



Khyentse Lecture Series

Az ELTE BTK Buddhizmus-kutatás Központja szeretettel meghívja

Prof. Dr. Alexander von Rospatt
(University of California, Berkeley)

angol nyelvű előadására, amelynek címe:

Art and Ritual in Nepalese Buddhism

***The iconography, use and function of
Uṣṇīṣavijayā icons in old age rituals***

Az előadás ideje: **2023. június 15. (csütörtök) 17:00 óra**

Az előadás helye: **ELTE BTK, Távol-keleti Intézet, F épület fszt. Kodály terem**
(Bp. 1088. Múzeum krt. 4/F)

Abstract

Among the rich heritage of medieval forms of Tantric Buddhism and Hinduism surviving among the Newars of the Kathmandu Valley is a unique series of elaborate old age rituals performed for Newars when they reach a critical age, in order to protect, honor and deify them. Central to the first old age ritual, the *bhīmarathārohaṇa*, as performed by the Buddhists of Kathmandu are scroll paintings or repoussés, dedicated to Uṣṇīṣavijayā, the goddess of longevity. Rather than offering an art historical analysis, this talk will treat these painting as ritual artifacts, analyzing how their iconography reflects the structure of the *bhīmaratha* and other old age rituals. In the process I will also explain how such *paubhās* continue to be produced and how they “participate” in the rituals they commemorate.

Alexander von Rospatt is Professor for Buddhist and South Asian Studies, and Director of the Group in Buddhist Studies. He specializes in the doctrinal history of Indian Buddhism, and in Newar Buddhism, the only Indic Mahāyāna tradition that continues to persist in its original South Asian setting (in the Kathmandu Valley) right to the present. Before joining UC Berkeley in 2003, from 1988 von Rospatt served at renowned institutes: as assistant professor at the University of Leipzig and also taught on visiting appointments at the Universities of Oxford and Vienna. More recently he has also taught as visiting professor at the University of Munich, and at the International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies at Tokyo. His first book, titled *The Buddhist Doctrine of Momentariness. A Survey of the Origins and Early Phase of this Doctrine up to Vasubandhu*, sets forth the development and early history of the Buddhist doctrine of momentariness. His new book, *The Svayambhū Caitya and its Renovations* deals with the historical renovations of the Svayambhū Stupa of Kathmandu. Based on Newar manuscripts and several years of fieldwork in Nepal, he reconstructs the ritual history of these renovations and their social contexts.

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