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CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA
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Academic Publications

Annalisa Bocchetti

Bocchetti, Annalisa. (2025) "The World is a Masterpiece: The Symbolism of Painting in the Citrāvalī by Usmān (1613 CE)", Hiroko Nagasaki, Kiyokazu Okita, Monika Horstmann (eds.) Early Modern Literatures in North India: Current Research, 2022-2024, Heidelberg: HASP (Forthcoming), <https://hasp.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/catalog/preview>

Anna Filigenzi

Filigenzi, A. (2024 [2025]) L'arte buddhista del Gandhāra tra percezione e realtà archeologica. In C. Lo Muzio (ed.) Incontri eurasiatici: Scambi commerciali, culturali e religiosi tra il Mediterraneo e l'Oriente. [Thematic issue of] Sulla via del Catai XVII/31, pp. 11-31.

Abstract: The Buddhist art of Gandhāra, flourishing in the early centuries of the common era in an area spanning from northern Pakistan to eastern Afghanistan, is characterized by the strong Hellenistic influence on much of its production. But what lies within this apparent subjection to imported models? To understand the fluid, dynamic, and yet rigorous world of iconographic models, their creation and re-creation, we must question all the actors involved, resorting also to archaeology and the complex reconstructions it is capable of offering us today of cultures in contact with each other, each with its own physiognomy, and the ground which, in an original way, predisposed each to encounter with the others.

<https://www.martinomartinicenter.org/sulla-via-del-catai-rivista.html>

Giacomella Orofino

OROFINO, G. "The Light that Illuminates the Oral Teaching on the Universal Basis (Kun gzhi)" GIACOMELLA OROFINO in Khenchen Tenpa Yungdrung Rinpoche and Charles Ramble (eds.) Celebrating 100 Years of Wisdom, Kathmandu, Vajra Books, 2025.

Key words: Tibetan Studies, Bon, Alayavijnana

Abstract

English translation of the Kun gzhi'i zhal shes gsal ba'i sgron ma, one of the most significant texts of the rDzogs pa chen po Zhang Zhung snyan rgyud. This work helps understanding the philosophical thought of the rDzogs chen tradition within the Bon school, situating it within the broader context of Tibetan scholarly traditions.

Orofino G. The Dawn of Physical Yoga, THE DAWN OF PHYSICAL YOGA. DISPELLING THE HINDRANCES TO IMMORTALITY, Seres Minor CIV, SOR, 44, Napoli, Unior Press, 2025.

Key words: Tibetan Studies, Tantric Studies, Buddhist Tantra, Hatha Yoga, Tantric Studies, Tantric Buddhism, History of yoga

Abstract

Dispelling the Hindrances to Immortality belongs to a remarkable corpus of texts preserved in the Tibetan canon, ancillary to the Amṛtasiddhi, the earliest known Sanskrit source to articulate the foundational principles and techniques of a yoga system based on physical practice, later referred to as 'the yoga of force' (haṭhayoga). While the colophons within this corpus consistently trace the tradition back to the seminal figure Virūpa (Tib. Bir ba pa), the compilation of these materials is attributed to the mahāsiddha Yogeśvara Amoghavajra, a yogin from eastern India who was active in Tibet during the latter half of the 11th century—and who most likely authored the collection directly in Tibetan. Among these, Dispelling the Hindrances to Immortality stands out for its presentation of 108 dynamic physical movements, each designed to remove obstacles to the tantric Buddhist practice, according to the Amṛtasiddhi tradition. Strikingly, many of these physical postures resemble āsanas later codified in Indian haṭhayoga literature and foundational to both premodern and modern yoga traditions. This makes Dispelling the Hindrances to Immortality one of the earliest known manuals to document dynamic yogic postures. Through a close and comprehensive analysis of this little-known text, the study offers fresh insights into the origins and early development of physical yoga. It highlights the rich and dynamic transmission of yogic knowledge across regional and cultural boundaries, shedding light on the deeply interconnected trajectories of tantric physical practices in India and Tibet. As such, it represents a rigorous and insightful contribution to the scholarship on the origins and cross-cultural evolution of haṭhayoga.

Ubaldo Iaccarino

Ubaldo Iaccarino has published the following studies:

Ubaldo Iaccarino, "Mediating The Spanish Presence in China: Michele Ruggieri's Involvement in The Missions of Pedro de Alfaro O.F.M. and Alonso Sánchez S.I.," in Xie Mingguang (謝明光), Luisa Paternicò (安德偉), and Davor Antonucci (陸商隱) (eds.), Luo Mingjian: Zhong-Xi wenhua jiaoliu de kaituozhe — guoji xueshu huiyi lunwen ji 羅明堅：中西文化交流的開拓者—國際學術會議論文集, 3 vols. (New Taipei City: Hua Mulan Culture Press 花木蘭文化事業有限公司, 2025), vol. 3 (下冊), pp. 481-503.

Chinese translation: Ya Baoduo (雅保多), "Zuowei Xibanya zai Zhongguo de zhongjie — Luo Mingjian zai Pedro de Alfaro yu Alonso Sánchez de waijiao huodong zhong de juese (1579-1585)" 作為西班牙在中國的中介—羅明堅在佩德羅·德·阿爾法羅與阿隆索·桑切斯的外交活動中的角色 (1579~1585), vol. 2 (中冊), pp. 175-191. ISBN: 978-626-424-203-5.

Ubaldo Iaccarino, "El comercio de la «Nao del Japón» entre Manila y Kyūshū (1602-1609)", in José Antonio Martínez Torres and Iñigo Valpuesta Villa (eds.), Un Oriente ibérico. Política, cultura e intercambios mercantiles en el nacimiento de la globalización, 1580-1668 (Granada: Comares, 2025), pp. 165-182. ISBN: 978-84-1369-848-9.

