

A. Calahan Morse

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia

Austrian Academy of Sciences

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Areas of Research

Buddhist epistemology; Yogācāra; editorial philology; manuscript studies; Abhidharma; Indian philosophy

Education

PhD Candidate in Tibetan and Buddhist Studies

2020–Present

University of Vienna

Vienna, Austria

- Dissertation: “Conflicting Accounts of Perception in the South Asian Buddhist Epistemological Tradition: The Case of Dharmakīrti’s *Pramāṇavārttika*”
- Supervisor: Birgit Kellner

MA in Religious Studies

2017–2020

Naropa University

Boulder, Colorado

- Honors Thesis: “‘A Means to an End’ vs. ‘A Means Inseparable from the End’: Toward a New Reading of Dignāga’s *Pramāṇasamuccaya*(*vṛtti*) 1.8cd–10”
- Supervisor: Ben Williams

BA in Economics

2011–2015

Wesleyan University

Middletown, Connecticut

Academic Appointments

Doctoral Researcher

2022–Present

Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Position within the Cluster of Excellence “EurAsian Transformations” since 2025.

- Focus on Dharmakīrti’s theory of perception and Yogācāra idealism.
- Text-critical work on the *Pramāṇavārttika* and its commentarial tradition, based on both Sanskrit and Tibetan witnesses.
- Editorial work and contribution to the bio-bibliographic database “Epistemology and Argumentation in South Asia and Tibet”.
- Participation in Cluster working groups on identity and religion as well as manuscript studies.

Publications

The Zhwa lu Manuscript of the Pramāṇavārttika and Manuscripts A, C, and D of the Pramāṇavārttikālaṃkāra: Concordance Tables, Descriptions, and a Hypothesis on the Historical Relation between Manuscripts A, C, and D. In preparation for submission.

“Non-Duality in Early Indian Yogācāra: The Case of the *Tattvārthapaṭala*”. In: Jonathan Duquette, James Madaio (eds.), *The Bloomsbury Research Handbook of Non-Duality in Indian Philosophy*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. Forthcoming.

Languages

Research: Sanskrit (advanced) – Tibetan (advanced) – Chinese (elementary)

Native: English (two years experience teaching English as a foreign language)

Other: German, Russian (reading knowledge; everyday conversation)

Presentations

“Tampering with Witnesses? Editing Tibetan Translations as Evidence for Sanskrit Texts”. *Junior Eurasia Researchers Network, Workshop IV: Working with Texts*, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, March 13–14, 2026.

“Seeing the Noble Truths, in Theory and in Practice, according to Dharmakīrti, His Followers, and His Forerunners”. *The Second International Workshop on the Religious Philosophy of Prajñākaragupta and Yamāri*, Institute for the Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia, Vienna, September 16–19, 2023.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Vienna Summer School on Epistemology in Premodern South Asia July 2025
University of Vienna & Austrian Academy of Sciences Vienna

- “The Problem of *vikalpa* in Early Yogācāra” (lecture)
- Guided reading of excerpts from the *Tattvārthapaṭala* of the *Yogācārabhūmi*’s *Bodhisattvabhūmi*.

Lecturer, Vienna Summer School on Epistemology in Premodern South Asia July 2023
University of Vienna & Austrian Academy of Sciences Vienna

- “Truth and Reality in Sarvāstivāda Abhidharma” (lecture)
- Guided reading of Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakośa(bhāṣya)* 6.4 with Yaśomitra’s commentary.

Organization

Workshop: *Junior Eurasia Researchers Network, Workshop IV: Working with Texts*. Co-organized together with Dominik Haas. Austrian Academy of Sciences (Cluster of Excellence “EurAsian Transformations”), Vienna, March 13–14, 2026.

Additional Training

Vienna Summer School on Epistemology in Premodern South Asia July 2022
University of Vienna & Austrian Academy of Sciences Vienna

- Read from Rāmānuja, Vātsyāyana, Bhartṛhari, Dharmakīrti, Pūjyapāda Devanandin, and Jayatīrtha.

Intermediate Sanskrit Summer Intensive June–August 2019
Rangjung Yeshe Institute Kathmandu

- Final Project: Translation of Vātsyāyana’s *Nyāyabhāṣya* on *Nyāyasūtra* 1.1.3