

XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies

August 10 to August 15, 2025

Leipzig University, Germany

THIRD CIRCULAR: MAY 2025

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share with you the Third Circular of the XXth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies (IABS), which will be held at Leipzig University, Leipzig, Germany, from August 10 to 15, 2025. The primary venue for the congress is the [Augusteum](#), located at Augustusplatz 10, 04109 Leipzig, and its adjacent buildings.

This final circular includes the following information:

- Registration
- Congress Schedule
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- Sustainability, Accessibility, and Inclusion

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the official congress website:

<https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/iabs2025/> and/or follow us on social media:

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#).

General Information

Please be kindly reminded that a **fully paid IABS membership** for the year 2025 is required in order to present a paper, convene a panel, or simply participate in the congress on-site. To become an IABS member, please refer to the application process on the IABS website: <https://iabsinfo.net/membership/application/>. For any inquiries regarding IABS membership, you may contact Dr. Christoph Emmrich (secretary@iabsinfo.net) or Dr. Danielle Feller (iabs.treasurer@unil.ch).

We warmly welcome everyone interested in attending the IABS 2025 Congress, an occasion that brings together scholars from around the world to exchange research in the field of Buddhist Studies. Even if you are not presenting, you are most welcome to join as an auditor, provided you are an IABS member and have paid the congress registration fee.

This year, we are also offering **livestreaming of selected panels** for remote audiences, wherever located. Access is completely **free**—all you need is an internet connection. For more details, please refer to the relevant part in the “Congress Schedule” below.

Although our field encompasses a multitude of linguistic regions and our members come from diverse language backgrounds, in accordance with IABS policy, all official Congress proceedings, including papers and presentations, should be conducted in an English-language medium.

Registration

The deadline for registration and payment is **June 15, 2025**. We encourage all participants to register as early as possible to secure their attendance. Registration and payment should be completed through our secure online system on the XXth Congress website: <https://conference.uni-leipzig.de/iabs2025/registration/>.

Please be aware that on-site check-in does not replace online registration. All participants must register and pay online by June 15 in order to attend the Congress.

Congress Schedule

On Sunday, August 10, on-site check-in will take place from 12:00 to 15:00 at [Schillerstraße 6](#) (Room S-102). From 15:00 to 18:00, the check-in will continue at the Info Point in the [Foyer Augusteum](#) (Augustusplatz 10). If you expect to arrive late, you may still check in during the week at the Info Point in the Foyer Augusteum.

Overview

Sunday, August 10, 2025		
12:00-15:00	Check-in at Schillerstrasse 6	
15:00-18:00	Check-in at Foyer Augusteum - Info Point	
16:00-18:00	Opening Session (Paulinum)	
18:00-20:00	Welcome Reception (Foyer Paulinum)	
Monday, August 11, 2025		
09:00-10:30	Morning Session I (Panels & Sections)	
10:30-11:00	Tea and Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Morning Session II (Panels & Sections)	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Afternoon Session I (Panels & Sections)	Mentoring Session I (14:00-15:00)
15:30-16:00	Tea and Coffee	
16:00-18:00	Afternoon Session II (Panels & Sections)	
18:00-18:45	Research Funds from the Japan Foundation: Japan in Asia and Asia in Japan	
18:00-19:00	UKABS Reception	
19:00-20:00	Roundtable Tsadra: Building Resources for Buddhist Study and Practice: The Works of Tsadra Foundation	
Tuesday, August 12, 2025		
09:00-10:30	Morning Session I (Panels & Sections)	
10:30-11:00	Tea and Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Morning Session II (Panels & Sections)	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Afternoon Session I (Panels & Sections)	Mentoring Session II (14:00-15:00)
15:30-16:00	Tea and Coffee	
16:00-18:00	Afternoon Session II (Panels & Sections)	
19:00-21:00	Movie Screening at the Grassi Museum: Carving the Divine – Buddhist Sculptors of Japan	

