

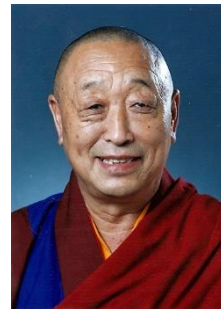
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Zentralasien-Seminar

Tibet Kolloquium

Prof. em. Dr. Per Kværne, University of Oslo
Bön and Buddhism – Opposition or Convergence?



Menri Monastery in Dolanji, India



33rd Menri Trizin
Lungtok Tenpai Nyima

On the passing away of the 33rd Menri Trizin, the spiritual head of the Bön – more correctly Yungdrung Bön, "Eternal Bön" – religion in 2017, Tibetan religious and political leaders expressed appreciation of his lifelong efforts to preserve and promote Bön as an important contribution to continuing Tibetan culture in the diaspora. At the same time, there is a long-standing tradition among Tibetan Buddhists of regarding Bön, sometimes called "black Bön", as an evil, anti-Buddhist, even atavistic religion, a viewpoint also previously adopted by certain Western scholars. The presentation will discuss the grounds of opposition between Bön and Buddhism, the genesis of this conflict and the parameters along which it can be defined, including the question of whether Bön is a "religion" or a "tradition"; it will also suggest that there is real convergence in terms of doctrine and practice. Finally, it will venture to point out certain developments which in the future may serve to consolidate rather than lessen the divide between the two religions.

Per Kværne obtained MA in Sanskrit at the University of Oslo in 1970 and the PhD degree in 1974 (A Study of the Caryāgīti) at the same university. From 1975 to 2007 he was professor of history of religions at the University of Oslo; he is now professor emeritus. His research has been focused on Tibetan studies, especially the post-11th century Bön religion. Among his publications are An Anthology of Buddhist Tantric Songs. A Study of the Caryāgīti (1977, 2nd ed. 1986), Tibet. Bon Religion: A Death Ritual of the Tibetan Bonpos (1985), The Bon Religion of Tibet: The Iconography of a Living Tradition (1995), Forty-five Years of Tibetan Studies. An Anthology of Articles by Per Kværne (2015).

Donnerstag, 6. Juni 2019

18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)