



**The Summer School of Buddhist Philosophy 2019** will take place at:

**Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität  
Ludwigstr. 31, Room 021  
(Ground floor)  
80539 Munich, Germany**

**For more information see:**

<https://www.indologie.uni-muenchen.de/aktuelles/index.html>

**Please register here:**

[summerschool-buddhist-philosophy@lrz.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:summerschool-buddhist-philosophy@lrz.uni-muenchen.de)

**Registration deadline:**

**15 September 2019**

**Summer School  
of Buddhist Philosophy  
2019**

**Tantra,  
Abhidharma  
and Mahāmudrā**

**9–13 October 2019**

**The Summer School of Buddhist Philosophy 2019** at Ludwig-

Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) is pleased to announce five days of great lectures to be held on October 09-13, 2019 in the beautiful city of Munich, Germany.

Three experts in their fields of study will hold lectures on **Tantra, Abhidharma and Mahāmudrā:**

**Prof. Harunaga Isaacson**, University of Hamburg

**Prof. Jowita Kramer**, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich

**Prof. Klaus-Dieter Mathes**, University of Vienna, Austria

The Summer School of Buddhist Philosophy offers a chance to either deepen one's prior knowledge of Buddhism or to enter this vast field through some of its most profound topics. No prior knowledge is required. It is open to all university members (BA-, MA-, PhD- or PostDoc-level). Students may gain 3 credit points (ECTS) by submitting a thesis (6.-9.000 characters).



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University, Munich**

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## Program - Day 1

Wednesday, 9 Oct 2019  
10 a.m.- 6 p.m.

**Prof. Dr. Klaus-Dieter Mathes,**  
University of Vienna, Austria

### Kongtrul Lodrö Thayé's Distinction into Essence-, Mantra-, and Sūtra-Mahāmudrā

In his *Treasury of Knowledge (Shes bya kun khyab mdzod)*, Kong sprul Blo gros mtha' yas (1813–1899), distinguishes, besides the generally accepted Mantra Mahāmudrā, a so-called Sūtra- and Essence-Mahāmudrā. Mantra Mahāmudrā is transmitted through the Vajrayāna path of method, which involves tantric empowerment. Essence mahāmudrā leads to the sudden or instantaneous realization of one's natural mind (*tha mal gyi shes pa*). It requires a realized master who bestows a particular type of blessing called the 'empowerment' of vajra-wisdom on a receptive and qualified disciple. With reference to 'Gos Lo tsā ba gZhon dpal (1392–1481), Sūtra Mahāmudrā is usually characterized as being Pāramitāyāna in essence, but in accordance with the Mantrayāna. The course gives a general introduction into the various forms of Mahāmudrā as described by Kong sprul, and looks into their historical development in India and the Karma bKa' brgyud school.

## Program - Day 2 & 3

Thursday, 10 Oct 2019,  
10 a.m.- 6 p.m. and  
Friday, 11 Oct 2019  
10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

**Prof. Dr. Jowita Kramer,**  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich

### Introduction to Abhidharma

In the second part of the summer school the participants will be introduced to the Indian literary genre of Abhidharma, which is mainly dedicated to systematizing and clarifying central Buddhist doctrines. As such, it constitutes the substantial basis for our understanding of the philosophical systems of the various Buddhist schools.

Optional afternoon program:  
Friday, 11 Oct 2019  
3 p.m.-6 p.m.

**Dr. Marco Walther,**  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich

### Buddhist Philosophy in Practice

In the Tibetan traditions, and specifically those of the bKa' brgyud pa and rNying ma pa lineages, the study of philosophy acts as the ground for the adept to gain proper experience and realization in meditative practice. Here the traditional outline of practices will be presented, as they are implicated in longer and shorter retreats. Additionally some exercises will be presented in accord with commentarial literature. This includes an introduction to the initial steps of seated meditation as taught in these settings.

## Program - Day 4 & 5

Saturday, 12 Oct 2019  
10 a.m.- 6 p.m. and  
Sunday, 13 Oct 2019  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Prof. Dr. Harunaga Isaacson,**  
University of Hamburg

### Relations between Buddhist philosophy and Tantra

From the seventh century CE, if not earlier, tantric forms of Buddhism became ever more prominent. The study of these forms of Indian Buddhism has been relatively neglected by modern scholarship, in spite of their importance (also for the transmission of Buddhism to Tibet) and the rich textual and art-historical material available. In the past two or three decades the situation has changed to some extent, and the publication of numerous text-editions and of some serious studies has made it somewhat easier to enter into the study of the "Way of mantras" (mantranaya).

The course offered will introduce participants, with no prior knowledge of tantric Buddhism required, to some of the major aspects of this form of religion. Topics treated will include the theoretical underpinnings of tantric practice; some of the basics of that practice itself; the role of secrecy; and the relationship between tantric Buddhism and other forms of tantrism, in particular Śaivism.