

Jour fixe Kulturwissenschaften

Donnerstag, 23. April 2015 / 16.30 Uhr

Ort: ÖAW Museumszimmer, Dr.-Ignaz-Seipel Platz 2, 1010 Wien

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(Swiss National Foundation for Scientific Research)

**The Buddha on Western Stages:
Translating the Dharma in the Wake of Global Buddhism**

In the wake of ‘modern Buddhism’ at the end of nineteenth century, theatre has proved an unrivalled art form to *translate* in the West the life of the Buddha into which Orientalist scholars had recently given an unprecedented insight. While the topic itself calls for a cosmopolitan approach of theatre at the time, the rise of multifarious—often musical—dramas devoted to the Buddha developed simultaneously in Germany, France, Italy, England and the United States. Moreover, a surprisingly wide array of authors, composers, patrons, directors, actors, agents, audiences and critics paid interest to the subject. We may then question the complex transcultural and dramatic issues at stake in the theatrical producers’ sudden endeavour to bring the Buddha on stage in the context of the late-nineteenth-century theatre sphere.