

The 17th World Sanskrit Conference

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



THIRD CIRCULAR ॥ तृतीयं परिपत्रम् ॥

With less than five months left until the **17th World Sanskrit Conference** (Vancouver, Canada, July 9 - 13, 2018), we are delighted to release this **third update** to help you prepare for your journey. We look forward to welcoming you to the beautiful and vibrant city of Vancouver to share your research and to celebrate Sanskrit learning and culture! As always, please visit the WSC **website** for up-to-date information about the conference (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca), as the information provided here is subject to change.



भूमिर्यत् सुशान्तसागरवृता सोष्मप्रवाहैर्युता वृक्षाच्छादितपर्वतैः परिवृता पर्जन्यपूर्णा सदा |
नानादेशजनैः समेत्य नगरं यत्स्थापितं वर्धितं क्रीडास्थानमिदं समस्तजगतो व्हंकूवरं सुन्दरम् ॥

-विद्युल्लेखा अकलूजकर

SPONSORS/PARTNERS:



University of British Columbia: Dept. of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Centre for India and South Asia Research

Major Sponsors: BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, International Buddhist Society, Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Partners: Consulate General of India-Vancouver, Indian Summer Festival, Mandala Arts, Click on Tours

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Sessions	Monday, July 9	Tuesday, July 10	Wednesday, July 11	Thursday, July 12	Friday, July 13	Saturday, July 14
Morning (8.00-12.30)	Inauguration/ Plenaries	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions/ शास्त्रसदस् कविसमवायश्च	Conference Excursions (Optional)
Afternoon (14.00-18.00)	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions	Paper Sessions	IASS General Assembly	
Evening (19.30-22.00)	NEPATHYA: Gala Kutiattam Event	Public Events	Public Events	Public Lecture on Yoga: James Mallinson	All-conference Banquet	

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Please note that the submission of paper and panel proposals is now **closed**. We have invited more than **700 scholars** from around the world to present their research at the 17th World Sanskrit Conference. If you had submitted a paper abstract before the deadline (**October 1, 2017**), you should have already received a notification regarding whether your paper has been accepted or declined. If there is any doubt regarding the status of your paper proposal, please contact the WSC Secretariat (wsc2018@ubcsanskrit.ca). If your proposal has been declined, or if you were unable to submit a proposal before the deadline, we still welcome your attendance at the WSC and encourage you to register as **a non-presenting delegate**.

Each accepted paper will be given a strict time slot of **30 MINUTES**. Within this time slot, you are asked to present your paper within 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for discussion. Paper presentations will be organized into sessions of 3 or 4 papers with a moderator present to enforce **strict** time limits and maintain order. Further, we have instituted a policy at the 17th WSC that each presenter may present only one paper within the regular sessions. We ask you to comply with these regulations to ensure that there are no delays in the programme, and that everyone is given an equal opportunity to present their research at the 17th WSC.

All of our conference rooms have built-in data projectors, with HDMI & RGB connectors. Many rooms will also include built-in Windows computers, but we ask that you bring your own device, with appropriate connectors, etc., in order to minimize time spent in setup. If you wish to distribute a **handout** or print your paper, fee-based printing facilities will be available at the UBC Library, adjacent to the conference venue.

REGISTRATION

In order for your paper to be included in the Programme, you must register by **May 9, 2018**, through the **ONLINE REGISTRATION PORTAL** (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca). If you do not register by this date, your paper will be **cancelled**. On-site registration will be available **only** for non-presenting delegates and accompanying guests, and will be at a higher rate. Please note the following fee schedule (all prices in **CANADIAN DOLLARS**):

Registration Type	Early Bird Rate (closes March 7, 2018)	Normal Rate (closes May 9, 2018)	On-site Rate
Regular (IASS Member)	\$275	\$350	\$400
Student Rate (w/ proof of status)	\$175	\$250	\$250
Accompanying Guest	\$175	\$175	

Registration fees include access to all conference events, chai/coffee breaks, all-conference banquet, printed program booklet and other merchandise (bag, pen, stationery).

