Hons) in ‘ENGLISH LITERATURE AND POLITICS (equal)’, York Univ. , UK Course choice for ENGLISH LITERATURE emphasized the Elizabethan, Enlightenment, Romantic, and Victorian literary periods. Course choice for POLITICS emphasized Development Studies, Theories of the State, Classical Liberalism, Élite theory, Hobbes’, Rousseau’s, Adam Smith’s, and J.S. Mill’s writings.
JUNE 2001	A-LEVELS, SHREWSBURY independent boarding SCHOOL , Shropshire, UK <i>English Literature</i> (A), <i>German Language & Literature</i> (A), <i>French Language & Literature</i> (A), <i>Latin Language & Literature</i> (B)

SPECIALIZED LANGUAGE TRAINING

- JUNE 2– Certified “INTENSIVE TRANSLATION TRAINING” in Tibetan & English (*w. Skt.*)
AUG. 29, 2008 Conducted by the ‘[LTWA CENTRE FOR TIBETAN STUDIES](#)’, Dharamsala, India.
GAP YEAR Full-time “RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE” in St. Petersburg, RUS.
2001–2 Held as full-immersion course by ‘[LIDEN & DENZ](#)’, St. Petersburg, RUS.

TRANSLATION PROJECTS FOR 84 000 (VINAYA)

- SUBMITTED– **Translation of Toh. 1-14: “ON SUSPENDING THE RESTORATION RITES” for open access viewing at the 84 000 READING ROOM:**
The work, known by the Sanskrit title as *Poṣadhabsthāpanavastu*, in Tibetan is rendered as *Gso sbyong gzbag pa'i gzhi*, is contained in vol. 1 (*'dul ba, ka*) folios 182a–187a in the Degé edition; a Sanskrit edition of the Gilgit manuscript is given in Dutt (1943: 107–117).
- ONGOING– **Translation of Toh. 1-7: “ON THE ROBES”** (*Cīvaravastu; Gos kyī gzhi*) Tibetan is contained in Toh 1-7, spanning 50a7–115b5 in vol. ‘ga’ of the Degé Kangyur (=132 pages). Besides the Degé, Pedurma, and other versions transmitted in Tibetan, our translation will also consider the Gilgit manuscript of the work in Sanskrit as given in Dutt (1942, pp. 1–148).
- ONGOING– **Translation of Toh. 1-9: “ON THE MONKS OF KAUSĀMBĪ”** (*Kośāmbakavastu; Kauśamb bI'i gzhi*), Toh. 1-9 (=22 pages), is transmitted in Tibetan as contained in Degé vol. ‘ga’, 134a7–134b3, the translation of which would be supplemented by the Sanskrit given in Dutt (1942, pp. 171–196). A synopsis of this chapter is given in Banerjee (1957, pp. 220–222) and Dutt (1943, pp. xx–xxi).
- ONGOING– **Translation of Toh. 1-10: “ON FORMAL ACTS”** (*Karmavastu; Las kyī gzhi*), 1-10, spanning from 134b3–140b4 in vol. ‘ga’ of the Degé Kangyur (=13 pages), is transmitted also in Sanskrit via the edition furnished by Dutt (1942, pp. 197–211) [and Bagchi (1967, pp. 271–278)]. An overview over the contents of this chapter is briefly presented in Banerjee (1957, pp. 222–24) and Dutt (1942, pp. xxi–xxii). Ven. Lueritthikul (2019, pp. 131–186) provides an analysis of the Sanskrit Gilgit manuscript, a Tibetan edition, and an academic English translation.
- ONGOING– **Translation of Toh. 1-12: “ON TYPES OF PERSONS”** (*Pudgalavastu; Gang zag gi gzhi*), 1-12, spanning from 165b7–177a6 in vol. ‘ga’ of the Degé Kangyur (=23 pages), is transmitted also in Sanskrit in the edition by Dutt (1943, pp. 32–88) [and Bagchi (1967, pp. 30–44)]. The content of the work is synoptically presented in Banerjee (1957, pp. 229–31) and Dutt (1942, pp. xiv–xv). The doctoral study by Lueritthikul (2019, pp. 187–277) considers the Sanskrit edition (based on the Gilgit manuscript), the Tibetan edition, and gives a translation of the text in (academic) English as accords to the author’s interpretation of the source-text
- ONGOING– **Translation of Toh. 1-13: “ON DEMOTIONS”** (*Pārivāsikavastu; Spo ba'i gzhi*), Toh. 1-13, spanning from 177a6–182a3, of vol. ‘ga’ of the Degé Kangyur (=11 pages), is extant in Sanskrit and will be considered on the basis of the edition by Dutt (1943, pp. 91–103) [and, less rigorously, that of Bagchi (1967, pp. 53–59)]. The contents are briefly presented in Banerjee (1957, pp. 231–232) and Dutt (1943, pp. xv–xvii). The dissertation published by Ven. Lueritthikul (2019, pp. 278–317) provides a diplomatic Sanskrit edition (based on the Gilgit manuscript), a Tibetan edition, as well as an academic English translation, principally based on the Sanskrit text.


