

Mangalam Research Center  
for  
Buddhist Languages

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*The Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages brings to Buddhist Studies a unique focus on developing the terms and concepts that will allow English and other Western languages to become vehicles capable of carrying the full - meaning of the Dharma. Toward this end it cooperates with established institutions of higher learning, scholars and - students, and learned masters of all Buddhist traditions.*

# **Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages**

## **Building on a 40-Year Record of Accomplishment**

The Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages (MRC) traces its roots to India in 1962, when exiled Tibetan lama Tarthang Tulku, trained by some of the most renowned masters of the Tibetan lineage, founded Dharma Publishing to print texts in Tibetan. In 1968, Tarthang Tulku relocated to America and immediately established the Tibetan Nyingma Meditation Center (TNMC), a church, and re-established Dharma Publishing.

In 1981, Dharma Publishing produced the *Nyingma Edition of the Tibetan Buddhist Canon* in 120 volumes, followed by the eight volume *Research Catalog and Bibliography of the Canon* (1983) and *Great Treasures of - Ancient Teachings* (1991), the first-ever compilation of works of the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism, in 627 atlas-sized volumes.

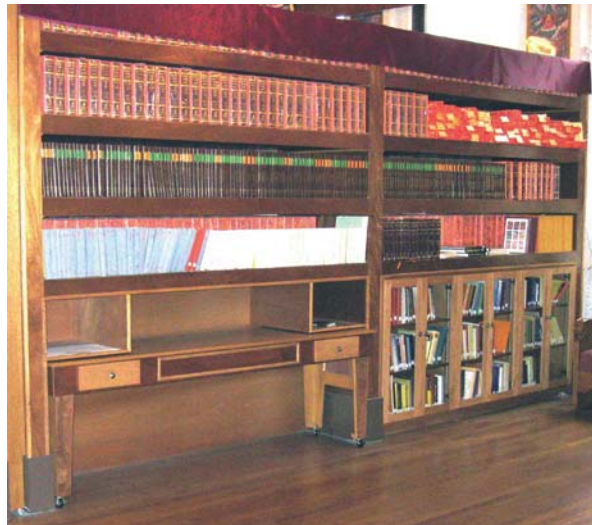
Dharma Publishing has also produced more than 20 Buddhist translations, several in cooperation with leading scholars. Its sister organization, the Yeshe De Text Preservation Project, has distributed over 7,000 typeset Tibetan texts to Tibetan schools of higher education in exile, temples, and practitioners (over 3 million books since 1989).

At the same time, the Nyingma Institute, established in Berkeley in 1972, has offered classes and programs designed to introduce Buddhism to the Western world to well over 100,000 people, and Dharma Publishing has produced over 100 titles in English; these titles in turn have been translated into 18 languages.

The founding of MRC was the logical next step in this forty-year history. Building on the work of its affiliated organizations, MRC unites deep respect for traditional teachings with the need for Buddhism to enter into cultural dialog with the cultures of the West.



Dharma Publishing book distribution, Bodh Gaya



Alcove in the MRC library



MRC was established in Berkeley, California in 2008, when TNMC acquired a 26,000 sq. ft. building in downtown Berkeley, designated as MRC's permanent home. Known as Mangalam Centers, the century-old building, a Berkeley landmark, also houses a variety of other organizations affiliated with TNMC (see next page for a brief description of the Mangalam Centers mandala). In the summer of 2009, after nine months of renovation work, MRC officially opened its doors. That fall it held its first symposium, "Reinventing the Wheel." Six prominent scholars from three continents gathered to offer their advice and support for MRC as it planned out its initial programs and directions for research.

Although it has only recently come into operation, MRC has quickly been recognized by the international academic community as a serious, unique, and valuable institution in the field of Buddhist studies. This is due in part to its status as part of a larger organization with well-established and highly successful programs for the promotion, study, and preservation of Buddhist teachings and texts. It is also due to MRC's commitment to working closely with the Western scholarly community and its clear recognition of the value of the work that Western academics have done over the past 150 years. Finally, it reflects MRC's single-minded focus on the language of Dharma transmission and on developing the resources and knowledge that support this focus.

