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FAKULTÄT FÜR KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN
DEPARTMENT FÜR ASIENSTUDIEN
INSTITUT FÜR INDOLOGIE UND TIBETOLOGIE



GUEST LECTURE

Samstag, 30. Mai 2026, 13:30–15 Uhr, Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft,
Amalienstraße 38

The Sarvāstivāda Abhidharmic Way of Thinking

Dr. Gao Mingyuan (The University of Hong Kong)



Abstract

This lecture offers a general survey of the underlying logic and basic principles of the Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma. It explains how *dharma* theory functions as the foundation of Abhidharma doctrines for the Sarvāstivādins. Building on the *dharma* theory, the lecture further elaborates on fundamental Sarvāstivāda principles concerning taxonomy and causality. The Abhidharmic analytical framework is also outlined in terms of three types of relationships: relations among individual *dharmas*, between a *dharma* and an individual continuum (*santati*), and between karma and an individual continuum.

About the speaker

Gao Mingyuan is Honorary Lecturer in Buddhist Studies at the University of Hong Kong. His research focuses on Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma and early Yogācāra philosophy. He is author of the recent monograph *The Buddhist Concept of Vāsanā: A Genealogical Study*. He has presented his work at a number of international institutions, including the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Tokyo, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Peking University.

