CV Dr. Christiane A. Kalantari



1. Contact details and personal data

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute for Social Anthropology,
Dominikanerbastei 16, 1010 Vienna • christiane.kalantari@oeaw.ac.at •
ORCID iD https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6576-9716 • Austrian citizenship •
https://www.oeaw.ac.at/isa/das-institut/mitarbeiterinnen-mitarbeiter/kalantari-christiane • www.oeaw.ac.at/isa

NEWS - Current EXHIBITION: 9 October – 21 November. *KEEP IN TOUCH! Gestures and Spaces of Encounter in West Asia and in Europe.* Group exhibition as part of *Vienna Art Week* 2026. Featuring Julius W. Chromecek, Mark Gilbert, Raw Matters im Hof (Tobias Brossmann & Naomi Dutzi, Kai Feldhammer, Julia Skrobisz), Gabi Seeleitner & Christa Stöffelbauer, Alireza Taghaboni, and Mahnaz Yazdani. Curated by Christiane Kalantari and Negar Hakim. Venue: philomena+ project room, Heinestraße 40, 1020 Vienna, Austria. Dates: 2026. Project link: https://philomena.plus/programme/keep-in-touch/, https://www.viennaartweek.at/de/vienna-art-week-2026/

2. Academic Education

2008. Dr. phil. in Art History, University of Vienna (Dissertation: *Celestial architecture. Donor depictions in the spatial iconography of the Alchi Dukhang/ Ladakh*).
2000. M.A. in Art History, University of Vienna (Thesis: *Die Deckenmalereien des gSumbrtsegs in Alchi, Ladakh. Studie zu den Textildarstellungen eines frühen buddhistischen Tempels im historischen Westtibet).*

3. Languages skills

German (mother tongue) • English (fluent), Italian (good) • French, Tibetan, Persian (research)

4. Technical skills

Photography (plus developing skills), Photoshop, InDesign (basic skills), MS-Office 2019: PowerPoint; Word; Access (ECDL Advanced Certificate 2020)

5. Positions and employments

2025-2029. Project Director, Austrian Science Fund research grant (FWF, PAT 1442524), BuMoKha/ *THE BUDDHIST SITES OF KHARTSE, WESTERN TIBET*, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Vienna.

01.2022. – now. Research Collaborator, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Vienna. Inter-disciplinary research project: *The Scientific Tibet Legacy of Peter Aufschnaiter*, directed by Christian Jahoda, FWF P35249/Austrian Science Fund. https://www.oeaw.ac.at/isa/the-scientific-tibet-legacy-of-peter-aufschnaiter

2020–2022. Project Leader: Database Project Viennese Afghanistan & Himalaya Collections and exhibition project. Phases I and II (2 awards by City of Vienna: Science and Culture Fund)

2019–2022. Research Associate, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Vienna.

2008–2018. Principal Researcher/Post-Doc: (01/2017–12/2018): "*Materiality and Material Culture in Tibet*"/Innovation Fund "Research, Science and Society" • (2014–2017): „*Interactions in the Himalayas and in Central Asia*", FWF, Austrian Science Fund • (2009–2014): "*Society, Power and Religion in Pre-modern Western Tibet*: *Interactions, Conflict, Integration*", FWF, Austrian Science Fund • (2008–2009): "*Oral Transmissions and Festival Traditions in Western Tibet*", FWF P20637, Austrian Science Fund • all projects based at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), Institute for Social Anthropology (ISA), Vienna, directed by Christian Jahoda.