OTHER TRANSLATION PROJECTS

- ONGOING **Translation from German into English** in cooperation with the author:
Peter SCHWIEGER (2009). *Handbuch zur Grammatik der klassischen tibetischen Schriftsprache*. 2., korrigierte und erweiterte Aufl. Vol. II. Beiträge zur Zentralasienforschung. Halle (Saale): International Institute for Tibetan and Buddhist Studies [a](#)
- ONGOING **GTG project manager, contributing translator, arbiter of the Sanskrit rendition, Co-editor** (in tandem with Laura CUNNINGHAM of Wisdom Publications) for:
TENZIN Gache, transl. *Six-Session Guru Yoga: an oral commentary by His Eminence Kyabje Chöden Rinpoche* (working title). Somerville (MA), USA: Wisdom Publications
- 2020 **Editorial advisor and adjunct proofreader responsible for Sanskrit elements in:**
CHÖDEN RINPOCHE LOSANG GYALTEN JIGDREL WANGCHUK (2020). *Mastering Meditation: Instructions on Calm Abiding and Mahāmudrā*. Translated by Gelong Tenzin Gache. Somerville (MA), USA: Wisdom Publications [a](#)
- 2016– **Senior Editor and Translator for internal publications, prayers, and practice texts:**
These texts are prepared by GYALTEN TRANSLATION GROUP and circulated internally amongst students of [AWAKENING VAJRA INTERNATIONAL](#).

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

- FORTHCOMING GYALTEN Jigdrel. (forthcoming). “Vijñapti, Avijñapti, and Avijñaptirūpa in the *Sphuṭārthābhīdharmakośavyākhyā*: a critical edition- cum translation of Yaśomitra’s commentary to Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakośa (bhāṣya)*, IV.ṣI–4, as transmitted in Sanskrit and Tibetan sources”. Revised edition published in book format, based on the PhD thesis. Asien-Afrika Institut: Universität Hamburg, 2022.
- ONGOING GYALTEN Jigdrel, Bhikṣu HEJUNG, Nirajan KAFLE, Sebastian NEHRDICH, Julian SCHOTT. “Ch. IV.5-8^{ab} in the *Sphuṭārthābhīdharmakośavyākhyā*: critical edition and annotated translation based on Sanskrit and Tibetan sources, informed by Chinese and Japanese materials.” (working title). *Application to a Japanese Academic Journal pending*.
- 2020 GYALTEN Jigdrel. In-depth review of *Everything you always wanted to know about Lachmann’s method* [...] by Paolo Trovato (2014, 2017). *TC: A Journal of Biblical Textual Criticism* 25, a peer-reviewed, open access online Journal. ISSN: 1089-7747, pp. 69–76. www.jbtcc.org/v25/ [📄](#)
- 2015 ZRENNER, Michael. (2015). “The concept of ‘Prāyaścitta’ in the introductory Passages of the Ratnakaraṇḍikā: Edition, Translation and Analysis”. Master’s thesis. Heidelberg: Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. [📄](#)
- 2014B ZRENNER, Michael. Review of *Luminous Bliss* by Georgios Halkias (2012). *Religions of South Asia* 8(2). Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/ROSA/> [📄](#)
- 2014A ZRENNER, Michael. Review of *Great Treatise on the Stages of Mantra: Chapters IX–XII (The Creation Stage)* by Tsongkhapa Losang Drakpa—introduction and translation, transl. Thomas Freeman Yarnall (2013). *Religions of South Asia* 8(1). Sheffield: Equinox Publishing. <https://journal.equinoxpub.com/ROSA/> [📄](#)
- 2013 ZRENNER, Michael. (2013) “The *mi-ser* in Tibetan Society: Why is it problematic to refer to the Peasantry of pre-1959 Tibet as ‘serfs?’”. *The Tibet Journal* 38(1–2). Dharamsala: LTWA, pp. 3–21. [📄](#) [A](#)

