



**WSC 2021**  
WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

www.wsc2021.com.au • CANBERRA  
The Australian National University

**18-22 January 2021**

# Second Circular Special Panels and Call for Abstracts

Conducted under the auspices of the International Association for Sanskrit Studies

## WSC2021: Only 14 months to go!

The Organising Committee of the WSC2021 in Canberra, Australia, is pleased to report that planning for the conference is proceeding apace. The Australian National University's brand-new central conference venue, the Kambri Centre, and the adjacent Marie Reay teaching block have recently been completed and are now ready to welcome us. As the WSC is now only fourteen months away, we are delighted to have such a pleasant centralised venue for our conference.

Thanks to all those scholars who put forward proposals for **Special Panels**. We have an inspiring suite of successful proposals to offer you. We warmly encourage you to look over the list and consider submitting an abstract to one of these panels through the **WSC Abstract Submission Portal**. Thanks also to the scholars who have kindly agreed to convene our **Regular Sections**. You'll find sections and their conveners listed in the body of this circular.

The WSC2021 will maintain the high scholarly standards of previous events and will introduce a number of innovative features as well. One such innovation is a new section on '**Gender and Sanskrit Studies**'. In the past gender related presentations have been scattered across a number of sections, and we hope that by creating a specific section on this topic, we can encourage synergies and will stimulate scholarly interest in this significant area. We see this as an important and growing field in our area and in the humanities and social sciences more broadly. We need two or three coordinators for this section. **Would you like to volunteer?** Please contact us.

In line with the WSC2021's theme, '**Future Directions**', we are planning an informal collegial 'conversation' among several of the world's leading scholars on the direction and challenges for Sanskrit studies. We think that the atmosphere of a conversation like this would be an ideal way to set the tone for the WSC in an Australian setting. It will facilitate academic exchange and give the broader body of participants an opportunity to engage with key issues that are shaping the field.

We are working on a wonderful program of entertainment that will bring together the best of Australian and Indian culture. We also promise you social events in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Looking forward to having you with us!



## Call for Abstracts...

WSC2021 invites submissions of individual abstracts for papers to be presented in one of the regular sections, plus the new section 'Gender and Sanskrit Studies', or in one of the special panels listed below. For each section, a set of invited convenors, specialists in the respective fields, will assist in maintaining a high scholarly standard for the conference. Convenors will select individual papers for presentation at WSC2021 and nominate session chairs. 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. Each paper will be allotted a time of 20 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion. Papers may be delivered in English or Sanskrit. We encourage scholars who are presenting a paper in Sanskrit to provide a summary in English.

Please submit abstracts through our conference website: [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

**The deadline for individual paper abstracts is 31 March 2020.**

## Regular Sections...

Veda	वेदः
Linguistics	भाषाशास्त्रम्
Vyākaraṇa	व्याकरणम्
Epics	रामायणं महाभारतं च
Purāṇas	पुराणानि
Tantra Studies	आगमास्तन्त्रं च
Ritual Studies	विध्यनुष्ठानविमर्शः
Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics	काव्यमलङ्कारश्च
Scientific Literature	वैज्ञानिकं वाङ्मयम्
Buddhist Studies	बौद्धविद्या
Jaina Studies	जैनविद्या
Vaiṣṇavism and Śaivism	वैष्णवमतं शैवमतं च
Philosophy	दर्शनानि, तत्त्वशास्त्रम्
History, Art and Architecture, Epigraphy	इतिहासः कलाः स्थापत्यमभिलेखशास्त्रं च
Sanskrit and Regional Languages (including Southeast Asia)	संस्कृतं प्रदेशभाषाश्च
Sanskrit Pedagogy	संस्कृतशिक्षाशास्त्रम्
Modern Sanskrit Writings	आधुनिकं संस्कृतसाहित्यम्
Computational Sanskrit and Digital Humanities	संस्कृतं विज्ञानतान्त्रिकी च
Manuscriptology	हस्तलेखविज्ञानम्
Law and Society	धर्मशास्त्रमर्थशास्त्रं च
Yoga and Āyurveda	योगायुर्वेदौ
Gender and Sanskrit Studies	संस्कृतं पुंस्त्वं स्त्रीत्वं च

Scholars interested in participating in **Computational Sanskrit and Digital Humanities Section** are also invited to submit a Full Paper. Details here: <http://www.wsc2021.com.au/computational-and-digital-humanities/>



## Special Panels...

Section	Special Panel Title	Chair
<b>Veda</b>	Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā: its history, background and relation to the other Vedic texts	Kyoko Amano, Kyoto University
	Yāska's theology: classifying and defining deities in the Late Vedic Age	Yūto Kawamura, University of Oxford, and Paolo Visigalli, Shanghai Normal University
<b>Linguistics</b>	Uncovering Sanskrit syntax	John Lowe, University of Oxford
<b>Epics</b>	The Mahābhārata and later Pāñcarātra	Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College, City University of New York
	Cosmology, cosmography and time in the Sanskrit epics and purāṇas	Ruth Satinsky, University of Lausanne
<b>Philosophy</b>	Towards a history of the Mīmāṃsā system	Elisa Freschi, Austrian Academy of Science
	What kind of "Vedic exegesis" is Mīmāṃsā?	Hugo David, École française d'Extrême-Orient
	The Yuktidīpikā: forging a place for Sāṅkhya in Indian intellectual history	Hyoung Seok Ham, Chonnam National University, and Noemie Verdon, Kyoto University
	Historicising Mīmāṃsā commitments	Purushottama Bilimoria, University of Melbourne
<b>Sanskrit and Regional Languages</b>	(Re) Translation of Sanskrit literature into Thai: reintroduction of Sanskrit studies to Thai society	Manasicha Akepiyapornchai, Cornell University
	New reflections on South and Southeast Asian Sanskrit epigraphy	Amarjiva Lochan, University of Delhi
	Sanskrit and Indonesia	Robert Zydenbos, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and Andrea Acri, École française d'Extrême-Orient
<b>Yoga and Āyurveda</b>	Rājayoga, combining philological research with ethnography, modern history and political studies	Jason Birch, SOAS, London
	Soma, recitation and yoga	Joanna Jurewicz, University of Warsaw
<b>Gender</b>	Mahila-vakyārtha- sabha and Kavayitri-sangama	Shivani V, Karnataka Samskrit University

