



WSC 2021

WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

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

18-22 January 2021

Third Circular: Abstracts and Registration

conducted under the auspices of the
International Association of Sanskrit Studies

From the IASS...

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Fellow Members of the IASS,

On behalf of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS) it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 18th World Sanskrit Conference in Canberra from 18–22 January 2021. This is the second time that Australia is our host: the 9th WSC in 1994 was held in Melbourne.

The main task of the IASS, as also stated in our website, is to organise a World Sanskrit Conference (WSC), usually every three years, at different venues around the world. The New Delhi conference in 1972 has been recognised as the first WSC of the IASS. Apart from being an extraordinary academic event, a WSC is also important for the IASS because all the organisational matters and business agenda are conducted at this time. We usually have three meetings: 1. IASS Board meeting with the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary General and the Regional Directors. 2. Meeting of the Board together with the members of the Consultative Committee (those who cannot attend communicate per email). 3. The most important General Assembly Meeting where all major decisions are discussed with the IASS members who are present and finally decided upon. The Board and Consultative Committee make recommendations for the major issues.

Some of the points of the agenda include: various reports, the venue of the WSC after the next one, the election or re-election of the office bearers. At the previous General Assembly Meeting in Vancouver in 2018 it was decided to accept the proposal by Prof. Kashinath Nyaupane of the Nepal Sanskrit University to host the 19th WSC in 2024 in Kathmandu.

This 18th WSC in Canberra is particularly significant in many ways, especially since we shall be discussing amendments to the IASS Statute (the last amendment was at the 14th WSC in Kyoto, in September 2009). Apart from the honorary Vice Presidents and office bearers whose six-year terms have not expired (according to the existing Statute of the IASS), all the office bearers will be elected or re-elected in Canberra. This includes voting for a President of the IASS (the previous President resigned on 28 October 2018). Reports by the Treasurer, Secretary General and the Awards under the auspices of the IASS will also be important points in the agenda.

If at all possible, I request all the IASS members to try and be present at the General Assembly Meeting because your vote counts for the office bearers of the IASS. The GA meeting usually takes place at the end of the conference. The amendments and (re)elections will take place after conducting the usual business matters of the IASS. We hope to make the agenda of the GA Meeting available during registration in Canberra. Do come to Canberra and thank you in advance for your participation.

Jayandra Soni, Secretary General, IASS

<http://www.sanskritassociation.org/index.php...>



From the WSC2021 Organising Committee...

The 18th World Sanskrit Conference 2021 is creeping ever closer, the local and national organising committees have been working hard to ensure that the 2021 WSC will be a truly memorable event. While building on the tradition of excellence that we have all enjoyed in previous WSCs, we are trying out several innovations that we hope will enrich your experience. To start with, as our conference is held on the unceded lands of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, we will be welcomed in a special ceremony by the traditional indigenous custodians.

We have introduced a conference theme, 'Future Directions', to give us all the occasion to imagine, discuss and debate where our field will be in 10 or 20 years' time. In place of the usual Plenary Address, we are convening a special event entitled 'Future Directions: In Conversation', featuring leading scholars, Prof. Uma Chakravarti and Prof. Patrick Olivelle (see below).

In response to the growing interest in Gender Studies in the Humanities broadly, and in our discipline in particular, we have initiated a new section, which we hope will become a regular feature, 'Gender and Sanskrit Studies'. We actively encourage scholars with an interest in this field to submit an abstract to this new section.

We know how hard you work, and we want to maintain the momentum and energy right to the end of WSC, so we have arranged a half-day sabbatical in the middle of the conference. You will be able to relax, recharge and enjoy some of the national treasures that Canberra has to offer on a dedicated WSC hop-on hop-off bus service.

We are lining up some very special entertainment for the evenings. To showcase the best of Australia—its multiculturalism and syncretic cultural energy—we are planning to bring together leading performers in Indian classical traditions with indigenous cultural practitioners. This, we hope, will be something you remember forever!

