

Tibet Kolloquium

Einladung

Lewis Doney

Freie Universität Berlin/ Forum Transregionale Studien.
Zukunftsphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship

Padmasambhava in Early Tibetan Historiography: New Research

The Indian Buddhist master Padmasambhava is one of the foremost culture heroes of Tibetan literature. He is remembered to have converted Tibet to Buddhism in the eighth century, and his life-story has thus exerted a huge influence on later Tibetan ritual, mythology, lineage legitimation, art, songs and dances. This talk will look back into the earliest appearances of Padmasambhava in Tibetan historiographical literature, focusing on the various versions of the *Testimony of Ba* (*dBa'sBa bzhed*) of unknown authorship and the *Copper-Island Hagiography* (*Zangs gling ma*) by Nyang ral Nyi ma 'od zer (1124–1192). These works have been fundamental to many Tibetans' sense of their own history, and yet they offer different representations of Padmasambhava that betray a transformation in the image of the tantric master, and his relationship with the Tibetan emperor Khri Srong lde brtsan (742–c.800). Moreover, both works were redacted and adapted by successive generations of Tibetan scholars, who included increasingly positive depictions of Padmasambhava within the metanarrative, reflecting the growing “cult of Padmasambhava” and of his eight aspects, not present in the earliest accounts.

Lewis Doney received his MA and PhD (Study of Religions 2004 and 2011) from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. His thesis charts the metamorphosis of kingship ideals in Tibetan histories between the 8th and the 12th century. Before coming to Berlin, he was a postdoctoral researcher at LMU Munich in the group “Kingship and Religion in Tibet.” He has recently published a work entitled *The Zangs gling ma: The First Padmasambhava Biography* for the series *Monumenta Tibetica Historica* (Andiast: IITBS, 2014). Among his current research interests are the influence of foreign literary topoi on early Tibetan narrative and the interaction between text and image in media ranging from 8th-century inscriptions up to the depiction of Tibet in comics and contemporary art.

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18.00 Uhr

Invalidenstr. 118, **Raum 217**

(S-Bahn Nordbahnhof, U6 Naturkundemuseum)