

The 17th World Sanskrit Conference

July 9-13, 2018 • The University of British Columbia
Vancouver, Canada • wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca



FIRST CIRCULAR ॥ प्रथमं परिपत्रम् ॥

We are very pleased to announce that, as agreed by the **International Association of Sanskrit Studies** (IASS) at the 16th World Sanskrit Conference (Bangkok, Thailand, 2015), the 17th World Sanskrit Conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada from July 9 to July 13, 2018. The World Sanskrit Conference is the premier international forum for professional researchers and educators of the Sanskrit language and its literatures, and of the history, religion, and cultures of premodern South Asia. This will mark the first time that this prestigious triennial event is held in Canada. WSC 2018 is proudly hosted by the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia, and it is our pleasure to welcome you to the beautiful, vibrant, and travel-friendly city of Vancouver, which is consistently rated as a top tourist destination in North America and one of the world's most liveable cities. This first circular aims to provide preliminary information, important dates and deadlines, and an overview of the format and procedures for the **17th World Sanskrit Conference**.



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WEBSITE and LATEST INFORMATION

For up-to-date information and all important announcements, please visit <http://wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca>, where you can also join the official WSC 2018 Announcements email list in order to receive regular future electronic communications from the WSC Secretariat. Conference registration, paper submissions, accommodation booking, and payment of fees and dues will all be done through this website portal.



भूमिर्यत्र सुशान्तसागरवृता सोष्मप्रवाहैर्युता
वृक्षाच्छादितपर्वतैः परिवृता पर्जन्यपूर्णा सदा |
नानादेशजनैः समेत्य नगरं यत्स्थापितं वर्धितम्
क्रीडास्थानमिदं समस्तजगतो व्हंकूवरं सुन्दरम् ||
-विद्युल्लेखा अकलूजकर

VENUE and MODE of OPERATION at WSC 2018

WSC 2018 will be held on the main campus of the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The conference will feature **21 regular thematic sections**, as stipulated by the IASS. For each section, a set of invited convenors, specialists in the respective fields, will assist in maintaining a high scholarly standard for the conference by (a) selecting individual papers for presentation at WSC 2018, (b) organizing special featured panels within each section, and (c) nominating session chairs who will oversee a strict adherence to timings and professional decorum during the paper sessions. The convenors will also be in charge of selecting and editing papers for publication in the proceedings, details of which will be announced in future communications.

DATES and DEADLINES

Here are the important dates and deadlines that you should keep in mind when planning for the World Sanskrit Conference. Please note, these dates are tentative, and may be subject to change. For the latest information, please visit our website, wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca.

May 15, 2017	<i>Deadline for SPECIAL PANEL proposals</i>
July 15, 2017	<i>Notification of accepted SPECIAL PANELS</i>
September 18, 2017	<i>Deadline for INDIVIDUAL PAPER abstracts</i>
January 2, 2018	<i>Notification of accepted INDIVIDUAL PAPERS</i>
February 16, 2018	<i>Early Registration Rate Ends</i>
May 7, 2018	<i>Deadline for REGISTRATION (for all presenters)</i>

IMPORTANT: All participants who plan to present a paper must pay registration fees by the deadline of **May 7, 2018**, or their paper will be cancelled. On-site, last minute registration will be available *only* for non-presenting participants and guests.

CALL FOR PAPER and PANEL SUBMISSIONS

WSC 2018 will feature two types of sessions: individual **paper sessions** and special **featured panels**. Interested scholars are welcome to submit either an abstract for an individual paper, or to propose a special featured panel of three or four participants. Due to the restrictions of space and time, each scholar wishing to present his/her work at WSC 2018 may submit **only** one paper or panel proposal to one of the sections below. The submission process will take place entirely through the conference website at wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca, and further instructions on the submission procedures will be given in the coming months. The deadline for panel proposals is May 15, 2017, while the deadline for individual paper abstracts is September 18, 2017.

Each paper will be allotted a time of 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. Papers may be delivered in English or French (the national languages of Canada), or in Sanskrit.