We also want our conference to finish with a flourish, and in the spirit of informality for which Australians are generally well known, the conference dinner will take the form of the 'Big Aussie BBQ', a relaxed outdoor event with live entertainment and lots of vegan and sattvik options. All of these wonderful special events are covered by your registration fee.

You will no doubt have heard about the fires in Australia. We are pleased to reassure you that Canberra is a very safe and well-protected city, and that your time here will be as pleasant and rewarding as we can possibly make it. We are looking forward to having you with us!

McComas Taylor

On behalf of the WSC2021 Organising Committee

General Information...

The WSC2021 will be held on the campus of The Australian National University, in Canberra, Australia. The conference will feature 22 regular thematic sections and 16 special panels. We have associated each special panel with one of the regular sections, so that the panels will reinforce the sections, rather than detract from them.

For up-to-date information and all important announcements, please visit www.wsc2021.com.au, where you can also join the official WSC2021 email list. Conference registration, abstract submissions, accommodation information and payment of fees will all be conducted through this website portal.



Host institution of the WSC2021, The Australian National University, in the heart of Canberra, Australia



Key Dates and Deadlines...

These dates are subject to change. For the latest information, visit our website:
www.wsc2021.com.au

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 excursion | 20 January 2021 |
| Conference ends—The Big Aussie BBQ | 22 January 2021 |

All participants who plan to present a paper must pay their registration fee by 30 September 2020, or their paper will be cancelled. Last minute registration will be available only for non-presenting participants and guests.

Submission of Abstracts...

WSC2021 invites individual papers to be presented in one of the regular sections or special panels. 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. The deadline for abstracts is 31 March 2020. Please submit through this portal: www.wsc2021.com.au

Regular Sections and Special Panels...

(The names of the coordinators of each section and panel are shown in italics)

1. VEDA वेदः—*Hans Hock, Shrikant Bahulkar, Joanna Jurewicz, Stephanie Majcher*

Special Panels:

- Maitrāyaṇī Samhitā: Its History, Background and Relation to the Other Vedic Texts—Kyoko Amano et al.
- Yāska's Theology: Classifying and Defining Deities in the Late Vedic Age—Yūto Kawamura and Paolo Visigalli

2. LINGUISTICS भाषाशास्त्रम्—*Jan Houben, Brendan Gillon*

Special Panel:

- Uncovering Sanskrit Syntax—John Lowe

3. VYĀKARAṆA व्याकरणम्—*Malhar Kulkarni, Saroja Bhate, Dipti Tripathi, Peter Scharf*

4. EPICS रामायणं महाभारतं च—*Adam Bowles, Simon Brodbeck, James Hegarty, Wendy Phillips-Rodriguez*

Special Panels:

- The Mahābhārata and Later Pāñcarātra—Vishwa Adluri
- Cosmology, Cosmography and Time in the Epics and Purāṇas—Ruth Satinsky

