

PETRA KIEFFER-PÜLZ (Akademie der Wissenschaften und Literatur Mainz)

READING GROUP:

“Ñeyyadhamma’s Letter to the Confusionists (1858)”

THURSDAY, April 16, 2026, 4-6pm, UofT, JHB 213

LECTURE:

The Balapiṭiya Dispute in 19th-century-Sri Lanka

FRIDAY, April 17, 2026, 4-6pm, McMaster, L.R. Wilson Hall 3001 HYBRID

The Balapiṭiya dispute in 19th-century Sri Lanka is a dispute about the legal validity of the monastic boundary (sīmā) in Balapiṭiya, which was a ‘water-splashing boundary’ (udakukkhepa sīmā). The dispute began in 1851 and lasted at least till 1885. In addition to the two monk groups in Sri Lanka, which were members of the Amarapurānikāya, various high-ranking monks of the Burmese Sangha were involved in this dispute since the Sinhalese monks had sent delegations to Burma to solve the legal dispute. After an overview of the main stages in this dispute, I will go into more detail on two publications in Pāli printed in 1880 and 1885 by representatives of the non-confusionists and the confusionists, namely the *Sīmālakḥaṇāḍīpanī* and the *Sīmānayadappana*.



PETRA KIEFFER-PÜLZ is an independent scholar in the field of Indology and Buddhist Studies with an MA and a PhD in Indology from the University of Göttingen, Germany. Her primary research interest is the cultural history and literature of the Buddhism of South and Southeast Asia with a special focus on Pali literature and Buddhist monastic traditions (Vinaya). Her authored and co-translated works include *Die Sīmā* (1992), *Sīmāvicāraṇa* (2011), *Verlorene Gaṇṭhipadas* (2013), *Overcoming Doubts (Kaṅkḥavitarāṇī)* (2018), and *A Manual of the Adornment of the Monastic Boundary* (2021).

All lectures will be delivered in a hybrid format through Zoom. The reading group sessions will be in person only.

Zoom for UofT: <https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/9736281644> Passcode: 925877

Zoom for McMaster: <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/94812187228> Passcode: 989442

To receive reading group materials and for further information please contact christoph.emmrich@utoronto.ca



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