Buddhist Texts Summer School
The Life of the Buddha in Indian Texts: Approaching Pāli and Reading Sanskrit
8 - 13 July 2019

Course description
The course aims to introduce students to the study of Buddhism through a direct approach to the literary Indian sources. As a first approach, what could be better than to start from the very beginning? The underlying theme of the course, indeed, will be the narrations of the life of the founder, that is the one who will be called by his followers with the epithet of Buddha “the Awakened One”. The first days of the course are aimed at introducing students to the study and reading of the Pāli language, a Middle Indo-Aryan literary language closely related to pre-classical Sanskrit. The Pāli language is unfortunately still poorly studied (not only in Italy but also abroad), although it gives access to the only Buddhist canon in an Indian language that has come down to us in its entirety, namely the canon of the Theravāda school, called precisely Pāli canon. The objective of the first preparatory linguistic and grammatical lessons, by Dr. Andrea Drocco and Dr. Bryan De Notariis respectively, is to enable students to get introduced to the reading of a Pāli text concerning the life of the Buddha. These readings will be held by Professor Rupert Gethin, an internationally renowned Indologist and a leading scholar in Buddhist studies of the University of Bristol. Finally, Professor Marco Franceschini will read some selected passages from the Padyacūḍāmarī “The diadem of verses”, a Sanskrit poem that narrates the life of the Buddha from conception to achievement of enlightenment.

Venue
Ca’ Cappello, San Polo 2035, Venice
Ca’ Dolfin, Dorsoduro 3825D, Venice

Lecturers
Dr. Bryan De Notariis
University of Turin
Dr. Andrea Drocco
Ca’ Foscari University of Venice
Prof. Marco Franceschini
University of Bologna
Prof. Rupert Gethin
University of Bristol
President of the Pāli Text Society

Languages
All lessons will be taught in English

Prerequisites
A prior basic knowledge of the Sanskrit language is required for the participation at the Summer School.

Info
For any information please contact
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Program
The detailed program is available at