5. PURĀṆAS पुराणानि—*Raj Balkaran, Beth Rohlman, McComas Taylor, Satyanarayan Chakraborty*



- 6. TANTRA STUDIES** आगमास्तन्त्रं च—*Michael Slouber, Mrinal Kaul, Judit Törzsök*
- 7. RITUAL STUDIES** विध्यनुष्ठानविमर्शः—*Libbie Mills, Finnian Gerety, Ute Huesken*
- 8. POETRY, DRAMA, AND AESTHETICS** काव्यमलङ्कारश्च—*Daniele Cuneo, Yigal Bronner, Elisa Ganser, Shonaleeka Kaul, Hari Dutt Sharma*
- 9. SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE** वैज्ञानिकं वाङ्मयम्—*Bill Mak, Clemency Montelle, Kim Plofker*
- 10. BUDDHIST STUDIES** बौद्धविद्या—*Mark Allon, Lata Mahesh Deokar, Mahesh Deokar, Jason Neelis*
- 11. JAINA STUDIES** जैनविद्या—*Eva de Clercq, Giles Hooper and Vina Shah*
- 12. VAIṢṆAVISM AND ŚAIVISM** वैष्णवमतं शैवमतं च —*David Buchta, Christopher Austin, Elaine Fisher, Travis Smith*
- 13. PHILOSOPHY** दर्शनानि, तत्त्वशास्त्रम्—*Kengo Harimoto, Purushottama Bilimoria, Alex Watson*
- Special Panels:
- Towards a History of the Mīmāṃsā system—*Elisa Freschi*
 - What kind of 'Vedic exegesis' is Mīmāṃsā?—*Hugo David*
 - The Yuktidīpikā: Forging a Place for Sāṅkhya in Indian Intellectual History—*Hyoung Seok Ham and Noemie Verdon*
 - Historicising Mīmāṃsā Commitments—*Purushottama Bilimoria*
 - See also 'In Search of the Roots of Yoga' below
- 14. HISTORY, ART AND ARCHITECTURE, EPIGRAPHY** इतिहासः कलाः स्थापत्यमभिलेखशास्त्रं च —*Annette Schmiedchen, Anna Slaczka, Mike Skinner*
- 15. SANSKRIT AND REGIONAL LANGUAGES** (including SE Asia) संस्कृतं प्रदेशभाषाश्च —*Andrea Acri and Tom Hunter*
- Special Panels:
- (Re) Translation of Sanskrit Literature into Thai: Reintroduction of Sanskrit Studies to Thai Society—*Manasicha Akepiyapornchai*
 - New Reflections on South and Southeast Asian Sanskrit Epigraphy—*Amarjiva Lochan*
 - Sanskrit and Indonesia—*Robert Zydenbos and Andrea Acri*
- 16. SANSKRIT PEDAGOGY** संस्कृतशिक्षाशास्त्रम्—*Sadananda Das, Antonia Ruppel*
- 17. MODERN SANSKRIT WRITINGS** आधुनिकं संस्कृतसाहित्यम् —*Deven Patel, Chandra Bhushan Jha, Robert Zydenbos*
- 18. COMPUTATIONAL SANSKRIT AND DIGITAL HUMANITIES** संस्कृतं विज्ञानतान्त्रिकी च —*Gérard Huet, Amba Kulkarni, Ian McCrabb*
- 19. MANUSCRIPTOLOGY** हस्तलेखविज्ञानम्—*Nirmala Kulkarni, Saraju Rath*
- 20. LAW AND SOCIETY** धर्मशास्त्रमर्थशास्त्रं च —*Donald Davis, Timothy Lubin, David Brick*
- 21. YOGA AND ĀYURVEDA** योगायुर्वेदौ—*Jason Birch, Philipp Maas, Dagmar Wujastyk, Martha Selby*
- Special Panels:
- Rājayoga, Combining Philological Research with Ethnography, Modern History and Political Studies—*Jason Birch*
 - In Search of the Roots of Yoga as Philosophical Practice (Transdisciplinary panel)—*Joanna Jurewicz*
- 22. GENDER AND SANSKRIT STUDIES** संस्कृतं पुंस्त्वं स्त्रीत्वं च—*Iris Iran Farkondeh, Saran Suebsantiwongse*
- Special Panel:
- Mahila vakyartha sabha and Kavayitri-sangama—*Shivani V.*



Registration Fees...

Registration fees for WSC2021 are all-inclusive. They include your welcome drinks, morning and afternoon teas and vegetarian/vegan/sattvik lunches for the full five days, all conference materials, two cultural events, a hop-on hop-off bus tour of Canberra's highlights, and a one-year IASS complimentary membership and the conference dinner, the Big Aussie BBQ. Registration fees are as follows (US\$ and € equivalents are approximate only at current rates):

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Early bird (before 31 Aug 2020): | A\$625 (US\$420, €380) |
| Regular: | A\$725 (US\$490, €440) |
| Student: | A\$395 (US\$270, €240) |

Please register and pay conference fees through the WSC Website: www.wsc2021.com.au

Partners and Families...

Accompanying partners and family members will be most welcome to join the hop-on hop-off bus tour, the cultural event on Thursday evening and the Big Aussie BBQ at a cost yet to be announced.

IASS Membership...

