

Yogabīja workshop · Marburg 23.-26.7.2019

Held by Jason Birch and Jürgen Hanneder



The Text

The *Yogabīja* is a fourteenth-century Sanskrit text that outlines a fourfold system of yoga, consisting of Mantra-, Laya-, Haṭha- and Rājayoga. Apart from being one of the earliest accounts of this particular system of yoga, the *Yogabīja* is important in the history of yoga because its author argues against the idea that liberation can be achieved by knowledge (*jñāna*) alone. It is possible that the author was responding to methods, such as contemplation (*vicāra*), and doctrines of the *Mokṣopāya/Laghuyogavāsiṣṭha*. Indeed, the main thrust of the *Yogabīja*'s argument is that both yoga and knowledge are necessary for liberation, and liberation is defined as an embodied state in which the yogin remains alive, though invisible, forever (*jīvanmukti*). The *Yogabīja* is one of ten texts being edited by the Haṭha Yoga Project (hyp.soas.ac.uk). A preliminary edition based on fifteen manuscripts and testimonia from over a dozen Sanskrit works is being prepared by Jason Birch and James Mallinson of SOAS University of London. The edition, along with an English translation, introduction and notes, will be published at the end of 2020.

The Seminar

The workshop takes place at the university of Marburg, in the lecture room of the institute of Indology. Organisation is minimal, and there are no fees. Since the town is very small, everything can be reached by foot. Only if your accomodation is in the outside villages, public transport may be a problem, especially in the evenings.

Since we will be reading and discussing the complete Sanskrit text, the ideal prerequisite is an advanced reading skill in Sanskrit, so the seminar is typically intended for M.A. or Ph.D. students of Classical Indology, but a passive (or unprepared) attendance is also possible.

The seminar starts on Tuesday, 23rd of Juli, 10 a.m. We shall conclude the session Friday around midday to allow for easier travelling.

1. Application: Please send an e-mail to hanneder@staff.uni-marburg.de.
2. Accomodation: Marburg is small, but touristically interesting, especially in summer. It is therefore wise to search for accomodation as soon as possible.
3. The Institute: <https://www.uni-marburg.de/fb10/iksl/indologie/lageplan>

श्रीगणेशायनमः॥ नमस्ते परिपूर्णाय जगदानंदहेतवे॥ रा
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 मृत्युजरा व्याधिनाशनं सुखदं वद॥ ३॥ नानामार्गस्तथा
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