Please keep the following important dates and deadlines in mind:

March 7, 2018	<i>Last day for "EARLY BIRD" registration rate</i>
May 9, 2018	<i>Last day for REGISTRATION (for all presenters)</i>
July 9-13, 2018	<i>Dates of the 17th World Sanskrit Conference</i>
July 14, 2018	<i>Optional Conference Excursions</i>

Registration and add-on purchases must be made in **CANADIAN DOLLARS**. We accept major international credit cards for online payment, or you may arrange to make a wire transfer or send an international money order or bank draft. However, if your payment does not reach us by **March 21, 2018**, your fees will revert to the **REGULAR RATE**; if the payment does not reach by **May 23, 2018**, your paper will be **cancelled**.

PLEASE NOTE: The Registration Portal for the 17th World Sanskrit Conference is operated by the University of British Columbia, and you should consult with UBC **Registration Services** directly (registration@housing.ubc.ca) regarding payment methods, receipts, other financial inquiries.

IASS MEMBERSHIP

For the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, we are pleased to offer **1-year complimentary memberships** (for the year 2018) in the **International Association for Sanskrit Studies**, the foremost international professional organization dedicated to the cause of promoting, diversifying, intensifying and coordinating Sanskrit Studies in all the countries of the world. Membership in the IASS permits you to attend and vote at the **General Assembly** meeting (to be held on Friday, July 13, 2018 at the 17th WSC), along with a number of other benefits.

We also encourage you to buy an optional 2-year **add-on** to extend your IASS membership through 2020, after which you may renew your IASS membership while registering for the 18th WSC (Canberra, Australia). See the WSC2018 website for more details.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

We have partnered with **CLICKONTOURS.COM**, whose agents working in Canada, USA, India, and Europe will help you find the right airfare for your travel to Canada. They can also assist in securing pre- and post-Conference vacation or cruise packages, if you wish to explore Vancouver's scenic surroundings, and can further guide you on touristic activities.

If you find that your on-campus accommodation preferences are unavailable, or would like to stay in a city hotel, Click on Tours will be able to help you identify some good options that fit your budget and your desired luxury levels. Please consult their website (www.clickontours.com), call **+1 (877) 239 1312** (Canada) or email abhi@clickontours.com.

VISA ARRANGEMENTS

If your paper has been accepted in the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, or if you wish to attend the conference as a non-presenting delegate, please go through the following steps for properly handling the **visa/immigration requirements** for gaining entry into Canada:

1. **DO YOU NEED A VISA or eTA?** (ELECTRONIC TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION) To find out, please visit the following website and click on "Find out if you need a visa":

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada.html>

2. **IF YOU NEED AN eTA:** Delegates from many **visa-exempt** nations (e.g., EU, UK, Japan, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, U.S. permanent resident) will need to secure an electronic travel authorization **prior to travel**. You may do so online through the following link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta.html>

3. **IF YOU NEED A VISITOR'S VISA** (also known as TEMPORARY RESIDENT VISA): Delegates from countries requiring visas for entry into Canada – including **India, Nepal, Sri Lanka** – are urged to follow these steps **carefully** in securing a visitor's visa (temporary resident visa) prior to travel. Processing can take longer than expected, and so we urge you to get started **RIGHT AWAY**. We also urge new or inexperienced travellers to hire an agent or representative to complete the forms, as there is a danger of your application being rejected due to factual errors or omissions. Here are the steps to follow:

1. **WSC LETTER OF INVITATION:** All accepted presenters have now been sent electronic Letters of Invitation to attend the 17th WSC containing your **passport details** and other particulars for travel. If you have **not** received the LOI, or if there are any **errors** in the passport information, please contact the WSC2018 Secretariat (wsc2018@ubcsanskrit.ca) right away. We will also be sending your passport details to the Govt. of Canada, to expedite your visa application—so it is **ESSENTIAL** that you provide this information accurately. You will need to include either an electronic version of this document (if applying **online**) or a printed version (if applying **on paper**). Please note, we are unfortunately unable to send **printed** versions of the LOI, due to high costs of international postage.