2006–2008. Doctoral studies, field research in historical West-Tibet, India, Iran and Afghanistan.
2003–2006. Research Assistant/Pre-Doc: "*Cultural History of the Western Himalaya*", Austrian Science Fund/FWF Forschungsschwerpunkt/FSP; Subproject Art History (S8702-ARS), Univ. of Vienna
2000–2003. University Research and Teaching Assistant ("Vertragsassistentin"), Institute for History of Art (Department for Asian Studies), University of Vienna.
1998-2000. Study Assistant: (Tutorin), Non-European Art/ Außereuropäische - Asiatische Kunst, Institute for Art History, University of Vienna

6. Short statement of the most important scholarly results achieved to date

Main areas of expertise are historical, visual, iconographic and theoretical investigations of Western Tibetan Buddhist art and culture (10th-18th centuries), interdisciplinary collaboration and transcultural studies. My research is dedicated to work in areas that cross conventional methodological, geographic, and cultural boundaries and brings together experts in the respective fields to analyze larger contexts. It is innovative because geographic areas in historical Western Tibet (including Ngari, TAR, China) are considered that have been little researched to date.

A specific interest of mine are cross-cultural dimensions of material culture, the ritual-aesthetic space of a Buddhist temple, local cults of female territorial deities, and images of femininity and agency of women reflected in visual and textual sources. Based on my original scope of the artistic and architectonic creations instigated by the early Buddhist religious kings in historical Western Tibet, an emphasis is on the artistic and conceptual models of power, self-presentation, community and hierarchy expressed through material culture (including food and culinary traditions), rituals and social interactions as depicted in different visual media. These studies have helped to develop methods to contextualize complex stratigraphies of artworks and to better understand the processes of translation and adaption between the border zones of Tibet and the Islamicate-persophone regions in Central Asia and in Kashmir from 1100 to 1200 and, in a second step, to trace the forging of distinctive Western Tibetan artistic-religious traditions in the context of trans-cultural interactions.

My work challenges established perspectives and traditional (male-oriented) ways of looking at and analyzing artifacts resulting from the critical examination of common narratives on gender in Western Tibetan art (focusing on perception, ideas and visual representations of women and femininity in narratives of spiritual quests; female founders, nuns and lay women engaged in rituals, in images of patronage and devotion; women in popular religious traditions, with regard to concepts of health, healing and nature, etc.).

A current focus is on the evolution of early Tibetan narrative art and modes of visual narration (in particular the Buddha's life and other stories of the spiritual journeys of beings). The work is innovative and breaks established perspectives because it is based on detailed studies of relevant textual and visual sources in India and beyond and it uses a much larger and comprehensive documentation generated through multi-sited and multi-disciplinary field research in historical Western Tibet by the applicant (Ngari, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh) than available in previous research. It assesses the art-historical context and it assembles a bigger picture on the transformations of image-findings in life stories of the Buddha and on the diversity of stylistic modes developed by the master artists and artisans who shaped the accoutrements of Buddhist temples in the region up to the 16th century, working towards a respective publication including a popular monastery guide "*The Life of the Buddha at Tabo*" and a children's book (bilingual: Tibetan, English).

7. 10 most important publications ([pr] peer-reviewed, [oa] open access)

7.1. Books (authored and edited)

2021 (edited book) with Christian Jahoda (eds) *Early West Tibetan Buddhist Monuments: Architecture, Art, History and Texts*. (*Studies and Materials on Historical Western Tibet, Volume III*). Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 441 pp. [pr], [oa] DOI: https://doi.org/10.1553/978OEAW87776.

2015 (authored book) with Tsering Gyalpo, Christian Jahoda and Patrick Sutherland; with contributions by Eva Allinger, Hubert Feiglstorfer and Kurt Tropper, *'Khor chags / Khorchag / Kuojia si wenshi daguan [*Kuojia Monastery: An Overview of Its History and Culture]. (Studies and Materials on Historical

Western Tibet, Volume I). Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press (second, revised edition), 288 pp. https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/produkt/khorchag/600901?product_form=3567.)

2012 (authored book) with Tsering Gyalpo, Christian Jahoda and Patrick Sutherland; with contributions by Eva Allinger, Hubert Feiglstorfer and Kurt Tropper, *'Khor chags/ Khorchag/ Kuojia si wenshi Daguan [Kuojia Monastery: An Overview of Its History and Culture*]. (Studies and Materials on Historical Western Tibet, Volume I). 廓迦寺文史大观. [1.Edition], (in English, Tibetan and Chinese language), lHa sa: Bod ljongs bod yig dpe rnying dpe skrun khang. 288 pp.

