



MONDAY LECTURES WITH ELISA IORI

IN RELIGIOUS, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES

EARLY BUDDHISM IN AN URBAN PERSPECTIVE

03.06.2024 | 16:15 - 17:45 | C19.00.02/03

Inside-out: An Urban Approach to the Archaeology of Early Buddhism

Although it has long been agreed upon that the early spread of Buddhism is closely linked to the process of urbanisation in Early Historic South Asia, the impact of this relation on transformations of Buddhist spaces and practices throughout South Asia remains considerably under-theorised and under-researched. Based on the two case studies of Mes Aynak (Afghanistan, 3rd-7th centuries CE) and Barikot (NW Pakistan, 1st-3rd centuries CE) this talk intends to explore the material and spatial outcomes of the entanglements between Buddhism and the urban and rural sociospatial contexts of north-western South Asia. By using the concept of spatial capital as an analytical tool I examine how the geographical assets held by Buddhist monastic institutions in the countryside affected the economic and social mobility of urban actors in the cities.

10.06.2024 | 16:15 - 17:45 | C19.00.04

Spatialising Buddhist Practices in Urban Spaces: A 'City-Lens' Approach

By moving beyond the walls of monumental religious architecture, this second talk adopts a city-lens approach to the investigation of lived Buddhism in the third-century cities of northern Gandhara. Based on the evidence available for the city of Barikot (Swat, N Pakistan), the layered complexity of urban religiosity is approached here through a contextual analysis of the built-up environment and intra-site spatial distribution of religious artefacts.

24.06.2024 | 16:15 - 17:45 | C19.00.02/03

Production, Consumption, and Exchange

By considering the distribution of the archaeobotanical remains and the spatial arrangement of religious sites and workshops within the city of Barikot, this final talk intends to reflect on how local production and consumption and the extension and intensification of connectivity within Eurasia during the first centuries of the Common Era foster religious changes on local and trans-local levels.

01.07.2024 | 16:15 - 17:45 | C19.00.02/03

Constitutive Tensions within Buddhism

Drawing on the concept of religious ambivalence, intended as constitutive tensions within religion, this talk intends to highlight the crucial role played by the so-called 'spirit-deity religion' and local pre-Buddhist religious practices in the formation of authorised media of religious communication in Gandharan cities and in the transformations of the hierarchy of Buddhist divine entities and expansion of Buddhist geographies.

ALL GUESTS WELCOME – NO REGISTRATION NECESSARY