Ubaldo Iaccarino, "Au-delà de la manière douce. La stratégie missionnaire des frères philippins en Chine et au Japon (1575-v. 1639)" [Beyond the Gentle Way. The Philippine Friars' Missionary Strategy in China and Japan (1575-ca. 1639)], Sources(s). Arts, civilisation et histoire de l'Europe, 22 (2024) 59-70. ISSN : 2265-1306. Open Access: <https://www.ouvrir.fr/sources/index.php?id=971>

Carmen Simioli

Simioli, Carmela. 2025. "Consecrated Medicines and Spiritual Practices: A Reflection on the Many Traditions Represented in the Relics by Zur mkhar ba mNyam nyid rdo rje" *Religions* 16, no. 3: 324. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel16030324>

Abstract:

This contribution is aimed at analyzing a series of life-prolonging and rejuvenating treatments (bcud len), recipes of ambrosia for immortality (bdud rtsi sman), and yogic and meditative techniques incorporated in the Man ngag bye ba ring bsrel (Ten Million of Quintessential Instructions, The Relics; henceforth Ring bsrel), a medical corpus mainly authored by Zur mkhar ba mNyam nyid rdo rje (1439–1475). The many treads of mNyam nyid rdo rje's literary production reflect his rNying ma and bKa' brgyud spiritual legacies: the author systematically elaborated materials drawn from the rNying ma gter ma tradition and complex medico–alchemical practices ascribed to the third Karmapa Rang byung rdo rje (1284–1339) and O rgyan pa rin chen dpal (1230–1309). The key ingredients of the recipes include saxifrage [bdud rtsi 'od ldan; *Micranthes melanocentra*; *Saxifraga melanocentra*], purple sage [lug mur; *Phlomoides bracteosa*], potent substances such as black aconite [bstan dug; *Aconitum spicatum*], nightshade [thang phrom; *Anisodus* spp.; *Mandragora caulescens*], mercury–sulfide ashes (zla bcud; bcud rgyal), aphrodisiacs containing salamander meat [da byid, gangs sbal; *Batrachuporus pinchonii*], caterpillar fungus [dByar rtswa dgun 'bu; *Cordyceps sinensis*], and other substances endowed with hot potencies that can enhance gtum mo practices such as the dwarf rhododendron [da lis; *Rhododendron* spp.] and compounds containing long peer [pi pi ling; *Piper longum*], black pepper, [pho bar is; *Piper nigrum*], ginger, and so forth. The consecrated medicines and the rituals can bestow protection from any sort of diseases, diseases-carrier forces (gdon), and poisoning and lead to spiritual achievements. The analysis of these scriptural materials brings into focus the historical interrelation of diverse traditions that are represented by the heterogeneity of ideas and practices handed down through the Zur medical lineage.

Simioli, Carmen. "Theriac Recipes (Dar ya kan) as the Ultimate Cure Against Epidemics in Two Tibetan Medico-Alchemical Collections of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries." *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines*, no. 77, May 2025, pp. 128–86 https://d1i1jdw69xsqx0.cloudfront.net/digitalhimalaya/collections/journals/ret/pdf/ret_77_07.pdf

Abstract:

This study contributes to the broader history and epidemiological context of theriacs during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries through the analysis of Tibetan sources attesting to the presence of complex compounds known as theriac (dar ya kan). It is part of an ongoing project on the history of theriacs and alexipharmacs in the Tibetan medical system. Starting with a concise review of the current state of the field and early Tibetan medical texts on theriacs, it focuses on the analysis of recipes preserved in the Great Vase of the Amṛta of Immortality ('Chi med bdud rtsi bum chen; hereafter Vase of Amṛta) and the Great Measure of Gold, Pith Instructions of the Brang ti Medical Lineage (Brang ti lha rje'i rim brgyud kyi man ngag gser bre chen mo).

Diego Maiorano

Michelguglielmo Torri, Filippo Boni, Diego Maiorano and Elena Valdameri (eds.), Asia in 2024: Fragile democracies amid global turmoil, Asia Maior XXXV/2024 Roma, Viella, 2025. <https://www.asiamaior.org/the-journal/19-asia-maior-vol-xxxv-2024>

Diego Maiorano, Political Leadership, in Rob Jenkins and Louise Tillin (eds.), Deconstructing India's Democracy, Hyderabad, Orient Blackswan, 2025: <https://orientblackswan.com/details?id=9789354429620>

Other Publications

Diego Maiorano

Diego Maiorano, "Cuán democrática es India: el nacionalismo hindú y el auge de la democracia étnica," Vanguardia, 3 January 2025.

Diego Maiorano, "L'escalation delle tensioni tra India e Pakistan," Affari Internazionali, IAI, Rome 7 May 2025: <https://www.affarinternazionali.it/lescalation-delle-tensioni-tra-india-e-pakistan/>

Diego Maiorano, "L'India e il Pakistan sono disposti ad alzare ancora la tensione," Il Foglio, 14 May 2025: <https://www.ilfoglio.it/esteri/2025/05/14/news/l-india-e-il-pakistan-sono-disposti-ad-alzare-ancora-la-tensione-7719960/>

Pia Brancaccio

"Cave Monasteries and the Cotton Road in Western Deccan" for the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford University, Podcast Episode 3, published June 1, 2025: <https://buddhiststudies.stanford.edu/podcast-episode-3-pia-brancaccio>

Seminars and Conferences

Davide Cava

In May 2025, Davide Cava participated in the four-day workshop "Third Festival of Glottodidactic Innovation", organized by ANILS (Associazione Nazionale Insegnanti Lingue Straniere), which aligns well with his doctoral project. He strengthened and acquired knowledge and skills related to glottodidactics and multimedia tools for teaching.

