

Institut für Asien- und Afrikawissenschaften
Zentralasien-Seminar

Tibet-Kolloquium

Dr. Robert Mayer, Oriental Studies, University of Oxford
**Representations of Padmasambhava in
10th Century Tibet: Some New Evidence
from the Dunhuang Collections**



The emergence of Padmasambhava as Tibet's patron guru has so far been very little understood. It is generally accepted that a high-point in the mythologisation of Padmasambhava was achieved with Nyang ral Nyi ma'i 'od zer's 12th century hagiography known as the *Zangs gling ma*, but very little was known with certainty from before that period. However, significant new evidence has quite recently come to light in a Dunhuang text that both illuminates and complicates our picture of the situation before Nyang ral. We now have evidence for two separate strands of 9th and 10th century literature. The first strand mythologises Padmasambhava yet does not elevate him above his peers who are also mythologised. The second strand not only mythologises him, but also significantly elevates him above his peers, incorporating him into Tantric rituals and attributing to him unique access to the transcendent sources of Tantric scripture.

Mittwoch, 18. Mai 2011, 18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 507, 5. Stock

(BITTE BEACHTEN: Eingang nur über Schlegelstr. 26)

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)

Alle Interessierten sind hierzu herzlich eingeladen!