ACADEMIC TEACHING ACTIVITIES

June 24th, 2020 I gave lecture on “*Vijñapti* and *Avijñapti* as extrapolated in Yaśomitra’s *Sphuṭārthābhīdharmakośavyākhyā*” at the [Doctoral College](#) of the Humanities (University of Hamburg) .

INFORMAL ACADEMIC TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Nov. 11th, 2020 I gave an informal seminar on “An Introduction to \LaTeX : ‘how to use $X\TeX$ for crafting a critical edition as part of your PhD thesis’ ” to fellow PhD students who approached me with this specific request.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE (BRIEF SELECTION)

- JUNE 2018– **Senior editor and translator** for [GYALTEN TRANSLATION GROUP](#), consisting of Jeff SEIPEL, Sue BARTFIELD, Prof. Tim BROWN, Chair of History at Northeastern University, and myself.
- JUNE 2018– **Secretary to the board** of [AWAKENING VAJRA INTERNATIONAL](#), [Ananda Dharma Center](#), 3888 Balcom Road, San Jose, CA, 95148, USA.
- DEC. 2012– **European Teaching Tour Manager** for AWAKENING VAJRA INTERNATIONAL
- JUNE 2018 I managed and coordinated teaching events in European countries (Sweden, Lithuania, Greece, Germany, United Kingdom) for AVI’s travelling teachers in 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018.
- FEB. 2009– **Project coordinator** of the [FWF/NFN CHWH](#), HISTORY OF ART DEPT., Vienna
- JULY 2009 I was hired as **Project coordinator** in the context of a maternity-leave replacement during the specifically work-intensive grant application period of the NFN/FWF ‘National Research Network’ (Nationales Forschungsnetzwerk), bearing the title “[THE CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE WESTERN HIMALAYAS SINCE THE EIGHTH CENTURY](#)” (S 98) as financed by the Austrian Science Fund.
- MAY 2005– **German Teacher** at [the University of Oxford Language Centre](#), Oxford, UK.
- AP.–JN. 2005 **English Teacher** for secondary school children at [BÉNÉDICT SCHOOL](#), SPB, RUS.

SKILLS AND MISCELLANEA

- 2015– I have acquired an advanced knowledge of typesetting in \LaTeX and $X\TeX$ and have been using the programme in finalizing the layout for GYALTEN TRANSLATION GROUP internal publications.
- DEC 2014 Ordained at Lhopa Khangtzen, SERA JÉ MONASTIC UNIVERSITY, Bylakuppe
- JULY 2007 M.Phil. Thesis at Oxford gained distinction status
- JULY 15TH, 2005 Received the ‘York Award’ from the University of York
- JUNE 2001 Best A-level result school-wide (150/150) for ‘English Literature’ at [SHREWSBURY](#)
- 2000–1 President of the ‘English Literature Society’ at [SHREWSBURY](#)

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

I enjoy cross-country running, athletics, reading English and Russian Literature and world history. Before ordination, I used to play the violin and the guitar and enjoyed listening to music. At university, I acted in two Elizabethan-era-style theatre-productions.