

What do we perceive? Direct realism, representationalism, idealism and illusionism in South Asian philosophy

International Symposium – Vienna, October 7–9, 2026

Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, Oct. 7

10:00–10:30	Welcome, introductory remarks <i>Birgit Kellner, John Taber</i>
10:30–11:30	Amit Chaturvedi “Reflexive perceptual awareness and the phenomenal unity of consciousness” (McAllister, chair)
11:30–12:00	<i>coffee break</i>
12:00–13:00	Serena Saccone “Is the Seen Out of Reach? On the relationship between causality, phenomenology, and perceptibility in Buddhist Externalism” (Matsuoka, chair)
13:00–14:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30–15:30	Nilanjan Das “Jñānaśrīmitra on Intentionality” (Eltschinger, chair)
15:30–16:30	Davey Tomlinson “Jñānaśrīmitra’s proof of idealism” (Franco, chair)
16:30–17:00	<i>afternoon break</i>
17:00–19:30	Dharmakīrti celebration

Thursday, Oct. 8

10:00–11:00	Pascale Hugon “Old arguments and new arguments in the realist vs. idealist debate in 11th-12th-century Tibetan scholarship” (Rastelli, chair)
11:00–11:30	<i>coffee break</i>

11:30–12:30	Jan Westerhoff “Dharmakīrti and Ratnakīrti on our knowledge of other minds” (Watson, chair)
12:30–14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00–15:00	Patrick McAllister “From perception to word and inference: A Buddhist solution to perceptual knowledge” (Chaturvedi, chair)
15:00–16:00	Birgit Kellner “Perception and non-existents: a Buddhist epistemological perspective” (Das, chair)
16:00–16:30	<i>afternoon break</i>
16:30–17:30	Allison Aitken (presenting remotely from the U.S.) “Vasubandhu on intentional action: From mind-body to mind-only” (Patil, chair)

Friday, Oct. 9

10:00–11:00	Alex Watson “Do we perceive our selves?” (Westerhoff, chair)
11:00–11:30	<i>coffee break</i>
11:30–12:30	Elisa Freschi “Kumārila and the limits of perception” (Pecchia, chair)
12:30–14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00–15:00	John Taber “Has Kumārila’s refuted idealism” (Freschi, chair)
15:00–16:00	Akane Saito “From perception to action: Parallel structures and their relation to <i>arthakriyāsaṃvāditva</i> ” (Freschi, chair)
16:00–16:30	<i>afternoon break</i>
16:30–17:30	Marcus Schmücker “To perceive is to differentiate: The concept of <i>bheda</i> and the structure of cognition in Vedānta” (Taber, chair)