



## VERNACULAR BUDDHISM IN ASIA AND EUROPE

May 4-6, 2023

University of Tartu

Our conference invites you to look at the rich diversity of Buddhism from geographical, chronological, textual, contextual, structural, cultural, ritual, social, philosophical and pragmatic perspectives.

In addition to covering the differences between the historical periods, schools and national traditions of Buddhist teachings, we also invite approaches to Buddhism as a lived religion. This allows a variety of understandings and experiences of Buddhism including institutional and non-institutional communities, professional and non-professional religious specialists, adepts and practitioners of various types, monks and lay people, witnesses, believers and non-believers from different times and areas.

We encourage topics that focus on Asian and also European regions, taken separately or in comparison. In Europe, the presence of Buddhism, especially in the contemporary period, is very strong, although it is perhaps also not as visible as it could be and not as well reflected in research by the scholarly community.

Organisations, societies, communities of different levels, sacred places, diasporas and local specialists, internships at Asian Buddhist centres, masterclasses and practices in local communities, Buddhist arts, physical training, spirituality, and many other manifestations can be seen in various European societies. These tell of wide-ranging interaction between Buddhism and various cultures as fertile forming grounds for new interpretations, meanings, functions – traditions.

We encourage you to discuss such topics as the variety of manifestations and experiences of Buddhism, its flexibility and capability to change, update and adapt; relationships between Buddhism and other traditions, understandings and practices; its interactions with other realms of the life beyond the religious; the roles and functions of Buddhism in communities and societies; relations with various cultural, social and political institutions and authorities; roles in dealing with previous and contemporary local and global concerns. Other topics relevant to the general study of Buddhism are also welcomed.

The conference is planned for two days of academic panels and discussions and a one-day tour introducing Buddhist communities, practices and arts in Estonia.

Participation fee: 100 euro (for coffee breaks and a one-day tour).

Working language: English

The deadline for applications (see the form below) and an abstract (250-300 words) is February 15, 2023, using e-mail: [alevtina.solovyeva@ut.ee](mailto:alevtina.solovyeva@ut.ee). Notification letters about the acceptance of abstracts will be sent by March 1.

The conference will be hold in hybrid form (with on-line sessions), participation in-person is preferable.

Organisers:

University of Tartu

University of Bern

Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités – École pratique des hautes études

## **Registration form**

Personal details:

Name and Surname:

Affiliation:

Title/degree:

E-mail address:

Paper's details:

Title:

Abstract (250–300 words)