Annalisa Bocchetti

Dr. Annalisa Bocchetti presented a paper at the 50th Anniversary of the Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, held at Christ Church College, University of Oxford, May 2-4, 2025. Her presentation, titled "Between Eid and Holi at Shāh 'Ālam II's court: ritualised power or powerful rituals?", explored the interplay between religious festival and political authority at the late Mughal court, navigating the cultural and performative aspects of religious life as lived and narrated in vernacular and courtly settings. ([More info](#))

Badal Khan Sabir

- 13 February: Presented a paper on “Love, Madness and Sainthood in the 15th-16th centuries Balochi Oral Literature” at The International Conference on Sufism, held at Ghazi Khan University, Punjab.
- 15-16 February: Presented a paper on “The Universality in Balochi Folktales” at the Gwadar Book Festival, held at the RCDC Gwadar.
- 17 February: Spoke as a keynote speaker on “Balochi vowel system and the Arabic script”, at Balochistan Academy of Literature, Turbat.
- 19 February: Participated in a seminar as discussant on “Patriotism in Ghulam Hussain Shohaz’s Balochi Poetry”, Institute of Balochi Language and Culture, University of Turbat.
- 20 February: Keynote speaker at the conference on the life and works of Atashad at Atashad Government Degree College, Turbat. Talk: “Atashad as the forerunner of modern Balochi poetry.”
- 22 February: Talked on “The Importance of Basic Education in Mother Tongue” on the occasion of the International Day of Mother Languages at Balochistan Academy of Literature, Turbat.
- 26 February: [Presented](#) a paper at Sayad Hashmi Reference Library, Karachi on “Motif classification of Balochi folktales.”
- 28 February: Participated in a roundtable, “Decolonization of Women in Pakistan with special reference to Balochistan”, Faculty of Social Sciences, The Institute of Business Administration, Karachi.

Thuy Hien Le

- Organized the international conference "Voices from Southeast Asia: Literature and Visual Culture" (March 17, 2025). This [event](#) brought together distinguished scholars and experts to explore the rich literary and cultural landscape of Southeast Asia. Through a series of presentations, participants examined the region's diverse literary and visual traditions, offering valuable insights into contemporary storytelling, resilience, and cultural identity.
- Participated in ITASEAS 2025, the 5th ITASEAS conference, held at the University of Turin, June 4–6, 2025. Delivered a paper titled "Political Cartoons as a Mirror of Society: The Case of Vietnam", examining the practice of political cartoons in Vietnam within their social and political contexts.

Giulia Forgione

On 18 February, Giulia Forgione participated in the Workshop “Materia e forma. L'argilla e lo stucco nell'arte dell'Iran, del Gandhāra e dell'Asia Centrale/Matter and form. Clay and stucco in the art of Iran, Gandhāra and Central Asia”, held at Sapienza University of Rome as part of the PRIN project “earthHeritage - A cultural rescue initiative for earthen heritage: An interdisciplinary, diachronic and trans-areal approach to interconnected artistic productions in clay and stucco in Iran, Iraq, Central Asia and the north of the Indian subcontinent (3rd cent. BCE-8th century CE)”.

Title of the contribution: La scultura in argilla tra Afghanistan e Asia Centrale occidentale: decorazioni a confronto per la ricostruzione di iconografie e fasi artistiche/Clay sculpture

between Afghanistan and Western Central Asia: a comparison of decorations for the reconstruction of iconographies and artistic phases.

Serena Saccone

9 January

Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai

"Exploring the Buddhist Ocean. Interactions Between Esoteric and Non-Esoteric Mahāyāna"

Invited Lecture as Visiting Professor

14 January

Participation in International Symposium "Truth and Being", Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Paper title: "A Gradual Approach to Truth. The Buddhist Path Towards Reality"

17 January

Azim Premji University, Bangalore

"About Śubhagupta. An (Overlooked) Influential Thinker Within the Logico-Epistemological Tradition"

Invited [Lecture](#)

27 January

Ashoka University, Sonipat, India

"Essential Necessity and Apprehension: What Does sahopalambhaniyama Prove?"

Invited Lecture

29 January

Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai

"On Necessary Co-Apprehension: Some Notes on the History of a Buddhist Idea"

Invited Lecture as Visiting Professor

28 March

Participation in International Symposium, "Atomistic Traditions: A Comparative Study", Paris Cité University, Paris.

Paper Title: "Buddhist Atomism"

27 May

Doctoral [Lecture](#), University of Perugia

"Buddhist Externalism: Buddhist Theories on Matter and Space"

Anna Filigenzi

- February 18, 2025, Workshop "Materia e forma. L'argilla e lo stucco nell'arte dell'Iran, del Gandhāra e dell'Asia Centrale Matter and form. Clay and stucco in the art of Iran, Gandhāra and Central Asia". Sapienza Università di Roma, Istituto Italiano di Studi Orientali (Progetto PRIN 2022JL5HLY - earthHeritage).
 - Title of presentation: I corollari del bello: alcune riflessioni sul mostruoso e il grottesco nella plastica buddhista dell'Afghanistan / The corollaries of