## Registration Fees...

We will attempt to keep the registration fees as low as possible. Registration will open on 31 January 2020.

## IASS Membership...

As agreed with the International Association for Sanskrit Studies, all WSC2021 registrations will include a three-year membership of IASS ([www.sanskritassociation.org](http://www.sanskritassociation.org)). You will have the option to opt out.



## Key Dates and Deadlines...

Individual speakers and titles of papers accepted for presentation at WSC 2021 will be announced through the conference website in late 2020.

Third circular and registration opens	31 January 2020
Individual paper abstract deadline	31 March 2020
Notify presenters of paper acceptance	30 June 2020
Presenters confirm attendance	31 July 2020
Early bird registration closes	31 August 2020
Final registration for presenters	30 September 2020
Fourth circular	31 October 2020
Conference opens	18 January 2021
Conference excursions	20 January 2021
Big Aussie BBQ – Don't miss this!	22 January 2021
Conference ends	22 January 2021

Note that these dates are subject to change. For the latest information, visit our website:

[www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

## Travel and Visa Arrangements...

We urge participants to make their travel arrangements as early as possible to minimise costs. In addition, participants should familiarise themselves with any visa requirements that they might have for entering Australia.

The Organising Committee cannot offer personal assistance or advice on how to secure the appropriate Australian visa, since the process differs widely from country to country. For more information and guidance, please consult the Australian Government's official website

(<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visi>) and contact your local Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for specific instructions as early as possible. The time required for securing a visa can be unpredictable and may be as long as several months.

As soon as your abstract has been accepted, we will be able to provide a letter of confirmation to help you secure your visa or travel funds.

After you register, we will send the Australian government your details to facilitate visa applications. For this purpose, participants will need to supply country of passport, passport number, full name (as in their passport), date of birth, gender, current country of residence, and contact details (i.e., email, telephone, address) when registering.

## Sorry, No Travel Grants...

Travel to Australia is expensive, particularly for scholars coming from South or Southeast Asia, and we are making every effort to keep costs down. However, we regret the WSC cannot offer travel assistance. Participants should seek travel assistance, grants or bursaries from their home institutions or from governmental or international granting agencies.

## Student Prize...

In the spirit of the conference theme, 'Future Directions', and spurred by our shared desire to encourage and support emerging scholars in whose hands the future lies, we will be awarding a prize for the most outstanding presentation by a currently enrolled Masters or PhD student. We will be inviting section convenors to nominate suitable candidates.



## Accommodation...

Canberra offers a wide range of accommodation, both on- and off-campus. Participants will be able to book their own accommodation closer to the conference. The website will be updated with a list of suggestions.

## Poets' Forum and Scholars' Debate...

As at previous conferences, we will be hosting a Poets' Forum (*Kavi-samavāya*) and a Scholars' Debate (*Śāstra-cacār*). Further details will be provided at a later date.

## Excursions and Entertainment...

We are keen to showcase the best that Canberra and Australia have to offer, and we are planning an exciting program of entertainment and excursions. Details to follow.

## Local Organising Committee...

Mark Allon, University of Sydney  
Greg Bailey, La Trobe University  
Adam Bowles, University of Queensland  
Stephanie Majcher, ANU  
Barbara Nelson, ANU  
McComas Taylor, ANU (Chair)

## WSC2021 Secretariat...

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## International Steering Committee...

Jayandra Soni	Secretary General, IASS
Georges Pinault	Treasurer, IASS
Donald R. Davis	University of Texas at Austin
James Hegarty	Cardiff University
Kengo Harimoto	Mahidol University
Joanna Jurewicz	University of Warsaw
Shonaleeka Kaul	Jawaharlal Nehru University
Amarjiva Lochan	University of Delhi
Clemency Montelle	University of Canterbury
Wendy Phillips Rodríguez	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Adheesh Sathaye	University of British Columbia
Ye Shaoyong	Peking University

## About our Logo...

The WSC2021 logo includes a globe on the left representing the universal nature of our conference and is inspired by our motto, *Vasudhaiva kuṭumbakam* 'The whole world is our family'. The central element is based on the famous Aśoka-cakra. The wheel is significant for the major Indian spiritual traditions, and is also the national symbol of India itself. The third element is from an Indigenous artistic tradition from Central Australia and represents four people sharing companionship around a fire. With these elements the logo expresses our aspiration for the WSC: that scholars from all over the world will come together to learn from one another and share their love for this precious language. The logo was designed by Fiona Edge of Edge Design in Canberra. Its creation was sponsored by the Sanskrit scholars of Australia.

## Finally, Contact Us...

All enquiries: [sanskrit@kaigi.com.au](mailto:sanskrit@kaigi.com.au) Website: [www.wsc2021.com.au](http://www.wsc2021.com.au)