SECTIONS and CONVENORS

The 21 principal sections and their confirmed convenors, as of September 2016, are listed below. Additional convenors are still to be confirmed, and as we do so, the list will be updated on the official WSC website. Individual speakers and titles of papers accepted for presentation at WSC 2018 will be announced through the conference website in early 2018.

	विभागस्य नामधेयम्	SECTION TITLE	CONVENORS [संयोजकाः]
1	वेदः	Veda	Shrikant Bahulkar, Joanna Jurewicz
2	भाषाशास्त्रम्	Linguistics	Madhav Deshpande, Jan Houben
3	व्याकरणम्	Vyākaraṇa	Malhar Kulkarni
4	रामायणं महाभारतं च	Epics	Arti Dhand, Robert Goldman, James Hegarty
5	पुराणानि	Purāṇas	Elizabeth Rohlman, McComas Taylor
6	आगमास्तन्त्रं च	Āgama & Tantra	Diwakar Acharya, Michael Slouber, Judit Törzsök
7	विध्यनुष्ठानविमर्शः	Ritual Studies	Marko Geslani, Libbie Mills
8	काव्यमलङ्कारश्च	Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics	Daniele Cuneo, C. Rajendran
9	वैज्ञानिकं वाङ्मयम्	Scientific Literature	Bill Mak, Dominik Wujastyk
10	बौद्धविद्या	Buddhist Studies	Mahesh & Lata Deokar, Jason Neelis
11	जैनविद्या	Jaina Studies	Nalini Balbir, Eva de Clerq
12	वैष्णवमतं शैवमतं च	Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism	David Buchta, Elaine Fisher, Ajay Rao
13	धर्मविमर्शः	Religious Studies	Christopher Austin, Travis Smith
14	दर्शनानि, तत्त्वशास्त्रम्	Philosophy	Kengo Harimoto, Lawrence McCrea
15	इतिहासः कलाः स्थापत्यमभिलेखशास्त्रं च	History, Art & Architecture, Epigraphy	Arlo Griffiths, Anna Slaczka

विभागस्य नामधेयम्	SECTION TITLE	CONVENORS [संयोजकाः]
16 संस्कृतं प्रदेशभाषाश्च	Sanskrit & Regional Languages, (& Southeast Asia)	Andrea Acri, Whitney Cox
17 संस्कृतशिक्षाशास्त्रम्	Sanskrit Pedagogy	Sadananda Das, Guy Leavitt
18 आधुनिकं संस्कृतसाहित्यम्	Modern Sanskrit Writings	Hari Dutt Sharma, Deven Patel
19 संस्कृतं विज्ञानतान्त्रिकी च	Computational Sanskrit & Digital Humanities	Gérard Huet, Amba Kulkarni
20 हस्तलेखविज्ञानम्	Manuscriptology	Nirmala Kulkarni, Saraju Rath
21 धर्मशास्त्रमर्थशास्त्रं च	Law and Society	Donald Davis, Timothy Lubin

The following **special sections** are being planned for WSC 2018:

विभागस्य नामधेयम्	SECTION TITLE	CONVENORS [संयोजकाः]
22 योगायुर्वेदौ	Yoga and Āyurveda	Dagmar Wujastyk
23 संस्कृतं पञ्जाबप्रदेशश्च	Sanskrit and the Panjab	Adheesh Sathaye
24 संस्कृतं पारसीवाङ्मयं च	Sanskrit and Indo-Persian Culture	Anna Martin, Luther Obrock

As has been the tradition at previous conferences, arrangements for hosting a **कविसमवायः** [Poets' Forum] and a **शास्त्रचर्चा** [Śāstra Debate] are currently being pursued, and further details will be made available as funding opportunities become clear.

REGISTRATION FEES

The Organizing Committee has been making every effort to keep costs at a minimum for the 2018 World Sanskrit Conference. We are unable at this time to announce registration fees and other price values; these will be announced as soon as we are able to finalize our anticipated costs. Discounted rates will be available for students (with valid proof) and members of the International Association for Sanskrit Studies, and for "early bird" registration. All confirmed presenters will be required to pay registration fees before **May 7, 2018**, to avoid cancellation of papers. Onsite registration will be available for general admission at the time of the conference, including individual entry tickets for featured events and entertainment.