- beauty. Some reflections on the monstrous and grotesque in the Buddhist sculpture of Afghanistan.
 - Summary: From the normative conception of the 'virtuous body' par excellence - i.e. that of the Buddha - and its beauty arise, by way of opposition, the corollaries of anomalies that reflect the karmic effects of past errors, but also a wide range of 'virtuous bodies' that are placed within a differentiated scale of merits. The contribution analyses the reverberations of such notions in Afghan artistic production (c. 3rd-8th cent. CE), also highlighting the changes in the aesthetic codes and iconographic repertoires through which these notions took shape across time, intertwining with old and new cultural paradigms.
- May 9, 2025, Seminar in the framework of the Research Group 'Transnational Diffusion of Religious Cultures in Asia and the Creation of "Regions"', led by prof. Nakanishi Tatsuya, Kyoto University, Institute for Research in Humanities.
 - Title of the presentation: "Shahis and Ghaznavids: Spatial and temporal encounters in the northwestern Indian subcontinent".
 - Summary: Based on the field research carried out by the Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan, and particularly in Swat (ancient Uddiyana), the presentation will illustrate some interesting cases of cultural appropriation of special places and spaces, which involved the local Buddhist establishment, the Shahi rulers and the Ghaznavids, in an unbroken temporal sequence roughly spanning the period from the 7th to the 11th century CE.
- May 28, 2025, Workshop "Understanding connections and mobility in the ancient and medieval world" (in the framework of the research project "Like Islands in a Sea of Sand – Understanding the Silk Roads of Late Antiquity as a layered network model", led by prof. Tomas Larsen Høisæter), Kyoto University, Institute for Research in Humanities.
 - Title of the contribution: Physical and cultural mobilities across the ancient Buddhist world: Xuanzang in Purushapura and connected stories.
 - Summary: The presentation illustrates the circulation of models across the ancient Buddhist oecumene, and the role of both pilgrims and portable artworks in spreading them. In particular, the focus is on the interpretation of an ancient Buddhist bronze sculpture (7th/8th cent. CE) from Pakistan.
- June 26, 2025, Nagoya University, individual invited lecture
 - Title of the lecture: A Buddhist bronze sculpture from ancient Pakistan (7th/8th cent. CE): Some hypotheses about a famous stupa, a neglected ceremony and a 'miraculous' Buddha image
 - Summary: The presentation illustrates the embedded meanings of an ancient Buddhist bronze sculpture (7th/8th cent. CE) from Pakistan and its connections with a real ceremony of renovation of a famous stupa, probably the same seen by the Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang in Purushapura (modern-day Peshawar), as well as with the ruixiang, i.e., copies of auspicious images from India and Central Asia.

Giacomella Orofino

Organization of Conferences:

- 2024 (14-16 October): Organization of the International Conference “Beyond Borders. Tracing the Historical Dynamics and Transmission Models of Buddhism in Asian Context”, DAAM (UNIOR).

Conference Participation:

- 12-13 December 2024: Participated in the conference “More Light on the Metaphors of Light”, CERES Ruhr University Bochum, with the contribution “Illuminating the Sacred: Metaphor, Meaning and Sign in Tibetan Bon Religious Literature”. [Flyer](#)
- May 2024: “The Dawn of Physical Yoga” at the Center for Buddhist Studies, Leiden University.

Francesco Sfera

- 24 January 2025: ‘A Madhyamaka Path in Tantric Garb: An Enquiry on the Buddhology and the Early Doctrines of the Buddhist Tantric Cycle “The Wheel of Time.”’ (McMaster University, Hamilton, Yehan Numata Program in Buddhist Studies 2024-25)
- 23 January 2025: ‘A Passage from the Sarvarahasyatantra and its Unpublished Commentary by Ratnākaraśānti’ (University of Toronto, Yehan Numata Program in Buddhist Studies 2024-25). More info [here](#).
- 7 February: Organisation of an International conference on Kālacakra, University of Naples L’Orientale, 3-7 February 2025. Within this conference, Francesco Sfera presented a paper titled: ‘On new, recent discoveries of Kālacakra Sanskrit manuscripts’. More info [here](#).
- 12 June 2025: ‘Texts in Context. An Inquiry into the Social and Religious Context in which the Kālacakra Buddhist Tradition Originated’ (Universität Wien, Institut für Südasien-, Tibet- und Buddhismuskunde). More info [here](#).
- 18-20 June 2025: organisation of the Paramārthasevā Reading seminar (online), within the PRIN project 2022NZRBRH The “Wheel of Time”: An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X–XIII cent.). More info [here](#).

Francesca Romana Moro

- Presented at NILCS 2025 – New Issues in Language Contact Studies, 28–30 May 2025, L’Aquila, [info](#)
- Presented at ITASEAS – Italian Southeast Asian Societies, 4–6 June 2025, Turin, [info](#)
- Presented at SEALS34 – Southeast Asian Linguistics Society, 11–13 June 2025, Bali, [info](#)

Ubaldo Iaccarino

In the year 2025 Ubaldo Iaccarino has participated to the following international conferences:

- June 4–6, 2025: 5th ItaSEAS (Italian Association of Southeast Asian Studies) International Conference, held in Turin (Italy) at the University of Turin.
 - Speech: "Connections Across Waters: The Dynamics of the Early Modern Sino-Japanese Trade in the Philippines."
- May 19, 2025: International Workshop (Seminario), "Entramados insulares: redes y conexiones por el Pacífico asiático de la época moderna," at National Distance Education University (Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, UNED), Spain (held online).
 - Organizers: National Distance Education University (UNED); Institute of Historical Research of National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Institute of History of Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC).
 - Speech: "The Search for the Ricas Islands in the 16th-17th Century Philippines."