2. **APPLY FOR VISA ONLINE:** If you are able to pay the application fee by **credit card**, the Canadian authorities have urged that you should apply **online** if at all possible, as it will greatly speed up the processing. Please visit the following website to begin:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/application/account.html>

In your application, please be sure to attach the electronic LOI, and mention the SPECIAL EVENT CODE that Canadian Immigration has designated for the WSC, **"18ASIA"**. This will ensure that your application is handled properly.

3. **APPLY FOR VISA BY PAPER:** If you cannot pay the application fee by credit card, or cannot otherwise complete the online form, then please apply **by paper**, by carefully following the procedures outlined on the following webpage of the Govt. of Canada:
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/applications/visa.asp>
In your application, please be sure to include a printed copy of the LOI, and mention the SPECIAL EVENT CODE that Canadian Immigration has designated for the WSC, **"18ASIA"**. This will ensure that your application is handled properly.
4. **PROVIDE YOUR FILE/TRACKING NUMBER:** To expedite your visa application, please send us the **file number** (for online applications) or **tracking number** (for paper applications) as soon as possible. We are sending these to the Canadian authorities, along with passport information, on a weekly basis so that the applications can be expedited and verified. You are urged to send this information to the WSC Secretariat (wsc2018@ubcsanskrit.ca) as soon as you have submitted your application.
5. **GENERAL TIPS:** We have been working closely with Canada Immigration to help make the visa application process as smooth and efficient as possible. But please be aware that all decisions on visas are made by Canadian Immigration officers. So make sure that your passport information and name are given **ACCURATELY** on the LOI, and that you have given us your **file/tracking number**. Further, please make sure that you answer all the questions on the application **truthfully** and **completely**, and include sufficient documentation in support of the visa application. This is especially important if you are a relatively new or inexperienced traveller. Further, we urge you to consider using an experienced **agent / representative** to help you apply—and our partners at **Click On Tours** are available to assist.

ACCOMMODATION

For your convenience and to help minimize your expenses, we have created a block of clean, safe, and comfortable residence options at exclusive rates for conference participants at on-campus housing facilities at the University of British Columbia, all less than 10 minutes' walk from the conference, and at a range of different price points & luxury levels, many with magnificent ocean/mountain views. All WSC accommodation includes breakfast.

We are pleased to offer these exclusive rates for our guests from July 7, 2018 until July 15, 2018. Please note that there is limited availability, so make your bookings as soon as possible with UBC Accommodation Services through the "Book Now" button on the WSC website (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca/logistics#accommodation). **Please note:** We recommended that you use Chrome or Firefox when using UBC's booking link. The portal may not function properly if using Safari and other unsupported web browsers. **Further note:** Our conference block is

limited, and you may find that some rooms are no longer available at the conference rate. If you book rooms outside of the WSC conference block, please note that breakfast will not be included. Please inquire with UBC Accommodation (reservations@housing.ubc.ca) to verify that your reservation is within the WSC conference block.

Please see below for rates and brief descriptions of the housing options. Further details and images are provided on the WSC website (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca/logistics#accommodation):

Accommodation	Description	Nightly Rate (+13% tax)
Walter Gage Studio Suite	1-2 guests; double bed, full kitchen, private washroom; daily housekeeping; breakfast included	\$142
Walter Gage 1-Bedroom Suite	up to 4 guests; queen bed, queen sofa bed, full kitchen, private washroom; daily housekeeping; breakfast included	\$162 SOLD OUT
Ponderosa Premium Single	1 guest per room (single bed); each apt. unit contains 4 bedrooms, 2 washrooms, living area, kitchenette; weekly housekeeping; breakfast included	\$65
Ponderosa Studio Suite	1-2 guests; double bed, kitchenette, private washroom; daily housekeeping; breakfast included	\$139
Place Vanier Bedrooms	1 guest per room; shared washrooms (2 per floor), common lounge areas; breakfast included	\$48
West Coast Suite	up to 4 guests; king-size bed, queen sofa bed, full kitchen, private washroom, balcony; daily housekeeping; breakfast included	\$229 SOLD OUT

If you are unable to secure your preferred rooms in our on-campus accommodation, or wish to stay in a city hotel or have other specific requirements, please contact our travel partners, [CLICK ON TOURS](#) who will be pleased to help you find the best option for your budget..