The registration fees will cover (a) coffee and tea breaks, (b) the conference banquet, and (c) conference bag, stationery, and printed program. Registered participants will also be able to attend the planned entertainment events and receptions free of cost.

Not included in the registration are **MEALS** (apart from the all-conference banquet), accommodations, excursions, or transportation. Participants are welcome to visit a wide range of low-cost on-campus restaurants and food vendors of their own choosing, or alternatively, one will be able to purchase a range of convenient add-on meal plans (Hindu veg or non-veg) in advance through the conference website. Further details about registration and these add-on packages will be given in future announcements.

वनपूर्वकुबेरनामकं

पुरमस्त्युत्तरदिग्विभूषणम् ।
गिरिवारिधिसंनिधौ स्थितं
सकलानन्दकरं सुविश्रुतम् ॥
रमया रमतेऽत्र भारती
सुमनोभिः समुपासिता सदा ।
विदुषामिह सङ्गमोऽस्तु वः
सुखदः संस्कृतवाग्विवर्धनः ॥
- माधव देशपांडे



IASS MEMBERSHIP

In an effort to streamline the process of becoming members of the **International Association for Sanskrit Studies** (<http://www.sanskritassociation.org>), and to facilitate IASS members to receive a discounted rate for WSC 2018 registration, the Organizing Committee plans to offer participants the option of purchasing 1-year or 3-year IASS memberships during the process of registering for the WSC. Further details of this process will be made available on the website and in future announcements.

TRAVEL and VISA ARRANGEMENTS

July is a peak season for travel to Vancouver, and attendees are urged to make their travel arrangements in a timely manner to avoid exorbitant costs. In addition, participants should also familiarize themselves with any visa requirements that they might have for entering Canada. As in previous WSCs, we anticipate attendees to come to Vancouver from over 30 countries, and we therefore regret that the Organizing Committee cannot offer personal assistance or advice in how to secure the appropriate Canadian visa, since the process differs widely from country to country. For more information and guidance, you are encouraged to consult the Government of Canada's official website (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>) and to contact your local Canadian Embassy or Consulate for specific instructions as early as possible, since the time required for securing a visa can be unpredictable. Participants may also wish to employ a travel agent for this purpose. Upon the acceptance of paper abstracts, we will be able to provide a **letter of confirmation** to assist in securing the visa or travel funds. Please get in touch with the WSC 2018 Secretariat at wsc2018@ubcsanskrit.ca for this assistance.



TRAVEL GRANTS

We recognize that travel to Vancouver can be costly, particularly for those coming from South or Southeast Asia. The Organizing Committee is making every effort to keep the conference affordable. However, we regret that at this time, the WSC cannot offer travel assistance, due to budgetary limitations. Participants should seek travel assistance, grants, or bursaries from their home institutions, or from governmental or international granting agencies.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We have secured a wide range of clean, safe, and comfortable accommodation possibilities for conference participants at various locations on the campus of the University of British Columbia, all within walking distance of the conference venue. These range from budget, dormitory-style rooms with shared lavatories to upscale, apartment-style suites, at a variety of price points. In due course, conference participants will be able to book their accommodations directly with UBC Conferences and Accommodations. Further details of how to do this, and of the various room options that are available, will be communicated in future announcements, once the prices are finalized. Please be sure to check the conference website at wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca for up-to-date information.



EXCURSIONS and ENTERTAINMENT

A variety of entertainment, keynote lectures, and receptions is being planned for the evenings of the conference. We are also arranging for a number of different optional **excursion packages** for Saturday, July 14, 2018. Conference participants wishing to go on an excursion will be asked to book this in advance through the conference website. Precise details will be given in future announcements.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO VANCOUVER!



PHOTO CREDIT: Martin Dee, UBC Public Affairs

Please be sure to check the conference website (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca) for up-to-date information, as the details given in this document may be subject to change. To receive regular announcements, updates, and news, please join our **WSC 2018 Announcements** email list by filling in the form on the website. All queries may be directed to the WSC 2018 Conference Secretariat at wsc2018@ubcsanskrit.ca.

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