7.2. Articles and book chapters

Forthcoming* (to appear in 3/2026) Kalantari, Christiane, From Iran to Tibet. Cosmopolitanism and Self-Fashioning in Western Tibet around 1200. In: Christian Luczanits (ed) *Ladakh Across the Ages. Art, Architecture, Inscriptions and Photography*, Kathmandu: Vajra Books.

In press* (to appear in 4/2025) Kalantari, Christiane, Material Mimesis and Craft Simulation: Textile Depictions and Transmediality in the Early Western Tibetan Buddhist Temple of Tabo, ca. 1000 CE. In: Calum Blaikie and Hubert Feiglstorfer (eds) *Building and craft traditions in Tibetan and Himalayan architecture,* Vienna. [oa]

Published articles and book chapters (last 10 years)

2026 Re-imagining a Revolutionary Tibetan Art School: An Exceptional Dancing Hevajra with Consort Nairātmyā, In: *Recent Research on Tibet: A Festschrift for Guntram Hazod on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday*. Sørensen, P.K., Jahoda, C. (eds), Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, pp. 339-378.doi: 10.1553/978OEAW50671s339.

2025 Material Mimesis and Craft Simulation: Textile Depictions and Transmediality in the Early Western Tibetan Buddhist Temple of Tabo, ca. 1000 CE. In: Calum Blaikie and Hubert Feiglstorfer (eds) *Building and craft traditions in Tibetan and Himalayan architecture,* Vienna, Austrian Academy of Sciences Press. 343-369 [pr], [oa] https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/en/product/building-craft-traditions-in-tibetan-and-himalayan-architecture/99200977?name=building-craft-traditions-in-tibetan-and-himalayan-architecture&product_form=5696

2025 with Simone Wille, Corinna Forberg, Christine Bruckbauer (eds.), "*A Transdisciplinary Approach to Mughal Studies"*; International Symposium 03.2024, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Online Proceedings, https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/ifi/ifidigital/webressourcen/digital-proceedings/a-transdisciplinary-approach-to-mughal-studies, [oa]

2022 Feminine, Divine, Wise: Māyādevī, the Buddha's Wondrous Mother in Early Western Tibetan Temples' Narrative Cycles. In: Ines Konczak, Satomi Hiyama and Astrid Klein (eds) *Connecting the Art, Literature, and Religion of South and Central Asia Studies in Honour of Monika Zin*. New Delhi: DEV Publishers & Distributors, 171-188**.** Part of ISBN: 9789387496736.

2021 with Christian Jahoda. Power and Religion in Pre-Modern Western Tibet: The Monumental Avalokiteśvara Stela in lCog ro, Purang. In: Jahoda, Christian and Christiane Kalantari (eds) *Early West Tibetan Buddhist Monuments: Architecture, Art, History and Texts. (Studies and Materials on Historical Western Tibet, Volume III)*. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 25-60. [pr], [oa] doi:10.1553/978OEAW87776; https://austriaca.at/8777-6inhalt?frames=yes .

2021 Hārītī and Pāñcika at Tabo: On the Metamorphosis of the Protective Couple in Early West Tibetan Buddhist Temples. In: Jahoda, Christian and Christiane Kalantari (eds) *Early West Tibetan Buddhist Monuments: Architecture, Art, History and Texts. (Studies and Materials on Historical Western Tibet, Volume III*). Vienna: *Austrian* Academy of Sciences Press, 301-326. [pr], [oa] https://austriaca.at/8777-6inhalt?frames=yes

2021 with Tsering Gyalpo. Guge Kingdom-Period Murals in the Zhag Grotto in mNga' ris, Western Tibet. In: Jahoda, Christian and Christiane Kalantari (eds) *Early West Tibetan Buddhist Monuments: Architecture, Art, History and Texts. (Studies and Materials on Historical Western Tibet, Volume III*). Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press, 407-430. [pr], [oa] https://austriaca.at/8777-6inhalt?frames=yes .

