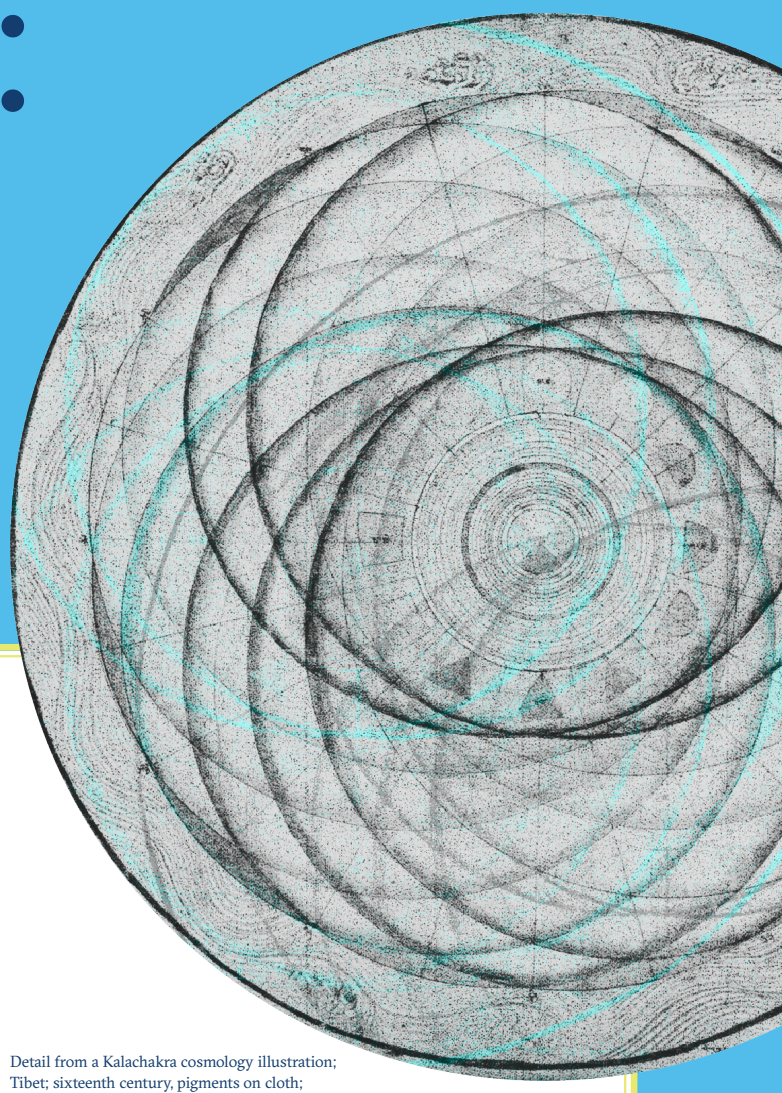
ASTRA
ASTRAL SCIENCES IN TRANS-REGIONAL ASIA

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE
FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

ASTRA COLLOQUIUM FALL 2026

Sky, Earth, and Bodies: Astral Sciences across High and Central Asia



Detail from a Kalachakra cosmology illustration;
Tibet; sixteenth century, pigments on cloth;
Rubin Museum of Himalayan Art; C2009.9 (HAR 61200).

ABOUT THE ASTRA COLLOQUIUM FALL 2026

The colloquium series “Sky, Earth, and Bodies: Astral Sciences across High and Central Asia” highlights recent contributions to the classical Buddhist fields of knowledge and opens critical perspectives on the practical life of science across High and Central Asia. Invited speakers will trace the adaptation and transmission of astral knowledge in these regions. Specifically, the series addresses geography and cartography, astral medicine, astronomy, astrology, and mantic arts as they traveled between sources, languages, places, and people, offering a broader understanding of the history of knowledge across trans-regional Asia.

SEP 29, 2026 · 10:00–11:30 · ONLINE
The Anatomy of Time: Integrating Medical Calendrics and Dolpopa’s Ontology in the Kālacakra System
SOKHYO BRYAN JO

OCT 9, 2026 · 14:00–15:30 · MPIWG VILLA & ONLINE
Five Paths of the Svarodaya
MATTHEW KAPSTEIN

OCT 28, 2026 · 14:00–15:30 · MPIWG VILLA & ONLINE
When Theriacs Became Alchemical Elixirs: The Reception of Complex Eurasian Compounds Within the Tibetan Medical System
CARMELA SIMIOLI

NOV 25, 2026 · 14:00–15:30 · MPIWG VILLA & ONLINE
Temporality in the Environment Aspects of Spatial Orientation in Seventeenth Century Tibet
PETRA MAURER

DEC 7, 2026 · 14:00–15:30 · MPIWG VILLA & ONLINE
“The Collection of Writings on Prognostication” by Lamyn Gegeen versus the Tibetan Treatise *Vaiḍūrya dkar po* by Sangs rgyas rgya mtsho: Spreading Buddhist Astrology from Tibet to Mongolia in the Seventeenth Century
AGATA BAREJA-STARZYŃSKA

JAN 22, 2027 · 14:00–15:30 · MPIWG VILLA & ONLINE
Mapping the Cosmos, Locating the World: Visual Representations of Space in Tibetan Cosmographical and Cartographical Traditions
DIANA LANGE

PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

We welcome both internal and external guests. Registration is only required for in-person attendance. All talks will be streamed via Zoom (see event pages for link). For further information about the colloquium series, please contact Luigi Rogora (lrogora@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de).

VENUE

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
Boltzmannstrasse 22, 14195 Berlin
@ Villa Seminar Room, Harnackstrasse 5