



# Tibet und Himalaya-Colloquium

---

**Freitag, 21.11.2025, 12 Uhr c.t.**

**Universität Bonn, IOA, Raum 4.005**

Brühler Strasse 7, 53119 Bonn

Die Teilnahme ist auch über den folgenden Zoom-Link möglich:

<https://uni-bonn.zoom-x.de/j/61544743873>

## **The Formation of Yungdrung Bön or Reformed Bön in the 12th Century**

**How indigenous religions fought back  
against Buddhist proselytism in Tibet**

*J.F. Marc des Jardins (Concordia University, Montréal)*

The 12th century was a watershed moment for the establishment of Buddhism in Central Tibet. Important institutions, that still exist today, were established under local patronage. What helped was the coming of Buddhist missionaries and the activities of Tibetan masters coming back from India and bringing new teachings. Local religion was deeply affected and challenged by these particularly in Western and Central Tibet. While indigenous forms of ritual practices continued in Tibet, those who associated themselves with older forms of practice began to create a religious center which reorganized local ritual and religious practices into competing forms. This culminated with the foundation of Yeru Ensakha (*g.yas ru dben sa kha*) in 1072 which reformulated Bön into organized ritual cycles, meditative systems, and newly orchestrated teachings. While the local scene was one of intense creativity, fueled with Buddhist ideas, the bonpos did not shy from adopting the methods of their competitors. This talk aims at introducing the dynamics of the period which produced the school of Everlasting Bön that is the dominating indigenous religion in Tibet today.

J.F. Marc des Jardins is Professor of Chinese and Tibetan religions at the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University, in Montréal. His research focuses on the Tibetan Bön religion, Chinese popular cults and religions, and cultural exchanges along the former Sino-Tibetan frontiers. His latest book, *The Tradition Everlasting Bön: Five Key Texts on Scripture, Tantra, and the Great Perfection* (Library of Tibetan Classics, 2023) consists in translations of seminal writings used in the formation of bonpo ritualists and masters in Tibet and abroad. It provides a unique insight into the practices and philosophy of this little known uniquely Tibetan religion.



# Tibet und Himalaya-Colloquium

---



Samten Karmay and Jeff Watt (2007) *Bon: The Magic Word* (Rubin Museum of Art)

**ALLE INTERESSIERTEN SIND HERZLICH EINGELADEN**

Kontakt Lewis Doney: [lewis.doney@uni-bonn.de](mailto:lewis.doney@uni-bonn.de)