2020 with Eva Allinger. The spiritual quest of the Buddha in the Dungkar cave temple – Indian sources and Western Tibetan image-making. Part 1: From Tuṣita heaven up to the enlightenment. *Études Mongoles & Sibériennes, Centrasiatiques & Tibétaines (EMSCAT),* (issue edited by Quentin Devers) Vol. 51: 189-234. [pr], [oa] https://journals.openedition.org/emscat/4308

2017 The Art of Khorchag and Khartse in the Fabric of Western Himalayan Buddhist Art (10th-14th Centuries): Questions of Style II. In: E. Allinger, F. Grenet, C. Jahoda, M-K. Lang and A. Vergati (eds) *Interaction in the Himalayas and Central Asia: processes of transfer, translation and transformation in art, archaeology, religion and polity from antiquity to the present day.* Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences, 191-226. [pr], [oa] ISBN: 978-3-7001-8073-9 https://verlag.oeaw.ac.at/produkt/interaction-in-the-himalayas-and-central-asia/30407

2016 For Merit and Meditation. Form and Meaning of Textile Depictions at Nako. In: Krist, G. (ed.). *Nako. Research and Conservation in the Western Himalayas*, Vienna: Böhlau, 157-167. [pr], [oa] https://e-book.fwf.ac.at/detail/o:930?mode=full&tab=0 .

2015 with Christian Jahoda. Kingship in Western Tibet in the 10th and 11th centuries. *Cahiers d'Extrême-Asie* 24 (special issue: Dotson, ed., Kingship, Ritual, and Narrative in Tibet and the Surrounding Cultural Area): 77-103. [pr] Part of ISBN: 9782855391762.

Reviews

Kalantari, Christiane, Reviewer of a scientific publication, Juli 2026, Journal: *Religion and the Arts*, Brill (ed. James Najarian)

Popular science publication

Kalantari, Christiane. *KEEP IN TOUCH! Gestures and Spaces of Encounter in the Near East and in Europe.* Exhibition catalogue and group exhibition as part of Vienna Art Week 2026. Featuring Julius W. Chromecek, Mark Gilbert, Raw Matters im Hof (Tobias Brossmann & Naomi Dutzi, Kai Feldhammer, Julia Skrobisz), Gabi Seeleitner & Christa Stöffelbauer, Alireza Taghaboni, and Mahnaz Yazdani. Curated by Christiane Kalantari and Negar Hakim. Venue: philomena+ project room, Heinestraße 40, 1020 Vienna, Austria. Dates: 9 October – 21 November 2026.
Project link: https://philomena.plus/programme/keep-in-touch/

8. Additional research achievements (last 6 years) Conferences, Workshops, Collaborations (selected)

02/2026 Workshop with Prof. Tanja Bayerova (Univ. of Applied Arts), together with Hubert Feiglstorfer, ÖAW. *Pigments, Shadings and Colour Application in Early Western Tibetan Art*.

29/10/2024 Paper presented: "The use of colors in the spatial imagination of Tabo. Interdisciplinary insights into the sacred space of Tabo tsuglagkhang" (together with Hubert Feiglstorfer and Tatjana Bayerova), *Spatial Imagination and Ritual Space*, Symposium at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

27/04/2023 Invited public lecture: "Das Leben des Buddha im Kloster von Tabo (Spiti-Tal, Indien, 11.Jh): Narrative Kunst im Dienst des frühen Westtibetischen Königreichs", Humboldt Forum, Berlin

08/07/2022. Paper presented: "Moving sculptures. Preliminary remarks on the corpus of Buddhist bronzes in the Khartse valley (Tsamda, TAR, China)." *16th Seminar of the International Association for Tibetan Studies (IATS 2022),* Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague

02/24/2021. Paper presented: "Local Textiles and Imported Fabrics in Western Tibetan Buddhist Paintings: Patterns of Interchange, Function and Symbolism." *Crafts and Craft Traditions in Tibetan and Himalayan Architecture*, Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), international online-conference.