Wednesday, August 13, 2025		
09:00-10:30	Morning Session I (Panels & Sections)	
10:30-11:00	Tea and Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Morning Session II (Panels & Sections)	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Afternoon Session I (Panels & Sections)	Mentoring Session III (14:00-15:00)
15:30-16:00	Tea and Coffee	
16:00-18:00	Afternoon Session II (Panels & Sections)	
18:00-20:00	Board Meeting	
18:00-19:30	The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global Mindfulness Roundtable	
Thursday, August 14, 2025		
09:00-10:30	Morning Session I (Panels & Sections)	
10:30-11:00	Tea and Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Morning Session II (Panels & Sections)	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-18:00	Excursions	
18:00-19:00	European Regional Meeting	
From 19:00	Khyentse Foundation Networking Event for PhD Students and Postdocs	
Friday, August 15, 2025		
09:00-10:30	Morning Session I (Panels & Sections)	
10:30-11:00	Tea and Coffee	
11:00-12:30	Morning Session II (Panels & Sections)	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:30	Afternoon Session I (Panels & Sections)	Mentoring Session IV (14:00-15:00)
15:30-16:00	Tea and Coffee	
16:00-17:30	Afternoon Session II (Panels & Sections)	
17:45-18:45	General Meeting	
From 19:00	Farewell Dinner (Moritzbastei)	

Academic Program

The academic presentations are organized in the format of **panels** and **sections**. Each presentation is allocated a 30-minute slot, consisting of a 20-minute presentation and a 10-minute discussion. Kindly note that we are unable to accommodate individual requests for changes to the scheduled time slots.

Monday, August 11, 2025			
Morning Session I (09:00-10:30)	Morning Session II (11:00-12:30)	Afternoon Session I (14:00-15:30)	Afternoon Session II (16:00-18:00)
Tantric Buddhism	The INTELLEXUS Project: Mapping the Indic and Tibetan Buddhist Text Corpora		
Stories Beyond Borders		Indigenous Buddhist Culture of the Tocharians of Kucha	
Reading, Writing, and Rewriting Buddhist Genders			
Buddhist Literature (1)		Buddhist Literature (2)	
Buddhism and law		Vinaya Studies	
Mahāyāna Buddhism (1)		Mahāyāna Buddhism (2)	
Abhidharma Studies			Yogācāra Buddhism (1)
Emotional States and Buddhist History, Literature, and Practice			
Tracing the Early Contours of Japanese Buddhist Philosophy		Elite Buddhist Monastics in Contemporary China: Life Stories and Institutional Framework	
Buddhism and Its Relation to Other Religions		Mentoring Session I	Buddhism in the Himalaya(s)
Tuesday, August 12, 2025			
Morning Session I (09:00-10:30)	Morning Session II (11:00-12:30)	Afternoon Session I (14:00-15:30)	Afternoon Session II (16:00-18:00)
Machine Translation, Large Language Models, and Buddhist Studies		On Sakya Paṇḍita’s Treasury of Epistemology (<i>tshad ma’i rigs gter</i>)	
Around Kālacakra: New Sources and New Perspectives		Idioms of Newar Buddhist Storytelling	
Buddhist Responses to Nature, Ecology, and the Climate Crisis			
Tibetan Buddhism (1)		Tibetan Buddhism (2)	
Manuscripts, Codicology, and Epigraphy (1)		Manuscripts, Codicology, and Epigraphy (2)	Global Buddhism
Mahāyāna Buddhism (3)		Buddhist Art and Architecture (1)	
Yogācāra Buddhism (2)		From the Early Yogācāra to its Later Tradition in India	
Reformulating Buddhism: Conceptual Debates and Strategy Creation of Buddhist Groups in the Sinophone Sphere		Surveying the Field of Tibetan Pilgrimage	