MRC has benefited greatly from the institutional support of TNMC, which gave it a one-time seed-money grant of \$500,000 to start operations and donated most of the books in its library. TNMC will continue to act as MRC's fiscal agent until MRC establishes its own status as a non-profit organization (a process now underway). In addition, MRC has been able to draw on an institutional culture shaped by traditional Buddhist values, which means that most of its staff, including its Director and Chief Administrative Officer, donate their services without charge.

All these factors, together with the generous cooperation of numerous renowned scholars, have led to a remarkable record of accomplishment in the short history of MRC as an independent institution. MRC is now actively seeking additional sources of funding to secure and build upon this strong beginning.

## Overview of Mangalam Centers

Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages operates as part of Mangalam Centers, in the heart of downtown Berkeley. Among the other Mangalam Centers:

**Light of Buddhadharma Foundation:** Supports the restoration of Buddhism in India.

**Prayer Flag Project:** Creates prayer flags for religious centers and for the general public.

**Center for Creative Inquiry:** Explores new ways of knowing that draw on the creative forces of Western culture and the experiential dimensions of knowledge that transcend cultural differences.

**Dharma Publishing Bookstore:** Makes Buddhist books and art available to the public.

**Guna Foundation:** Documents projects that promote the preservation and transmission of Buddhist teachings.

**Nyingma Trust:** Offers support for the Nyingma Buddhist community in the West.

**Tibetan Aid Project:** Supports production and distribution of religious texts and art to Tibetans in India, as well as religious ceremonies at Tibetan monasteries in India and Nepal.

Other Affiliated Organizations:

- Nyingma Institute
- Dharma Publishing
- Ratna Ling Retreat Center
- Odiyan Country Center
- Centers in Germany, Holland, and Brazil

# Mangalam Centers



The Mangalam Centers consist of seven organizations: The Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, Dharma Publishing Bookstore, Tibetan Aid Project, Nyingma Trust, Guna Foundation, Center for Creative Inquiry, Light of Buddhадharma Foundation, and Prayer Flag Project.



# **Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages**

## **Mission**

Mangalam Research Center conducts ongoing research into the terminology of the Buddhist written tradition, both in canonical languages and in translation. Concentrating on Sanskrit and other Indic languages as the source of the tradition, it aims to provide essential resources for translators and readers, contributing in this way to the long-term project of making English and other Western tongues into Dharma languages.

This goal is pursued through two principal strategies. The first is to develop lexica of Buddhist terminology in English and other Western languages through spearheading an initiative that can engage scholars and students around the world. The second is to train young scholars in the methods of terminological research, the historical context of Buddhist thought and its transmission in the West, and the science and art of translation.

To provide the skills and resources necessary for thoughtful research and translation, MRC invites the participation of scholars and researchers who share that aim and who can bring to the task the philosophical and philological skills that such work requires. While many graduate departments today are moving away from a focus on the languages of the written tradition and the skills necessary for successful translation, MRC encourages practitioners and scholars alike to think deeply and creatively about the language in which Buddhist practices, meditation instructions, and philosophy can be communicated. This focus leads naturally to close cooperation with leading academic institutions around the world.

The areas in which MRC conducts research and offers training fall into five principal fields:

1. Study of the canonical languages: Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, Pāli, and Gāndhārī.
2. Advanced training in philology, linguistics, and lexicography: grammar, meanings, usage, etymologies, and varying contexts of Dharma terms and translation equivalents in both source and target languages; genre studies.

3. Historical context: text transmission and translation of Dharma across cultures and across history, both in ancient times and in the recent past; formation of canons; changes in languages over time.
4. Philosophical context: Buddhist philosophy and thought as it manifests in texts; comparative philosophical, scientific, and theological developments in Western intellectual history; recent trends in Western philosophy and thought.
5. Hermeneutics and translation theory.

An essential element of MRC's mandate is to share the fruits of our research with other scholars, students, practitioners, and the interested public. We also invite their participation and provide training to make this possible. We currently have several research associates who help with basic research issues on a full-time volunteer basis, and we have taken steps to create a research-associate program for students who have studied one or more canonical languages as undergraduates and would like to put their knowledge to use in researching the broad field of studies relevant to Buddhist terminology and translation.