Caterina Berliri

- June, 18 and 20: Participation in "The Paramārthasevā Reading Seminar No. 4", online, within the PRIN project 2022NZRBRH The "Wheel of Time": An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X–XIII cent.).
- May, 14: "Pulsazione (spanda) e sequenza (krama) nello Śvaismo del Kashmir di epoca medievale", within the workshop "Il pensiero dell'India. Nuove ricerche indologiche", curated by Serena Saccone, at Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici (Napoli).
- February, 5: "Highlights on pratīyasamutpāda in Early Kālacakra Sources", within "Kālacakra Conference – Lectures and Paramākṣarajñānasiddhi readings", at Università di Napoli L'Orientale

Co-organization:

- May, 19 and 23: Co-organization of two [conferences](#) by Elisa Freschi (University of Toronto) at Università di Napoli L'Orientale, within the PRIN project 2022NZRBRH The "Wheel of Time".
- February, 3–7: Organization of "Kālacakra Conference – Lectures and Paramākṣarajñānasiddhi readings" at Università di Napoli L'Orientale, within the PRIN project 2022NZRBRH The "Wheel of Time".

Antonia Soriente

- 04.–06.06.2025 ITASEAS Italian South East Asian Studies conference. Organization of the [conference](#) and paper presentation: Inequality and Education: The Case of the Punan Semeriot Indigenous School in Kalimantan
- 04.04.2025 Asian community and Europe. EURASIA Foundation, UNISTRASI University for Foreigners of Siena, 4 April 2025. "The study of traditional boats in Sulawesi, Indonesia. The perspective of a linguist". More info [here](#).
- 17.03.2025 Voices from South-East Asia: Literature and visual culture, a seminar: What do we talk about when we talk about Indonesian Literature? Is there a canon?
- 19–21.02.2025 The 2nd International [Conference](#) on Language and Literature Preservation. Celebrating Mother tongue diversity, BRIN Jakarta 19–21 February

2025. "Language Documentation, Dictionary Building and Culture Preservation in South Sulawesi" A Dictionary of maritime and naval terms in Konjo-Indonesian-English.

- 13.01.2025. Doctoral [program](#) of Cultural studies at Universitas Udayana Bali: Etnografi dalam Kajian Budaya - Fieldwork. Ethnography, linguistics and interdisciplinarity in Indonesia.

Carmen Simioli

Carmen Simioli has delivered the following lectures:

- 10 April 2025, the workshop Lead and Gold on the Silk Road- Alchemy in A transcultural perspective (10–11 April 2025) convened by Regula Foster and Dagmar Wujastyk, University of Tübingen. The title of her contribution was: Extracting and Processing Mercury in Tibetan Alchemy.
- 26 February 2025, She delivered a lecture entitled "Il contributo della medicina tibetana alla storia della trasmissione delle conoscenze mediche e alchemiche in Eurasia at Museo delle Civiltà di Roma. This conference was organized in the framework of the Museum project "Eur-Asia".
- 23 January 2025, She delivered the lecture entitled Reconciling Traditions: Transmission Histories and Lineages of Alchemical and Rakṣā Texts in the Brang ti's Gser bre chen mo, as a part of the online Lecture series organized by the Societe Francaise d'etudes du Monde Tibetain (SFEMT).

Carmen Simioli has participated in the following event at UNIOR:

Kālacakra Conference at L'Orientale University of Naples, workshop of the PRIN project 2022NZRBRH The "Wheel of Time": An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X–XIII cent.) organized by Francesco Sferra and Caterina Berliri. Her contribution was entitled: The Sixfold Yoga (ṣaḍaṅgayoga) Reframed: Examining O rgyan pa Rin chen dpal's rDo rje gsum gyi bsnyen sgrub (Approach and Accomplishment of the Three Vajras) and its Commentarial Literature (07 February 2025).

Diego Maiorano

Diego Maiorano organised the third edition of the European Meeting on the Political Economy of South Asia (EMPESA), funded by the Department of Asia Africa and the Mediterranean. The workshop brought together 18 researchers from across Europe and was held at the University of Naples L'Orientale, 4–5 June 2025.

Diego Maiorano chaired a seminar by Lisa Björkman on her book "The Drama of Democracy", University of Naples L'Orientale, 19 May 2025.

Pia Brancaccio

- "Seeing the Buddha in South Asian Art", lecture delivered (online) at the Tsz Shan Monastery, Hong Kong, April 5

- "Building Kanheri: The Stupa and Temple Erected at Kanheri/Krishnagiri Caves, Maharashtra", Paper presented at the International Research Workshop on Buddhist Monasticism, Material Culture and the Secular World in Early Medieval South Asia, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA, May 2-3
- "Buddhist Monasticism in the Longue Durée: The Archaeological Evidence from the Rock-Cut Complex of Kanheri/Kṛṣṇagiri Maharashtra, India" Lecture presented at Stanford University, USA, May 8 <https://buddhiststudies.stanford.edu/events/pia-brancaccio-buddhist-monasticism-longue-duree-archaeological-evidence-rock-cut-complex>
- April 28, Lecture on "New Discoveries at Kanheri" delivered (online) at SOAS, London, UK
- August 15, 2025: Organization (with Akira Shimada, SUNY, USA, and Vincent Tournier LMU, Germany) of the panel "Light on the "Dark Mountain": Buddhism in First-Millennium Kanheri" for the XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Leipzig University. Paper title: "3. The Architecture of Monastic Memory: The Stūpas in Kanheri Cave 87".

Stefania Cavaliere

Stefania Cavaliere took part in the International Conference "Theater beyond the Theater in the Ancient World: Ritual Drama, Folklore, and Reception" at the University of Naples L'Orientale, 26th-28th May 2025, with a paper entitled "Emotions in Indian theatrical performances across centuries, languages and cultural traditions"

<https://ceisma.unior.it/it/international-conference-theater-beyond-theater-comparative-perspective-ritual-drama-folklore-and>

She also delivered an online lecture entitled "Occhi neri di velluto, piedi nudi e profumo di tamarindo. Esotismo, aspirazioni cosmopolite e costruzione di immaginari coloniali fra India e Francia" for the Seminar "Tra Oriente e Occidente: Itinerari, interazioni, rappresentazioni" organized by the University of Naples L'Orientale, May 19th 2025

Media Engagements

Anna Filigenzi

April 17, 2025 (broadcasting), RAI CULTURA "5000 anni e +".