Wrathful Deities: Transcultural Vectors of Tantric Buddhism		Temples as Platform of Contemporary Buddhist Art	
		Mentoring Session II	
Wednesday, August 13, 2025			
Morning Session I (09:00-10:30)	Morning Session II (11:00-12:30)	Afternoon Session I (14:00-15:30)	Afternoon Session II (16:00-18:00)
Prajñākaragupta’s Philosophy and Its Influence: Perception, Causation, and Non-duality			
Kālacakra Studies			Rare Texts and Popular Religion: Buddhism as Collected by Van Manen
Southeast Asian Buddhist Epigraphy: New Directions			
Early Buddhism (1)		Early Buddhism (2)	
Buddhism and Society (1)		Buddhism and Society (2)	Buddhist Hermeneutics, Scholasticism, and Commentarial Techniques
Constructing, Deconstructing, and Reconstructing Buddhist Authority(ies)		Buddhist Art and Architecture (2)	
Guardians of the Path: The Multidimensional Role of Protection of Buddhism		Tangut Buddhist Studies: Conceptualizing a Field	
Buddhist Studies and Digital Humanities		Towards a Buddhist Sacred Geography of the Himalayas	
Breathing – Body, Mind, Word		Artistic Connections in Premodern Buddhist Asia	
Buddhism and Ritual Practices		Mentoring Session III	Dharma in Motion: Intersecting Pathways of Buddhism and Film
Thursday, August 14, 2025			
Morning Session I (09:00-10:30)	Morning Session II (11:00-12:30)	14:00-18:00	
Gandhāra Corpora		Excursions	
Mystics and/or Scholars? Knowledge Transfer in Tibetan Meditation Traditions			
Exegesis, Commentary, and Scholasticism in Chinese Buddhism: The First 600 Years			
East Asian Buddhism (1)			
Epistemology and Logic in Buddhism (1)			
Buddhist Philosophy between India and China: From Madhyamaka to Sanlun and Beyond			

Looking into the Future: Influential Buddhist Women in Living Buddhist Traditions			
Buddhism and Gender			
Tantric Ethics and Buddhist Monasticism			
Southeast Asian Buddhism			
Friday, August 15, 2025			
Morning Session I (09:00-10:30)	Morning Session II (11:00-12:30)	Afternoon Session I (14:00-15:30)	Afternoon Session II (16:00-17:30)
Transmission in the Archive: The Place of the Local in Buddhism’s Global Past		Premodern Globalisation and Intra-Religious Communication across the Buddhist World	
Candrakīrti's Madhyamaka		Could there be a Buddhist Illusionism?	
Light on the “Dark Mountain”: Buddhism in First-Millennium Kanheri		New Studies in Vinaya Manuscripts	
East Asian Buddhism (2)		East Asian Buddhism (3)	
Epistemology and Logic in Buddhism (2)			Meditation Theories and Practices
Studying the Bka' 'gyur and Bstan 'gyur: Advancing the Understanding of Buddhist Ritual, Doctrine, and Textual Tradition			Buddhism in the Contemporary World
“BuddhistRoad” and Beyond		Negation and Truth in Buddhist Philosophy	
Pali Literature in the Second Millennium: Southeast Asia		Pali Literature in the Second Millennium: South Asia	
The Notion of Reliance in Sanskrit and Tibetan Textual Sources		Newar Buddhist Visual and Material Culture	
Buddhist Ethics		Mentoring Session IV	

To review the detailed academic presentation schedule, please download from [our website](#).

Please note that the Planning Committee reserves the right to make program changes as necessary.

Livestreaming Information

As a special feature of IABS 2025, we will provide free livestreaming of selected panels for our online audience.

Presentations in the following three rooms can be accessed through the links below:

Hörsaal 3: <https://www.urz.uni-leipzig.de/streams/livestream-hoersaal-3>

Hörsaal 1: <https://www.urz.uni-leipzig.de/streams/livestream-hoersaal-1>

Felix-Klein-Hörsaal: <https://www.urz.uni-leipzig.de/streams/livestream-felix-klein-hoersaal>

The streamed presentations and their corresponding room information will be included in the final program, to be released closer to the date of the congress.