09/2019. Paper presented: "The Second Western Himalayan Style. Temples, Wall-paintings and Mobile Artefacts from the 13th-14th Centuries at Khartse (TAR, China)." *IALS*, Leh, Jammu & Kashmir, INDIA.

10/2018. Paper presented: "The Visual and Textual Narrative of the Life of the Buddha in the Cave Temple of Dungkar, Ngari." *Seventh International Conference on Tibetan Archaeology & Arts (ICTAA VII),* Centre for Tibetan Studies of Sichuan University Chengdu, Tibetan Art and Archaeology Conference, CHINA.

4/2018. Paper presented: *Visions of Community: The Buddhavita on the portal of Khorchag (Ngari, Westtibet).* Interdisciplinary Workshop, VISCOM, Practicing Community in Urban and Rural Eurasia (1000–1600). Comparative Perspectives, AAS, Vienna.

11/2017. Paper presented: *Materialität und Material: Architekturdekor am Holzportal von Khorchag (Ngari, Westtibet).* FB VISCOM/ Visions of Community workshop, COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON URBAN-RURAL RELATIONS. Social Practices and Symbolical Representations of Community in Central Europe, Dalmatia, South Arabia and Tibet (1000–1600), AAS, Vienna.

5/2017. Paper presented: *The Life of the Buddha as represented on the monumental wooden portal of Khorchag monastery, ca. 1000 CE.* 18th Colloquium of the International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS), Current Western Himalayan Research, Bedlewo, Poland,

9. Exhibitions and leadership roles

9.10 – 21.11.2026. Curator (with Negar Hakim) of the exhibition: *KEEP IN TOUCH! Gestures and Spaces of Encounter in the Near East and in Europe.* Group exhibition as part of *Vienna Art Week* 2026. Featuring Julius W. Chromecek, Mark Gilbert, Raw Matters im Hof (Tobias Brossmann & Naomi Dutzi, Kai Feldhammer, Julia Skrobisz), Gabi Seeleitner & Christa Stöffelbauer, Alireza Taghaboni, and Mahnaz Yazdani. Curated by Christiane Kalantari and Negar Hakim. Venue: philomena+ project room, Heinestraße 40, 1020 Vienna, Austria. Dates: 2026. Project link: https://philomena.plus/programme/keep-in-touch/, https://www.viennaartweek.at/de/vienna-art-week-2026/

01-03/2024. Convener and coordinator of the international symposium: *A TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MUGHAL STUDIES – Symposium on occasion of Prof. Ebba Koch's 80th Birthday*; Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Iranian Studies in cooperation with Schloss Schönbrunn (together with Simone Wille/Universität Innsbruck, Corinna Forberg and Christine Bruckbauer, Bettina Hofleitner, Nurdan Sentürk/ ÖAW). https://www.oeaw.ac.at/ifi/veranstaltungen/event-details/a-transdisciplinary-approach-to-mughal-studies

18.08-03.09/2022. Chief-curator exhibition: *CULTURES OF PLEASURE. PRACTICES, PROHIBITION AND SUBVERSION IN AFGHANISTAN* (1957-2022); (philomena + art and architecture platform, Vienna). https://philomena.plus/programme/cultures-of-pleasure/

03/2020. Organiser of exhibition and public lecture: John Harrison (Liverpool), *A BLESSING FOR THE LAND* "Lhasa Lecture 2", Technische Universität, Vienna. https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/isa/events/event-detail/isa-university-of-technology-tu-co-organized-lecture-john-harrison