'Angkor la città divina' / 'Angkor, the divine city'. Commentary in the studio in the context of broadcasting.

Summary: The focus of the documentary and analysis in the studio is the rise and fall of Angkor (Cambodia, 9th-15th cent. CE) and the possible role played by natural disaster casualties seen from the viewpoint of archaeology and palaeoclimatology.

[Watch](#)

Antonia Soriente

- Interview with Ateneapoli on the third edition of the Laboratory of Filipino language held at L'Orientale: [Ateneapoli feature \(June 2025\)](#)

- Interview with Rieska Wulandari with the Indonesian Media Sinar Harapan on strengthening the relations between Italy and Indonesia at L'Orientale: [Sinar Harapan article](#)
- The presence of Indonesian gamelan at University of Naples L'Orientale in Indonesian media: [Wartaeropa article](#)

Diego Maiorano

- Interview for Il Manifesto:
«L'India sembra abbia tutto l'interesse a far finire le ostilità il prima possibile», Il Manifesto 8 May 2025:
[Read](#)
- Interview for Il Mondo (Internazionale), 29 January 2025:
[Listen](#)
- Interview for Il Mondo (Internazionale), 29 April 2025:
[Listen](#)
- Interview for Il Mondo (Internazionale), 8 May 2025:
[Listen](#)
- Interview for Domani, 7 May 2025:
"India-Pakistan, un conflitto ad alto rischio: non c'è più un garante dell'ordine internazionale":
[Read](#)
- Interview for Ticino Online, 8 May 2025:
[Read](#)
- Interview for Radio Onda D'Urto, 7 May 2025:
[Listen](#)
- Interview for Nessun Luogo é Lontano, Radio 24, 8 May 2025:
[Watch](#)
- Interviews for TGCOM, 26 April 2025 and 7 May 2025.

Outreach (Terza Missione)

Annalisa Bocchetti, Daniela Cappello, Davide Cava and Stefania Cavaliere

Annalisa Bocchetti, Daniela Cappello, Davide Cava and Stefania Cavaliere organized and delivered the seminar series titled "Lingue dell'Asia Meridionale per gli Usi Specialistici e la Mediazione Culturale" (South Asian Languages for Specialized Purposes and Cultural Mediation), held from March to May 2025. More info [here](#).

On March 22, 2025, Daniela Cappello, Davide Cava, and Stefania Cavaliere participated as speakers in a session dedicated to "Intercultural and Linguistic Mediation with South Asian communities", within the framework of the Master's program in Intercultural Mediation at the University of Naples "L'Orientale," organized by professors Michele Bernardini and Alberto Manco.

Drawing on her recent experience as CTU (consulente tecnico d'ufficio) for the Procura della Repubblica di Napoli, Dr Annalisa Bocchetti gave a lecture on legal translation and cultural mediation, with a focus on Urdu-Italian cases.

Pia Brancaccio

Presentations at the International Festival Tracce d'India at Matera and lectures at I.I.S. "Duni – Levi" Liceo Classico
https://events.materawelcome.it/events/view/cinema/7606/tracce_dindia

Badal Khan Sabir

30 May: Organized a lecture on "Culinary Memoirs and Cultural Identity in the Indo-Pakistani Diaspora".

Giulia Forgione

On 2 March, Giulia Forgione took part in the conference series "Archeologia del gusto. La storia è servita", held at the Palazzo del Turismo in Riccione. The event was curated by Andrea Tirincanti (Museo del territorio di Riccione), Luca Colliva and Serenella Mancini (Alma Mater Studiorum- University of Bologna). Title of the contribution: Il cibo, il corpo, la mente: precetti, divieti e medicina del benessere nella tradizione buddhista antica.

Serena Saccone

Organization and scientific supervision of [Seminar](#) at Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici, Napoli. Seminar Title: "Il pensiero dell'India. Nuove Ricerche Indologiche". The Seminar consisted of a lecture series by PhD students and young researcher, mostly affiliated with Orientale, dealing with Indological subjects. It was open to the general public as well as researchers from the Istituto.

Francesca Romana Moro

Meeting with the communities, associations, and schools to bring together the richness of the languages spoken in Naples, 8 April 2025, Università di Napoli L'Orientale.

Giacomella Orofino

Conference at the Museo delle Civiltà di Roma, 1 Aprile, "Quando il Buddha arrivò sul tetto del mondo"

[Event page](#)

Antonia Soriente

03.06.25 Italian Ministry of Foreign affairs: Roundtable discussion Italy-Southeast Asia

30.05.25 Sala delle Antichità Palazzo Corigliano - Open rehearsal of Gamelan, a small concert made by the participants of the laboratory of Gamelan Cahya Sumunar

[Watch the concert](#)

15.05.2025 Liceo scientifico Sensale Nocera Inferiore. Presentation of University of Naples L'Orientale and its study programs (especially Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa) to high school students and teachers

02.04.25 Celebrations of Eid.al Fitr at University of Naples L'Orientale

[See highlights](#)

Stefania Cavaliere

"Oltre i confini. Dialoghi musicali con l'Asia Meridionale". A series of lecture-performances and a concert of classical Indian Music organized with the association Komasa and IsMEO, March-May 2025

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=2486553954872415&set=pcb.2486553998205744>

Diego Maiorano

Diego Maiorano was among the panelists at the inaugural "India Dialogue", hosted by the Institute of International Affairs (Rome) and the Indian Embassy in Italy on 25th June 2025. The event discussed the EU and India partnership, in light of the uncertain geopolitical situation with key stakeholders, including the Ambassador of India to Italy, Vani Rao, and former Ambassador of Italy to India Vincenzo De Luca. More info [here](#).