Mentoring Sessions

As a special arrangement of IABS 2025, we are excited to offer four 60-minute **Mentoring Sessions** to connect Buddhist Studies graduate students and early postdocs (max. 2 years after graduation) with advanced scholars to build their professional network and seek advice and informal guidance within a structured setting of interactive group work sessions. Mentoring Sessions are limited to no more than 10 individuals in each session, and mentees should choose only one of the four sessions to enable as many mentees as possible to benefit from this program.

We are very grateful to the mentors who will offer their precious time for this:

- Mentoring Session I (Monday, August 11, 14:00–15:00): Writing Research Grants with Prof. James Benn
- Mentoring Session II (Tuesday, August 12, 14:00–15:00): Navigating the Academic Job Market with Prof. Stephanie Balkwill
- Mentoring Session III (Wednesday, August 13, 14:00–15:00): Transitioning to the Class Room with Prof. Amy Langenberg
- Mentoring Session IV (Friday, August 15, 14:00–15:00): Publishing the Academic Monograph with Prof. Matthew King

Registration for the Mentoring Sessions is now open on a first-come, first-served basis. Please drop a quick e-mail to Prof. Dagmar Schwerk (dagmar.schwerk@uni-leipzig.de) with the following details: your name, preferred session (first and alternative option), year of graduate studies or year of doctoral graduation, institutional affiliation, and contact e-mail to follow up.

Exhibitors and Posters

We will have several exhibitors and publishers in our field to introduce their services and products at the congress. The exhibition space will be in the [Foyer Augusteum](#).

More information will be made available in our final program.

Excursions

On the afternoon of Thursday, August 14, eight excursions are planned, offering you the opportunity to explore the charming musical and historical city of Leipzig. The excursions include:

- (1) Guided Tour of the Bach-Museum Leipzig and St. Thomas Church
- (2) World Famous City of Music – A Walk on the Leipzig Music Trail
- (3) Peaceful Revolution – The Fall of 89 in Leipzig
- (4) A City Stroll
- (5) Guided Tour of the Botanical Garden of Leipzig University
- (6) Tradition and Innovation in a Cup: Buddhist Scholastic Tea Party
- (7) Guided Tour: Jewish Life in Leipzig
- (8) Guided Tour: Leipzig and Colonial History

Your excursion preference should be indicated on the congress registration form. A spot on the chosen tour will be reserved, subject to availability. Payment (approximately 5–15 EUR, if applicable) must be made in cash, in the exact amount, and tickets will be distributed during on-site registration.

Please note that changes or cancellations may occur depending on registration numbers and external factors. We encourage you to stay updated via our [website](#) and social media channels.

Travel to and Stay in Leipzig

Airports

Berlin Brandenburg Airport offers the shortest connection to Leipzig. From the airport, you can easily reach Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (Leipzig Central Station) by rail in approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. You may book a rail ticket departing directly from the airport or other locations across Berlin, depending on your convenience.

If you arrive at Frankfurt Airport or Munich Airport, you can also travel to Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (Leipzig Central Station) by rail. The journey typically takes around 3.5 hours from Frankfurt Airport and around 4.5 hours from Munich Airport. Both airports and various locations within the cities are well-connected by rail, providing flexibility in choosing a departure point that best suits your itinerary. Alternatively, direct flights from Frankfurt and Munich to Leipzig/Halle Airport are also available.

Leipzig/Halle Airport is the closest airport to the conference venue. However, only a limited number of international airlines provide direct flights to this airport.

Out of concern for the environment, we encourage participants to prioritize train or public transport for their travel whenever feasible, and we provide helpful resources for that on our webpage “[Travel](#).”

German Rail Congress Ticket / Deutsche Bahn Congress Ticket

We are also delighted to be now able to offer the just relaunched **Deutsche Bahn (DB, “German Rail”) Congress Ticket** to attendees of the IABS Congress 2025. It offers a significant discount (even compared with the already reduced Saver Fare options at Deutsche Bahn) and can be used on any train operated by Deutsche Bahn, including ICE, IC, EC Trains, and regional trains.

