



Preface

एष पाण्डित्यशाखाभृत्युष्पिकाशुभसंचयः ।
विद्यार्थियत्नसंजातो विद्यादेवीं प्रसादयेत् ॥

*eṣa pāṇḍityaśākhābhṛtṣupikāśubhasaṃcayaḥ /
vidyārthiyatnasaṃjāto vidyādevīm prasādayet //*

May this beautiful collection of Flowers from the tree of scholarship,
born from the students' efforts, gladden the Goddess of Learning.

We are delighted to present the sixth volume of the series *Puṣpikā: Tracing Ancient India through Texts and Traditions*. This volume contains the proceedings of the twelfth International Indology Graduate Research Symposium (IIGRS 12), which was held in Vienna, Austria, 22nd–24th of July, 2021. The symposium was funded by the Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and organised in collaboration with the Department of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies of the University of Vienna. The IIGRS 12 faced unprecedented challenges in its organisation, as it was held in the middle of the global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus, during which travelling became extremely difficult and most academic events were either transferred to online formats or cancelled altogether. Despite these turbulences we received more than sixty submissions, of which we could accept only about a third. We committed ourselves to organising the symposium in a hybrid format and extended the schedule from two to three days in order to include as many promising early-career Indologists as possible.¹

1 For more details regarding the programme of the symposium, visit the IIGRS website: <https://iigrs.wordpress.com/historical-archive/programme-iigrs12-2021/>.

This *Puṣpikā* contains twelve peer-reviewed contributions by early-career academics as well as an article by Professor Jürgen Hanneder, head of the Department of Indology and Tibetology of the Philipps-Universität in Marburg, Germany. This article, which is based on his keynote, offers reflections on the German concept of young academics (“akademischer Nachwuchs”), a status in which many scholars were – and are – forced to remain for most of their lives.

We would like to thank all of our authors for their work – the fruit of their commitment is a collection of highly interesting and academically mature papers on a wide range of topics, including Sanskrit grammar and rhetoric, various forms of literature, premodern state politics, and the history of philosophy and religions such as Buddhism and Jainism. We also thank the reviewers of this volume for the time and expertise they expended to help our authors. Last but not least we thank Heidelberg Asian Studies Publishing for including this volume, and the entire *Puṣpikā* series, in their programme.

Puṣpikās are in several respects more similar to journal issues than to individual books. Each contribution in this volume is published Open Access under a Creative Commons license and has its own digital object identifier and references section, which makes it possible to read and circulate it independently from the entire volume. Because the contents of the contributions are very diverse, we left it to the discretion of the authors to consistently follow whichever bibliographical style they felt is most appropriate. Moreover, instead of summarising the contents of each article, we refer the reader to the abstracts at the beginning of each contribution. To make it easier to identify and contact the authors, a link to the respective ORCID record is given in the asterisk footnote on the first page of their articles (instead of an affiliation, which in many cases changes quickly). Financial and other contributions from individuals and institutions, too, are acknowledged in this note.

The editors

Vienna, September 2022