



BUDDHIST ART AND EPIGRAPHIC PRACTICES ACROSS ASIA

A Cross-Cultural Conversation

CALL FOR PAPERS

International Symposium
18–19 March 2027 | Munich
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Abstract deadline: 1 December 2026

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Organised by Jörg Heimbels and Yannick Laurent

We invite contributions from scholars working on Buddhist art and epigraphic practices across Asia for an international symposium exploring inscriptions in relation to the objects, images, and material environments with which they are associated. Particular attention will be given to inscriptions connected with portable and small-scale Buddhist material culture, and to epigraphic practices that illuminate acts of donation, patronage, devotion, merit-making, and consecration. Bringing together specialists working across different regions, languages, and historical periods, the symposium seeks to foster a cross-cultural conversation on the roles and functions of inscriptions within Buddhist artistic and material cultures.

While grounded in the shared context of Buddhist traditions, the symposium seeks to explore how epigraphic practices developed within different cultural, linguistic, artistic, and historical environments across Asia. Contributions may address questions of continuity and difference, transmission and adaptation, as well as the ways in which inscriptions, objects, and practices circulated across regional and cultural boundaries. Papers drawing connections between different regions or engaging with broader comparative and methodological questions are particularly welcome.

SUBMISSION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Abstract

Please submit a provisional title and short abstract of approximately 500 words, together with your name and institutional affiliation.

Deadline

1 December 2026

Contact

BAEPA2027@lrz.uni-muenchen.de

Papers

30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes for discussion.

Funding

Travel and accommodation expenses will be available for participants coming from outside Munich. Applicants who wish to be considered for financial support are asked to indicate this when submitting their proposal. Further details concerning the level of support available will be communicated following acceptance.

