

Mittwoch, 04. April 2018, 18 Uhr c.t.



Building a Tradition: The Lives of Mar-pa the Translator

Dr. Cécile Ducher, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris

Mar-pa Chos-kyi-blo-gros (1000?–1081?) is the founding figure of the Bka'-brgyud-pa school of Tibetan Buddhism and he still occupies an important place in the Tibetan religious landscape today. He was a translator of many tantric instructions and is a pivotal figure in the later transference of Buddhism to Tibet. Being one of the most well-known Tibetans both in Tibet and abroad, his statue is present in almost every bKa'-brgyud temple, and his life story is frequently given as an edifying example. Yet, a close scrutiny of the literary sources available to approach his life reveals how little we know about him for certain. In my talk, I will present the corpus of Mar-pa's biographies in which more than thirty independent texts are now identified, highlighting the most important works in order to delineate the genesis of the corpus. The relationship of the most well-known biography of Mar-pa, that by gTsang-smyon He-ru-ka, with the earlier works will be assessed in order to evaluate his debt to earlier sources and the extent of his innovation. In the second part of the talk, a few contested aspects of Mar-pa's life, such as his relationship with his guru Nāropa and rivalry with gNyo Lo-tsā-ba will be examined.

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ALLE INTERESSIERTEN SIND HERZLICH EINGELADEN