Funding and Projects

Anna Filigenzi

Principal Investigator of the PRIN Project 2022JL5HLY "earthHeritage - A cultural rescue initiative for earthen heritage: An interdisciplinary, diachronic and trans-areal approach to interconnected artistic productions in clay and stucco in Iran, Iraq, Central Asia and the north of the Indian subcontinent (3rd cent. BCE-8th century CE)."

Other units: Sapienza University of Rome (responsible: prof. Ciro Lo Muzio); University of Bologna (responsible: dr. Luca Colliva).

The project builds on an integrated approach, multi-disciplinary and trans-regional, which is not solely concerned with best-preserved forms but also with the informative potential of any relevant archaeological trace and fragment (often underestimated and therefore more at risk of being lost). Based on a solid nucleus of data (already partly available to the team) and with the aid of archaeometric investigations, hypothetical reconstructions will be attempted of iconographic motifs and decorative programmes, as well as of the technical aspects of production. The collected data will be made available in the form of a user-friendly digital catalogue and used within the same platform to create a virtual museum, as a space where research and dissemination meet.

Funding: Total €194,376.00; Naples local unit €99,676.00 (external €81,476.00)

Funded by: Ministry of Education, University and Research - Next Generation EU

[Project website](#)

Francesco Sfera

Principal Investigator (PI) PRIN 2022 (2022NZRBRH): The "Wheel of Time": An Inquiry into New Sources of Late Indian Buddhism (X–XIII cent.)

Within the projects, the following events were organized:

18-20 June 2025: Paramārthasevā Reading seminar (online).

19 and 23 May 2025: two [conferences](#) by Elisa Freschi (University of Toronto) at Università di Napoli L'Orientale.

3–7 February: Kālacakra Conference – Lectures and Paramākṣarajñānasiddhi readings" at Università di Napoli L'Orientale,

Pia Brancaccio

Awards and Grants received:

- Khyentse Foundation, Academic Development Grant for research to be conducted at Kanheri within the framework of the MAK Project
- American Institute for Indian Studies Fellowship, Senior Research Fellowship for Research on the Kanheri Caves, Archaeology, Art, and Water Management System.

Stefania Cavaliere

The University of Naples L'Orientale awarded 5000 euro for the project "Oltre i confini. Dialoghi musicali con l'Asia Meridionale"

Missions Abroad

Badal Khan Sabir

Pakistan, February 2025:

To participate in various conferences, deliver lectures at different institutions, and conduct research on seafaring activities and maritime terminology, etc.

Anna Filigenzi

Visiting Professor at Kyoto University, Institute for Research in Humanities (April 6–July 6, 2025):

Research project: "Data rescue, defragmentation and re-use: Reassessing the contribution of Japanese archaeology to the Afghan cultural heritage."

The proposed research focuses on the documentation of excavations and reconnaissance conducted by Japanese and Italian agencies, particularly active and productive between the late 1950s and late 1970s, and again, with ups and downs, in the first two decades of the 2000s, especially in the field of the archaeology of religious settlements.

This work of defragmenting and reusing documentation can contribute to better knowledge of Afghanistan's cultural heritage, which is key to its recognition, promotion, and protection. It will also allow tracing more accurately not only the known ancient

topography but also to plan future research on its gaps, particularly on civil settlements—still little known—and on the network of contacts which promoted the circulation of people, ideas, models, techniques, and resources for the production of material culture.

Serena Saccone

- Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai, India. January 2025: Visiting Professor
- Paris Cité University, Paris. 28 March 2025: Participation in International Symposium, "Atomistic Traditions: A Comparative Study"
- IKGA, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna. 30–31 May **2025**: Participation in International Workshop "Mind and Maṇḍala in Buddhist Tantric Practice"

Francesco Sfera

- Toronto & Hamilton, 21–27 January 2025: Conferences. Visiting professorship: Yehan Numata Program in Buddhist Studies 2024–25.
- Vienna, 29 May–1 June 2025: Participation in the International Workshop entitled "Mind and Maṇḍala in Buddhist Tantric Practice Workshop" (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens, Wien).
- Vienna, 11–15 June 2025: Lecture at the University of Vienna and Participation to an International Workshop on the *Prajñājñānaprakāśa* by Divākaracandra.

Caterina Berliri

- Feb 24–Mar 1, 2025: Participation (as a student) in "Winter [School](#) in Buddhist Textual Scholarship", at the EFEO center in Chiang Mai (Thailand), organized by: École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris Sciences & Lettres), École Française d'Extrême-Orient, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.

Antonia Soriente

- 12–15 Jan 2025: Diponegoro University, Semarang, Indonesia: Meetings and presentations about University of Naples L'Orientale in the framework of the LEGO Transnational education exchange project.
 - 17–18 Feb 2025: Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia: Meetings and presentations about University of Naples L'Orientale in the framework of the LEGO Transnational education exchange project.
 - 20 Jan–7 Feb 2025: Indonesia: Field trip in Tanah Beru (South Sulawesi), Indonesia for the dictionary of maritime terms.
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Pia Brancaccio

January–February 2025 Archaeological Mission in India – MAK Project (Mapping Ancient Krishnagiri) in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India, LMU Munich, SUNY New Paltz USA and the Vihara KAKEN Project, Japan.

