With the symposium *Paths to Liberation in Hindu and Sikh Traditions* we intend to continue and expand the exploration of the topic of the Path to liberation that was undertaken with the symposium *Mārga: Paths to Liberation in South Asian Buddhist Traditions*, held in December 2015 at the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

It has been observed that *mārga*, as a metaphor for the Path to liberation, is a theme central to the study of religions and philosophical traditions of South Asia in general and is potentially useful in the cross-cultural study of religion (Robert E. Buswell and Robert M. Gimello, *Paths to Liberation: The Mārga and its Transformations in Buddhist Thought*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1992).

In this perspective, we think it will be useful to share the results of our research and provide critical summaries and updates on how the Path to liberation was considered, presented, or practised in religious and philosophical traditions of South Asia, and how it was elaborated upon or integrated into different social and intellectual frameworks.

FUNDED BY
Austrian Academy of Sciences

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ÖAW ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN

28-29 November 2019
Institute for the Cultural
and Intellectual History of Asia
Seminar Room, 2nd floor
Hollandstrasse 11-13, 1020 Vienna

PATHS TO LIBERATION IN HINDU AND SIKH TRADITIONS

An international symposium

Conveners
Cristina Pecchia | IKGA, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Marion Rastelli | IKGA, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Vincent Eltschinger | École Pratique des Hautes Études

IKGA

École Pratique des Hautes Études

IIKGA – NSTITUTE FOR THE CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF ASIA

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 28 November 2019

09.15 **Birgit Kellner, Vincent Eltschinger**
Welcome Address

09.30–13.00 **Mārga and philosophy I** (Chair: Peter Schreiner)

09.30 **Johannes Bronkhorst** | University of Lausanne
The Vaiśeṣika Path to Liberation in Context

10.15 **Michael Williams** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
Knowledge, God and Yogic Practice in Bhāsarvajña's Theory of Liberation

11.00 TEA BREAK

(Chair: Marion Rastelli)

11:30 **Jürgen Hanneder** | Philipps-Universität Marburg
The Way to Liberation according to the Mokṣopāya

12.15 **Daniele Cuneo** | Université Sorbonne nouvelle - Paris 3
Naṭamārga: *Dead End or Highway. From Abhinavagupta to Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇavism*

13.00–14.30 LUNCH BREAK

14.30–16.00 **Mārga and philosophy II** (Chair: Cristina Pecchia)

14.30 **Elisa Freschi** | Austrian Academy of Sciences/University of Vienna
The Viśiṣṭādvaita Vedānta Path to Liberation: bhakti- *and* prapattimārga *in the Writings of Vedānta Deśika*

15.15 **Andrew Nicholson** | State University of New York at Stony Brook
Unifying Sāṃkhya, Yoga, and Vedānta: Vijñānabhikṣu's Paths to Liberation

Friday, 29 November 2019

09.30–13.00 **Practices for liberation I** (Chair: Johannes Bronkhorst)

09.30 **Peter Bisschop** | Leiden University
The Pāśupata Path of Liberational Death in the Skandapurāṇa

10.15 **Peter Schreiner** | University of Zurich
"The Path is the Goal": Liberating Practices in the Viṣṇu- *and the* Narasiṃha-Purāṇa

11.00 TEA BREAK

(Chair: Jürgen Hanneder)

11:30 **Marion Rastelli** | Austrian Academy of Sciences
Is Ritual Initiation Sufficient for Achieving Salvation? Paths to Liberation in the Pāñcarātra *Tradition*

12.15 **Christèle Barois** | University of Vienna
Mārga *in the* Dharmaputrikā. *From the Path of the Bodily Winds to the Archery Metaphor*

13.00–14.30 LUNCH BREAK

14.30–16.00 **Practices for liberation II** (Chair: Cristina Pecchia)

14.30 **James Mallinson** | SOAS University of London
The Yoga Method of the Amṛtasiddhi, *the Earliest* Haṭhayoga *Manual*

15.15 **Discussion** | Final remarks