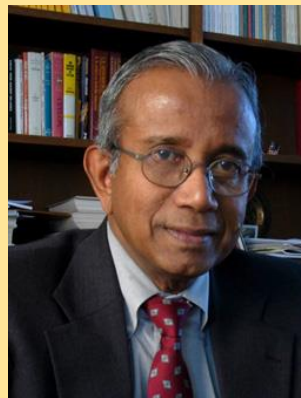
As agreed with the International Association of Sanskrit Studies, all WSC2021 registrations will include a complimentary one-year fee for IASS (€31/A\$50, €16/A\$25 full time student), but you will have the option to opt out of membership.

Special Event—'Future Directions: In Conversation'...

Where will Sanskrit Studies be in 10 or 20 years' time? What impacts will advances in information technology have? How will the balance between scholarship in India and the rest of the world play out? What is the future for women scholars? Can Sanskrit Studies survive as neo-liberalism, managerialism and commercialisation reshape the university sector worldwide? Hear two of the world's most respected scholars, Prof. Uma Chakravarti (Miranda House, UDelhi) and Prof. Patrick Olivelle (UTexas, Austin), share their views on these and other forces that are shaping our field. 'In Conversation' will be facilitated by Dr Shonaleeka Kaul (JNU) and Prof. James Hegarty (Cardiff)



Prof. Uma Chakravarti, historian and filmmaker, has written widely on gender, caste and class, as well as Buddhism and ancient and modern Indian history.



Prof. Patrick Olivelle is a philologist and specialist in Sanskrit literature with a focus on asceticism, renunciation and dharma. He is renowned for his many fine translations.



Facilitator: AProf. Shonaleeka Kaul, is a specialist in early Indian history with an emphasis on Classical Sanskrit literature. Her recent works include *The Making of Early Kashmir* (OUP India).



Facilitator: Prof. James Hegarty is a specialist in history of religions in South Asia, and has written widely on Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Sikh and Christian traditions in the region.



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, We Can't Offer 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.

Getting to Canberra...

We recommend that you arrive in Australia a few days before the conference begins to allow time to acclimatise and get over your jet-lag. There are direct international flights to Canberra with Singapore Airlines and Qatar. If you arrive in Sydney, we recommend the Murrays bus from the International terminal (and from Central Station) direct to Canberra city. It is very economical and takes three hours. Please book [online](#).

Accommodation...

Canberra offers a wide range of accommodation, both on- and off-campus. Please see the WSC2021 website for a comprehensive list of possibilities. www.wsc2021.com.au

Community Homestays...

The Canberra community is kindly offering free homestays to WSC attendees. Places are limited, so you must make contact early. If you would like to be billeted with an Indian family, please contact any of the following:

- Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre of the ACT
Dr Himanshu Pota, himanshu.pota@gmail.com
- Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh — HSS Canberra
Shri. Bipin Sumant, +61 417 067 171 (from Pune)
Sou. Mitra Desai, +61 400 112 298 (from Satara/Kolhapur)
- Private residences
Krishan Aggarwal, manva@bigpond.com, +61 2 6282 2202
Dr Bibhuti Thakur, bibhutihakur@icloud.com, +61 410 410 127



The Program so far...

| | Sunday 17 January | Monday 18 January | Tuesday 19 January | Wednesday 20 January | Thursday 21 January | Friday 22 January |
|-------------|---|--|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 9:00-10:30 | | Registration. Welcome to Country. Plenary: 'In Conversation' | Session 4 | Session 8 | Session 10 | Session 14 |
| 10:30–11:00 | | Morning tea | | | | |
| 11:00–12:30 | | Session 1 | Session 5 | Session 9 | Session 11 | Session 15 |
| 12:30–2:00 | | Lunch | | | | |
| 2:00–3:30 | | Session 2 | Session 6 | Afternoon free: Hop-on Hop-off bus tours of Canberra | Session 12 | Conclusions |
| 3:30–4:00 | Afternoon tea | | | | Afternoon tea | |
| 4:00–5:00 | 4:00 Welcome Drinks and Registration | Session 3 | Session 7 | | Session 13 | IASS Meeting |
| 5:30– | | Event TBA | Cultural Performance: Pt Dr Ananth Rao | Cultural Performance: Bobby Singh and ensemble | Conference Dinner: The Great Aussie BBQ (but with vegan options!) | |

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.