Please book the Deutsche Bahn Congress Ticket via this specific [DB booking link](#). For further inquiries, please contact Deutsche Bahn directly.

We kindly remind all attendees that they are responsible for their own travel expenses to and from Leipzig.

Accommodation

There are a number of accommodation options in the city center of Leipzig. Please kindly find a list of accommodations near Leipzig University on our [website](#). In addition, we gathered and provided information about the hotels and their environmental efforts and eco-labels. This allows you to plan a stay that is both enjoyable and environmentally conscious.

Please be advised that August is one of the busiest times of the year, so kindly book early if possible. Attendees of the Congress are responsible for arranging their own accommodation and covering all associated expenses.

Visa Information

While we are not in a position to offer guidance or assistance with visa applications for travel to Germany, we can provide letters confirming registration or participation in the Congress to support your visa application. If you require such a letter, please contact us at info.iabs2025@uni-leipzig.de.

Sustainability, Accessibility, and Inclusion

We are committed to minimizing the environmental footprint of the IABS 2025 Congress by mindfully managing energy and resources, and you can find a regularly updated overview of our efforts and recommendations for you on our webpage under “[Sustainability, Accessibility, and Inclusion](#).” We would be happy if we could count on your support in achieving this goal, and we are very much interested in hearing back from you after the Congress about your experiences. We are especially grateful to The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global for supporting several measures in sustainability, accessibility, and inclusion.

To reduce our carbon footprint for the IABS Congress, some of our measures include offering completely vegetarian/vegan food options with a focus on regional production, choosing, as best possible, sustainable materials, and reducing waste. Furthermore, Leipzig University already uses 100 % renewable energy.

Tree Sponsorship: “Baumstarke Stadt”

We are celebrating the XXth IABS Congress by sponsoring a tree in the planting project “[Baumstarke Stadt](#) (Tree-strong City Campaign).” In this long-term project, trees are planted in public parks, streets, squares, and municipal cemeteries in Leipzig, and the project is a significant contribution to a greener Leipzig.



Sponsored red-flowering horse chestnut tree (lat. *Aesculus x carnea* 'Briotii') in front of the department building of the Institute for South and Central Asian Studies, Schillerstraße 6. Photo: Feng Yang.

Quiet Zone & Parenting Room

Additionally, we aim to ensure that the event is as accessible and inclusive as possible. Therefore, we offer a quiet zone for participants who wish to take a break from the conference in a calm setting. It is equipped with, for example, yoga mats, meditation cushions, water/glucose, reading materials, and other resources to promote relaxation and mindfulness.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer childcare services for logistical reasons, but we provide a separate Parenting Room that will give parents/partners and their children their own space. It is equipped with a kitchen, children's toilet/nappy-changing place, sleeping room, and toys (for different ages). Keys can be individually requested.

We encourage you to reach out to Prof. Dagmar Schwerk (dagmar.schwerk@uni-leipzig.de) if you require further assistance or have specific needs/questions regarding sustainability, accessibility, and inclusion. This will allow us to plan accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming you to the XXth IABS Congress and to engaging in inspiring discussions and fruitful collaborations!

With kind regards,

Jowita Kramer

The Planning Committee of the XXth IABS Congress

President: Jens-Uwe Hartmann

Chair: Jowita Kramer

Academic Coordination: Beier Wang, Feng Yang

Members: Johanna Buß, Volker Caumanns, Philip Clart, Sadananda Das, Franz Xaver Erhard, Michelle Kienzler, Christoph Kleine, Ines Konczak-Nagel, Yasmin Koppen, Zhoulun Li, Cornelia Meinig, Stepan Musharov, Keiki Nakayama, Katrin Querl, Ira Sarma, Dagmar Schwerk, Lilli Sharma, Christof Spitz, Sonam Spitz, Marco Walther, Tenzin Yangzom, Monika Zin

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