Fundamental to MRC's research orientation is the creation of an online set of resources, which we have named the Buddhist Translators Workbench (BTW). Work on BTW began in the summer of 2010, with a symposium on database applications in the field of Buddhist studies attended by nine scholars. After several subsequent meetings, we now have a team in place to work on BTW that brings together scholars from six institutions and five countries. At the center of BTW is a terminological database, but we envision integrating that database with a wide range of other materials designed to support the work of scholars everywhere and to promote collaboration and encourage the sharing of information among a global network of scholars and students. A grant proposal for BTW has been submitted to the National Endowment of the Humanities Program for Innovation in the Digital Humanities; however, work on the database will go forward even if grant money is not immediately available.

In addition to BTW, we are committed to sharing our work in other ways. We plan to start publication of an online journal, *Śabdavidyā*, and to create a Mangalam imprint for publication of monographs and other works in cooperation with Dharma Publishing, which has its own printing and binding capacities and a 40-year history as a Buddhist publisher.



A public panel discussion on theory and practice in Abhidharma, April 2011

## Programs

**A**s a new institution with a clearly defined mandate, not limited by the academic schedules and administrative duties inescapable at major research universities, MRC continues to experiment with the duration, timing, thematic focus, etc. of its programs to determine what approaches will best accomplish our goals. However, we already have the structure in place to support a variety of essential programs, most of which are currently underway:

- Courses in Sanskrit, research methodology, and Buddhist discourse.
- Intensive summer seminars for scholars and graduate students working with Sanskrit, Tibetan, Pāli, and Chinese texts, typically focused on a specific text.
- Symposia that bring together scholars in a leading field of study, such as Madhyamaka or Abhidharma, to discuss terminological issues and determine how to move forward.
- Conferences that address issues of fundamental concern in the field of Buddhist translation studies.
- Workshops on specific topics and themes.
- Lectures and panel discussions open to the public.

We have initiated many of these courses and programs during the past year, and more will be held throughout 2013.

### **Program highlights include the following:**

July 2010 **Words of Wisdom: Toward a Western Terminology for Buddhist Texts** MRC's first intensive three-week summer seminar was co-sponsored by Stanford University and the University of California at Berkeley. Six esteemed professors led fourteen graduate students from eight universities in a close

reading of the *Vimalakīrtinirdeśa* Sūtra, focusing on key terms in the context of the profound vision the text presents. The program proved so successful that the participants continued to collaborate after its completion, with the aim of publishing a new translation, the first in a Western language to be based on the newly discovered Sanskrit text of this important Sūtra.

March 2011      **Symposium on Abhidharma Terminology** A four-day event that brought together leading eleven scholars to discuss current issues in Abhidharma studies, with a special focus on questions of terminology. A second goal for the program was to seek their guidance on approaches to research. One outcome has been a joint dictionary updating project with the University of Washington.

March 2011      **Panel on “The Role of Theory and Practice in the Abhidharma.”** This program, open to the public, featured scholars from the Abhidharma Symposium as well as two members of the faculty of the University of California. Some 140 people attended.

July 2011      **From the Translation Councils of Tibet**, a symposium on the *Sgra sbyor bam po gnyis pa*, a text that records the deliberations and methodology of the ninth-century Tibetan scholars and translators responsible for the famous Sanskrit-Tibetan dictionary known as the *Mahāvvyutpatti*. Seven of the world’s leading scholars on this text will attend, along with several graduate students. There are tentative plans to collect the presentations in a publication.

July 2011      **The Art of Buddhist Translation: Across the Generations**, a program that uses case studies of translations done over the past century in order to assess how approaches to the translation of Buddhist texts have changed and reflect on the criteria for accurate and accessible translations in the future. One week-long program will focus on works from the Pāli Canon, while the second will look at the famous Mahāyāna masterpiece by Śāntideva, the *Bodhicaryāvatāra*.

October 2011      **Quantum Entanglement and the Buddhist Teaching on Dependent Origination** A talk by Professor Michel Bitbol examining the analogy between features of quantum physics and the Buddhist concept of pratītyasamutpāda.