11/2013. Co-organiser of the conference*: Third International SEECHAC Colloquium (European Society for the Study of Central Asian and Himalayan). Interaction in the Himalayas and Central Asia,* Vienna, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien, Dr. Ignaz Seipl-Platz 2. https://www.oeaw.ac.at/fileadmin/Institute/ISA/events/2013/seechac_vienna2013_timetable.pdf

3/ 2006 Co-organizer of the exhibition *FORSCHUNGSPFADE DURCH DEN HIMALAYA. Eine Fotoausstellung zur Kulturgeschichte des Westlichen Himalaya*, Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Wien, Dr. Ignaz Seipl-Platz 2.

10. Research & fieldwork experience (last 14 years)

09/2019. Lahaul & Spiti, INDIA, field research, conference participation (IALS), 4 weeks.

09-10/2018. Waltse/Halji in Limi (Humla District), NEPAL, survey and documentation, 6 weeks.

2016 and 2018. Shanghai, Hangzhou & Chengdu, PR CHINA, Tibet conferences and archival research.

09/2015. Azerbaijan, IRAN, investigating and documenting early Mongol Buddhist sites, 2 weeks.

05/2011. Historical Western Tibet/Ngari province, TAR, CHINA, field research and documentation, 8 weeks.

8/2009 Himachal Pradesh, INDIA (field research, Spiti, Kinnaur), 6 weeks.

5/2009 AFGHANISTAN, field work, 4 weeks

11. Grants and fellowships

2025-2029. Austrian Science Fund research grant (FWF, PAT 1442524), BuMoKha/ *THE BUDDHIST SITES OF KHARTSE, WESTERN TIBET*, duration: 2025-2029

2023-2024 1 Research grant, City of Vienna and grant Schloß Schönbrunn Kultur- u. Betriebsges.m.b.H. to hold the conference cum exhibition *TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO MUGHAL STUDIES*; ÖAW

2020-2022. 2 Research grants, City of Vienna (Science & Art).

2002-2005. 2 Funds from the OEAAD (Agency for Education and Internationalisation) to carry out research in Ladakh and in Spiti (India).

1998-2000. 2 Years Doctoral Fellowship for '*Outstanding Academic Achievements'*, University of Vienna.

12. Expert opinion

07/2020 and 05/2023. 2 Reviews of research proposals for the German Research Council (DFG).

13. Professional memberships

European Society for the Study of Central Asian and Himalayan Civilisations (SEECHAC) • International Association for Ladakh Studies (IALS) • International Association of Tibetan Studies (IATS) • European Association for South Asian Archaeology (EASAA) • Gesellschaft für Indo-Asiatische Kunst Berlin

14. Interests

Community

6/2018-present Guest-Curator & auditor, *philomena*+ art & architecture platform/ association promoting the intercultural exchange between the MENA (Middle East, N. Africa) region and Austria. https://philomena.plus

2008-2015, Austria–Afghanistan Society/ President Dr. Schwank, organizer of cultural and art history related lectures and designer AAS website, posters & media reports
https://www.oeafg.at/2022/09/04/cultures-of-pleasure/

15. Media reports

08/2022 Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research/ Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Forschung (BMBWF), https://erwachsenenbildung.at/aktuell/nachrichten/17646-mit-hilfe-von-kunst-vorurteile-abbauen-und-selbstermaechtigung-foerdern.php

8/2022 BASISKULTUR: *Eröffnung der Ausstellung Cultures of Pleasure* فرهنگ شادی و زندگی Praktiken, Verbote und Subversion in Afghanistan 1957-2022 – 18.08.2022 – Basis.Kultur (basiskultur.at)

06/2013 Press Release Austrian Academy of Sciences: *Von Höhlen und Höllen in Westtibet,* http://www.oeaw.ac.at/deutsch/aktuell/presse/pressemeldungen/aktuelle-nachrichten-2013/von-hoehlen-undhoellen-in-westtibet.html319.html).

(*Dr. Christiane Kalantari, October 2026*)