MEAL PLANS

For lunch and dinner, we encourage you to explore the many fine restaurants and cafés located on our campus and throughout the city. Vancouver is well-known for its authentic Asian restaurants, finely prepared West Coast cuisine, fresh seafood, and health-conscious vegetarian/vegan fare. We will provide a guide to help you explore the many gustatory wonders that the city has to offer. Or, since most on-campus accommodations will have kitchen facilities, you may also choose to prepare your own meals to minimize costs.

For participants who wish to have a **fixed meal plan**, we are pleased to be able to work with the chefs of **Gather**, an on-campus dining facility located at the Place Vanier Residence at

UBC, to create special vegetarian and non-veg menus for the attendees of the 17th World Sanskrit Conference. These MEAL PLANS must be booked in advance.

These **OPTIONAL** meal plans are available for **pre-purchase ONLY** at the following rates:

Meal Plan Type	Options	Cost (+5% GST)
Lunch Only (Sunday-Friday, July 8-13, 2018)	(Veg or Non-veg)	\$70
Lunch & Dinner (Sunday-Friday, July 8-13, 2018)	(Veg or Non-veg)	\$150

NOTE: Breakfast is included with all WSC on-campus housing bookings (see above).

EXCURSIONS

On **Saturday, July 14, 2018**, the day after the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, we are pleased to offer several optional **EXCURSION** packages to make your visit to Vancouver a memorable one. Please see the table below for a basic list of options and prices, and please visit the WSC website for complete details about each tour, and further information on booking.

PLEASE NOTE: Availability is limited for each tour, and so we encourage you to make your bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Excursion Type	Description	Cost (+5% GST)
Boat Cruise + Luncheon	Featured excursion—3-hour luxury yacht cruise exploring Vancouver Harbour, English Bay, and surrounding areas, with a fully catered luncheon (veg/non-veg)	\$115
City Bus Tour	Guided bus tour to see the major attractions of Vancouver, including Stanley Park, Granville Island, Gastown, etc. (Lunch is not included)	\$40
"Highway to Heaven" Temple Visits	A visit to several impressive Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh temples in Richmond, BC, a bustling suburb of Vancouver (Vegetarian Lunch available by donation at the International Buddhist Society temple)	\$40
Stanley Park Shuttles	Bus transfers to and from Stanley Park for self-guided hikes, bike rides, and other nature-oriented activities (Lunch is not included)	\$15
UBC Museum & Gardens Pass	Admission to Museum of Anthropology, Beaty Biodiversity Museum, UBC Botanical Gardens, and Nitobe Memorial Garden (Self-guided) (Lunch is not included)	\$35

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The WSC is unfortunately not able to offer **travel assistance** due to our budgetary limitations, and you will be responsible for all expenses, including **REGISTRATION, LODGINGS, MEALS, and AIRFARE & GROUND TRANSPORTATION**. Participants are encouraged to seek grants or bursaries from their home institutions, or from governmental agencies in their home country. Please note that you will be responsible for paying all requisite fees in a timely manner. And once again please note that **MAY 9, 2018** is the **final deadline** for registration. Any paper whose presenter has NOT registered by this deadline will be removed from the programme.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO VANCOUVER!

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Organizing Committee for the 17th World Sanskrit Conference:

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Vidyut Aklujkar
Timothy Bellefleur
Mandakranta Bose
Thomas Hunter
Adheesh Sathaye (Chair)
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International Members:

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Please be sure to check the conference website (wsc.ubcsanskrit.ca) for up-to-date information, as the details given in this document are 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.