Survey and Documentation of the Buddhist Rock-Cut Monastery of Kanheri in Maharashtra. During this season, the RTI (Reflectance Transformation Imaging) documentation of over 100 inscriptions at the site was completed, along with the photogrammetric recording of Caves 88–91.

Stefania Cavaliere

Stefania Cavaliere went on as research trip to India in January 2025, during which she also dealt with the management of academic agreements with our partner universities.

Other Activities

Giulia Forgione

Giulia Forgione was invited by Dr Luca Colliva to give an online seminar on the Buddhist clay sculpture on 5 May as part of the master's degree programme in Historical Archaeology of the Indo-Iranian Frontier at the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna.

Title of the seminar: *Il sito buddhista di Tepe Narenj (Kabul, Afghanistan)*.

Francesca Romana Moro and Antonia Soriente

Laboratorio di Lingua Filippina, 24 marzo - 16 aprile 2025. Un'introduzione alla lingua filippina. Insegnamento a cura del prof. Jayson Petras. More info [here](#).

Antonia Soriente

[Laboratory](#) of gamelan music – 28-30 May 2025, University of Naples L'Orientale.

[Seminar](#) with Rieska Wulandari: 12 May 2025, *Bringing real world content through a fictional character: Arrania*, University of Naples L'Orientale.

Diego Maiorano

Diego Maiorano has been appointed as Associate Editor of the Journal *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics*: [journal link](#)

Pia Brancaccio

March 26, 2025 [Lecture](#): "Translata Pecunia: The Use of Roman Coins on the Other Side of the Indian Ocean" by Professor Federico De Romanis, Roman History, University of Rome 2. Lecture organized in collaboration with the Chair of Roman History and the Intra-university School of Specialization in Archaeological Heritage (ORSA).

April 10–17, 2025 [Workshops](#) and Seminars by Professor Vincent Tournier, Classical Indology, Director of the Institute of Indology and Tibetology, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich: o Workshop "Reading Kanheri" (April 11) o "Sammitiya Spread, Scripts and Scriptures: Tracing the History of a Major Buddhist Lineage" (April 14) o "Mounds, Snakes and Arhats: Commemorating the Dead in the Deccan" (April 17)

May 12–17, 2025 Series of [Lectures](#) by Professor Ingo Strauch, Languages and Civilizations of South Asia, University of Lausanne, on the theme "Indic Communities Across the Ancient Indian Ocean": o "The Berenike Buddha and Indian Inscriptions in the Western Indian Ocean" (May 13) o "The Socotra Inscriptions" (May 14) o Reading Session (May 16)

Upcoming Events

Davide Cava

September 25, 2025

Lecture at Università Vanvitelli (Naples) for the conference organized by the Department of Cultural Heritage, titled "History and Transmission of Cultural Heritage".

His lecture is entitled: *Occidentali's Karma: Percezioni Alterate dell'India nella Cultura Pop Italiana e il "Lessico Esotico"* (Occidentali's Karma: Altered Perceptions of India in Italian Pop Culture and the "Exotic Lexicon").

Annalisa Bocchetti, Sabir Badal Khan and Stefania Cavaliere

Dr. Annalisa Bocchetti, in collaboration with Profs. Sabir Badal Khan and Stefania Cavaliere, is organizing a forthcoming workshop titled *Folklore, Ethnomusicology, and Material Culture across South Asia and the Persian Gulf Countries*.

Scheduled for the coming months, the workshop will bring together scholars from Pakistan, Europe, and beyond to explore how mobility has shaped cultural forms across coastal and transregional landscapes. Framed through an interdisciplinary lens, it will serve as a platform for dialogue on the movement of people, stories, vocabularies, sounds, and material practices across maritime networks and migratory routes.

Anna Filigenzi

September 16–17, 2025

International Conference "Re-materialising the ephemeral: The clay and stucco artistry of ancient Asia", organised by the Naples local unit of the PRIN project 2022JL5HLY earthHeritage - A cultural rescue initiative for earthen heritage: An interdisciplinary, diachronic and trans-areal approach to interconnected artistic productions in clay and

stucco in Iran, Iraq, Central Asia and the north of the Indian subcontinent (3rd cent. BCE-8th century CE).

Caterina Berliri

February 24 – March 1, 2025

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Serena Saccone

- July 22–24, 2025: Participation in the International Conference "Khyentse Center 15-year anniversary event", Hamburg University. Paper Title: "On Reality, Nature, and Apprehension: the development of the idea of sahopalambhaniyama in Buddhist thought".
- August 12, 2025: Organization (with Francesco Sferra) of the panel "Around Kālachakra. New Sources and New Perspectives" for the XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Leipzig University. Paper title: "Doxographical Representation and Doctrinal Agenda in Kālacakra works".

Francesca Romana Moro

March 24 – April 16, 2025

Laboratorio di Lingua Filippina (Filipino Language Laboratory). An introduction to the Filipino language. Taught by Prof. Jayson Petras.

Thuy Hien Le

July 7–11, 2025

Participation in the 35th ISHS Conference in Krakow, Poland, organized by the International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS).

Antonia Soriente

Glimpses of South-East Asia: Indonesian, Thailand and Birmania
A series of lectures by Rosalia Sciortino – Mahidol University.

Francesco Sferra

July 21–25, 2025: Participation in the International Conference in memory of David Seyfort-Ruegg (Hamburg Universität)

August 2025: Participation in the International Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (Leipzig)

Stefania Cavaliere

On 3-6 July 2025, Stefania Cavaliere will participate in "The 15th International Conference on the Early Modern Literatures of North India", The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (<https://icemlni2025.org/>)

Among the projects of the Department of Excellence (awarded to the Department of Asian, African and Mediterranean Studies), we will host a lecture series by Imre Bangha from Oxford University, in October-November 2025.