Nov 2011            **Three Programs in Yogācāra** (This program, with its three-part structure, is meant as template for future programs, to be held three times a year):

- Seminar on the Trimśikā for both scholars and graduate students: five leading scholars in the field have committed to join our Academic Directors, postdoctoral fellow, and Senior Research Fellow for both this and the symposium that follows.
- Symposium on Yogācāra Terminology.
- Residential Program for advanced graduate students who have participated in the first two programs; Features seminars, tutorials, and research opportunities.

August 2012        **Madhyamaka Studies Seminar and Symposium**  
These programs focused on selected portions of the Mūlamadhyamakakārikā and translation and terminology choices for key Madhyamaka terms. Led by Anne MacDonald and Luis Gómez.

January 2013      **Eleven Day Pāli Intensive** Led by Professor Richard Gombrich of Oxford.

January 2013      **Buddhist Translators Workbench (BTW) Conference** At this event, BTW collaborators evaluated the progress of MRC's NEH-funded database project and planned for Phase II of its development.

March 2013        **Buddhist Translator's Workbench Symposium** This symposium, titled "Advances in Digital Humanities for Buddhist Studies", brought researchers, scholars, and collaborators on the BTW project together to discuss the impact of digital humanities on the increasing accessibility and new opportunities available for Buddhist texts.

April 2013 **The Language of Meditation across Religious Traditions** Five scholars led this panel and workshop, open to the public, about how the ancient scriptures that ground meditative traditions affect practice in living faith traditions, and how meditation, prayer and contemplation have been transmitted across time, space and cultures.

For more detailed information, visit the MRC website: <http://www.mangalamresearch.org/programs.html>.

MRC also benefits from its affiliation with other Mangalam centers located in the same building. For instance, scholars who have attended symposia at MRC have also given talks for a lay audience in the meditation hall in the Mangalam Centers building, which seats some 200 people. Other centers located at the Mangalam facility sponsor programs and exhibits on Buddhist art, the holy places of Buddhism, and other topics that make the value and significance of Buddhism more widely known in the modern world. The city of Berkeley, an international center for study well-known for its openness to new ideas, is the ideal setting for such programs to unfold.

## People

### Academic Directors

MRC's two academic directors, each of whom spends part of each year in residence, are Luis Gómez, emeritus professor at the University of Michigan, and Michael Hahn, emeritus professor at the University of Marburg.

**Luis Gómez, Ph.D. Yale, 1963** joined the faculty of the University of Michigan in 1973, where he founded one of the first Buddhist Studies program in the country and headed it until his retirement. Under his direction, the program became well-known for the linguistic training it demanded of its students. He now teaches at the Colegio de México. A scholar of both South and East Asian Buddhism who also works on Tibetan Buddhism, his many publications include *The Land of Bliss: The Paradise of the Buddha of Measureless Light* (1996), a translation of the *Sukhāvāṭīvyūha Sūtras*; and *Studies in the Literature of the Great Vehicle: Three Mahāyāna Buddhist Texts* (1989, with Jonathan Silk). He has a special interest in translation studies and is an active meditation teacher. Dr. Gómez also holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology (Michigan, 1998), and is a practicing clinician.

**Michael Hahn, Ph.D. and D. Litt., University of Marburg**, taught for 40 years at the Universities of Bonn and Marburg, and is a specialist in both Sanskrit poetry and in Tibetan. His textbook on classical Tibetan has been the standard German work in the field for four decades. He has been a Numata Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies at four different



universities. Professor Hahn served for many years as editor and publisher of the series *Indica et Tibetica*, which published 52 volumes under his tenure, and is the author of 18 monographs.

## Director

**Jack Petranker** holds a law degree from Yale and an M.A. in political theory from the University of California, Berkeley. A former Dean of the Tibetan Nyingma Institute in Berkeley, he has also served as North American Vice President of the World Fellowship of Buddhists (1988-92). His own academic work is in the fields of consciousness studies and organizational change. He has been director of Mangalam Research Center since its founding in 2008.