Conference Tour...

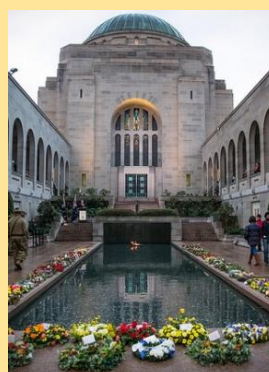
All conference delegates will be welcome to join our free hop-on hop-off bus tour of Canberra's highlights on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 January. The tour will take you to Australia's Parliament House (meeting place of our federal lawmakers), the National Gallery (famed for its Indigenous art collection), the War Memorial (actually a museum, and Canberra's premier tourist destination), and Weston Park (home of a particularly photogenic mob of kangaroos, just waiting to meet you).



[Australian Parliament House](#)



[National Gallery of Australia](#)



[Australian War Memorial](#)



[Weston Park Residents](#)

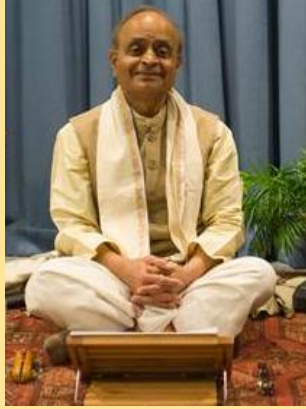


Poets' Forum and Scholars' Debate...

As at previous conferences, we will be hosting a Poets' Forum (*Kavi-samavāya*) and a Scholars' Debate (*Śāstra-carcā*). We are looking for a coordinator for the latter event, if you can help out, please contact us: sanskrit@kaigi.com.au

Entertainment...

We are planning two evenings of entertainment for you. On Tuesday 19 January, Pt Dr Ananth Rao will give a Harikathā performance of the Krauñca episode from the Rāmāyaṇa in Sanskrit and English. On Thursday 21 January, we will be entertained by a highly innovative multicultural trio consisting of Bobby Singh (tabla), Matthew Doyle (didgeridoo) and Sandy Evans (saxophone).



Pandit Dr Ananth Rao, a gifted storyteller, has given Harikathā and Kālakṣepa performances in English and Kannada all over the world, including Australia, India, Singapore, England and Germany. His retelling of the Krauñca episode of the Rāmāyaṇa skillfully weaves in elements of Indigenous Australian culture.



Tabla player **Bobby Singh**, a disciple of the great maestro Aneesh Pradhan, is one of the most sought-after musicians on the Australian world music circuit.



Matthew Doyle, a descendant of the Muruwari people, is a dancer, musician, song-man, cultural consultant and educator with over 30 years' experience working in the performing arts.



Dr Sandy Evans OAM is an internationally renowned composer and saxophonist with a passion for improvisation and new music.

The Big Aussie BBQ...

We want to finish the WSC2021 with a flourish, so in true local style, we are throwing a big free BBQ (with lots of veg, vegan and sattvik options) as a send-off. The Big Aussie BBQ will be held in the beautiful leafy quadrangle of ANU's University House. This all-inclusive event will feature the best of Canberra's local food, wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks.



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...

Kaigi Conferencing and Events
Level 1, The Realm, 18 National Circuit,
Barton ACT 2600, Australia
Email: sanskrit@kaigi.com.au
Phone: +61 2 6198 3218
Website: www.wsc2021.com.au

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 which represents 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 all major Indian spiritual traditions, and is also the national symbol of India itself. The third element is drawn from an Indigenous artistic tradition from Central Australia and represents four people sharing companionship around a fire. With these three elements the logo expresses our aspiration for the World Sanskrit Conference: that scholars from many countries and cultures will come together to learn from one another and share their love for this precious language. The WSC2021 logo was designed by Fiona Edge of Edge Design, Canberra. Its creation was sponsored by the Sanskrit scholars of Australia.

Finally, Contact Us...

All enquiries: sanskrit@kaigi.com.au Website: www.wsc2021.com.au