Academic Director  
Michael Hahn



Academic Director Luis Gómez and MRC Director Jack Petranker

## Senior Research Fellows

**David Mellins** received his Ph.D. in Sanskrit poetics at Columbia University in 2004 and has studied Buddhist philosophy at the Central University for Tibetan Studies in Sarnath, India. He served as visiting assistant professor at Columbia, Seton Hall, and Yale Universities. A specialist in the traditional aesthetic and semantic philosophies of India, he was the Singh Fellow of South Asian Studies at the MacMillan Center of Yale University in 2008-9. He has lectured widely at conferences and at universities throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He supervises research and teaches Sanskrit at MRC.

**Leslie Bradburn** is the Director of the Yeshe De Text Preservation Project. Working closely with Ven. Tarthang Tulku, the Project's general editor, she has helped prepare for publication close to a thousand volumes of Tibetan texts. She compiled *Ways of Enlightenment: Buddhist Teachings at the Nyingma Institute* (1994), and was part of the translation team for several works from Dharma Publishing, including *Voice of the Buddha (Lalitavistara Sūtra)*, *Dhammapada* (from the Tibetan of Gedun Choephel), and *Path of Heroes* (Blo-sbyong teachings of Zhechen Gyaltshab). She has a special interest in curriculum and program development.

## Postdoctoral Fellows

**Bruno Galasek** began his studies of South- and Central Asian languages and cultures in 2003. His M.A. thesis was on an edition and translation of Prajñākaramati's commentary on Śāntideva's Bodhicaryāvatāraḥ Chapter III, verses 22-33, which focus on "bodhicitta," a concept that is central to Mahāyāna Buddhist thought, and the ritual aspects connected with it. He entered the Ph.D. program at the Institute of Oriental and Asian Studies at the University of Bonn in 2008 and received his doctorate in September 2013. His dissertation focused on a narratological analysis and interpretation of the presentation of characters in the literature of the Pāli Canon. He has extensive training in Tibetan, Sanskrit, and Pāli both at the University of Bonn and at Oxford University.

His research interests include in general Indian and Tibetan Buddhism(s) and, specifically, methods of translation, narrative theory, and the theme of cultural transfer as it plays out in the history of Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.

**Ligeia Lugli** received her Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies from the University of London. She has since been a Research Associate in the Department of Study of Religions at SOAS. Her research focuses on the Yogācāra view of language, but also includes philosophical, philological and paleographical study of Mahāyāna sūtras in Sanskrit and Tibetan. She is currently preparing a critical edition and translation of the Tathāgatācintyaguhyā and collaborating with Durham University towards the creation of Śāstravid, an online resource for the philosophical and hermeneutical study of Madhyamaka.

**Alberto Todeschini** is currently a BDK postdoctoral fellow in Buddhist Studies at the Research Institute for Buddhist Culture at Ryūkoku University in Kyoto. He will receive his Ph.D. from University of Virginia this summer and will start his one-year fellowship with MRC in September. His language skills allow him to research primary texts in Sanskrit, Pāli, Tibetan, and Chinese, as well as review secondary literature in French, German, Italian, and Japanese. He has previously taught at the Centre for Buddhist Studies in Kathmandu and at the University of Virginia. His dissertation and publications to date focus on the Abhidharma literature.

### **Administration**

Elizabeth Cook, M.A., Director of Library Services and Acquisitions

Ann Bergfors, Chief Administrative Officer

Linnea Christiani, MLS, Librarian

## **Participating Scholars**

From the beginning of its operations, MRC has reached out to both established scholars and newly trained students just starting out in their careers. We have been privileged to enjoy strong support from both Paul Harrison, Co-Director of the Ho Center for Buddhist Studies at Stanford University, and Alexander von Rospatt, Chair of the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, each of whom has been generous in offering advice and guidance. We have regularly posted announcements for our programs and positions on the relevant scholarly discussion lists, and have relied on our growing reputation and word of mouth to attract the very best scholars from around the world. This summer MRC's director and Academic Director will attend the conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies in Taiwan, and in November, we will host an event for scholars attending the annual meeting of the Amercian Academy of Religion, being held this year in San Francisco.

From summer 2010 through November of 2011 the following visiting scholars will have joined our Academic Directors and staff in programs held at Mangalam Research Center:

Stefan Baums, UC Berkeley (postdoctoral fellow)

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Independent Scholar

Jens Braarvig, University of Oslo

Collett Cox, University of Washington

Floriano Deleanu, International College for Postgraduate Buddhist Studies, Tokyo

Burkhard Quessel, British Library, London

Siglinde Dietz, University of Göttingen (emeritus)

Carmen Dragonetti, National Council of Scientific Research, Argentina

Rupert Gethin, University of Bristol  
Paul Hackett, Columbia University  
Christoph Harbsmeier, University of Oslo  
Paul Harrison, Stanford University  
(Co-Director, Ho Center for Buddhist Studies)  
Padmanabh Jaini, Univ. of California, Berkeley (emeritus)  
Geshe Lozang Jampal, Columbia University  
Shoryu Katsura, Ryukoku University, Japan  
Jowita Kramer, Oxford University  
Charles Muller, Tōyō Gakuen University, Japan  
Eleanor Rosch, University of California, Berkeley  
Alexander von Rospatt, Univ. of California, Berkeley  
Robert Sharf, University of California, Berkeley  
Fernando Tola, Fundación Instituto de Estudios  
Budistas, Argentina  
Peter Verhagen, University of Leiden, Netherlands  
William Waldron, Middlebury College  
Simon Wiles, Dharma Drum Buddhist University, Taiwan

## Resources

The Mangalam Research Center is home to a fine library, offering 4,300 sq. ft. of stacks and study space, housed in an inspiring setting.

The library's holdings include the world's most complete collection of texts from the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, collected in 727 atlas-sized volumes; more than 2,000 Western-language books on Buddhism; and numerous Sanskrit and Pāli texts, including the complete Pāli Canon in both Pāli and English. Many of MRC's classes are held in the library, but the building also houses three rooms suitable for seminars and conferences. By arrangement with the University of California at Berkeley, MRC scholars and fellows hold the title of Visiting Fellow at the University, with full access to that institution's library and the opportunity to attend university seminars and lectures by visiting scholars and participate in the University's rich cultural resources.

MRC is committed to creating collegial circumstances for scholars and students alike, conducive to a shared spirit of inquiry and the creation of a true learning community, and its facilities are designed with this in mind. Currently, MRC houses residential facilities for its two Academic Directors and one Senior Research Fellow, and work is underway to convert surplus office space into housing for four more scholars. Everyone at Mangalam Research Center is invited to join in communal vegetarian meals prepared daily for the staff and visitors to Mangalam Centers and served in the Mangalam Centers dining room. Visiting scholars who cannot be housed at Mangalam Centers are put up at the four-star hotel next door, and inexpensive short-term housing is available for students across the street.

The San Francisco Bay Area is home to numerous and diverse Buddhist practice centers and communities. MRC regularly reaches out to them to invite them to programs. In addition, Mangalam Centers houses a temple capable of seating up to 200 people. Through the organizations housed at Mangalam Centers, the temple is regularly made available for talks by visiting Dharma teachers. For more information on this aspect of our programs, see [www.mangalamcenters.org](http://www.mangalamcenters.org).

MRC's location in the heart of downtown Berkeley places it at the hub of cultural and social activities and acts as a significant draw for scholars and students. Mangalam Centers is situated just one block from the downtown Berkeley BART station, offering direct connections to San Francisco and the San Francisco International Airport. It is two blocks from the university campus, four blocks from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and half a mile from the majority of the seminaries and divinity schools that comprise the Graduate Theological Union.



**T**he Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages is committed to finding ways to make English and other Western languages into true Dharma languages. To do so, it works to create a global network of scholars, students, researchers, and the general public. The research tools, publications, and other materials created in this way will be distributed through the web, in print, and through programs of all kinds, including symposia, seminars, and conferences. The training that MRC offers will influence Buddhist Studies in the academic arena. It will also help support the contribution that Buddhism—a living tradition of wisdom, insight, and compassion—can make to all humanity. We welcome your inquiries and your participation in this auspicious effort.



**For further information, please contact:**

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