

Curriculum Vitae

Berthe Jansen, PhD

Researcher (VENI project: The Interaction of Religion and Law in Tibet), Leiden University (LI-AS), Forensic Linguist, Interpreter, and Translator of Tibetan

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Fields of interest and current research

My fields of interest include Tibetan language, literature, religion, and history and how these affected and still affect Tibetan societies. My interests range widely from Tibetan oral traditions and folk culture (and religion) to Buddhist philosophy, social and legal history, and heritage studies. I wrote my MPhil thesis on Tibetan wedding recitations, entitled 'A Tibetan Nuptial Oratory Tradition: the Molla from Dingri' (Oxford, 2010). This is a largely philological study of the oral tradition of wedding recitations in South-West Tibet, exploring non- or pre-Buddhist remnants of religious practices within the wedding ceremony.

My dissertation (submitted November, 2014; defended February 24, 2015), *The Monastery Rules: Buddhist Monastic Organization in Pre-modern Tibet*, focuses on pre-modern Tibetan monastic institutions and issues of social justice. This research concentrates on textual sources but is complemented by oral history based on fieldwork. The University of California Press will publish a reworked manuscript based on this dissertation.

The first of my research projects is an investigation into the phenomenon of the Buddhist storyteller (*Lama Maniwa/ Bla ma ma Ni pa/ Bu chen/ Lo chen*) in Tibetan societies. The age-old tradition of storytelling in public places using Tibetan painted scrolls appears to be dying out and the last known Lama Maniwa is nearly 80 years old and lives in Kathmandu. I am currently researching the background of this tradition and interview this person and its links to other Tibetan oral traditions. The aim is to publish one article on this phenomenon. I have also been commissioned to make a short film on this topic for the Ethnographic museum in Leiden. This film, *The Last Buddhist Storyteller*, was on display in the museum's exhibition on Buddhism (from February 2016 to April 2017, camera and editing: Maarten Heijer) and was shown in the same exhibition at the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam. I am now working on a full-length documentary film on this topic.

The other research project (September 2016 - August 2020) is conducted in the context of a VENI grant (NWO), focuses on the interchange between religion and law in Tibet (mid-17th century onwards). In this study I examine Tibetans legal texts in comparison with monastic 'legalistic' literature, with the working hypothesis that monastic Buddhist ideology has had a profound influence on legal thinking and language in Tibet.

Education and academic positions held

- September, 2016- present (end date August 2020): Researcher, VENI grant (NWO), Leiden University
- August, 2015 - June, 2016): Numata Visiting Professor in Buddhist Studies, Leiden University

- March, 2016 – present (end date 30 June, 2016): Instructor of Classical Tibetan 2 and lecturer of Tibet: State and Society
- September, 2015- March, 2016: Visiting Research Fellow, University of Heidelberg, Cluster of Excellence Asia-Europe
- 2015 (Jan.)- June 2015: post-doc in the VICI project Buddhism and Social Justice
- 2015 (Feb.): PhD title conferred
- 2010-2014: PhD candidate in the VICI project Buddhism and Social Justice (buddhismand-socialjustice.com)
- 2008-2010: MPhil (with distinction) in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies at Oxford University
- 2005-2008: BA in Languages and Cultures of India and Tibet at Leiden University (average grade equivalent to ‘distinction’)
- 2003-2005: Tibetan language and interpreting (with distinction) at the Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo Translator Programme, India
- 2000-2003: Courses in Tibetan Buddhism and Tibetan language at the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives, India

Relevant employment and teaching experience

- 2016: Instructor of the BA course ‘Tibet: State and Society,’ Leiden University
- 2016: Instructor of the BA course ‘Classical Tibetan 2,’ Leiden University
- 2016: Instructor of the MA course ‘Buddhism and Social Justice,’ Leiden University (as Numata Professor)
- 2015: Instructor of the BA course ‘Diasporas of South Asia’, Leiden University (as Numata Professor)
- 2015: Lecturer of the BA course ‘Anthropology of Buddhism’, Leiden University (as Numata Professor)
- 2012: Instructor of the BA/MA course ‘Monasticism in World Religions’, Leiden University
- 2012: Instructor second year Classical Tibetan, Leiden University
- 2012: Teaching-assistant for the BA course ‘Culture of Tibet’, Leiden University
- 2011: Assistant instructor for the one month Colloquial Tibetan Summer intensive at Heidelberg University
- 2007-2008: Tibetan language instructor at the Maitreya Instituut (FPMT)
- 2006- present: forensic linguist of the Tibetan language
- 2005-2008: Interpreter and translator of Tibetan at the Maitreya Instituut (FPMT)
- 2004- present: Freelance interpreter of Tibetan for among others: Buddhist teachers (among whom the Dalai Lama), Amnesty International, lawyers and courthouses, Dutch television, and the documentaries ‘The Only Son’ (2012, Simonka de Jong) and ‘Carnot Straat 17’ (2015, Klara van Es).

Grants and awards

- 2016: VENI grant, awarded by the NWO (Dutch Ministry for education and research) (249.000 over the course of four years)
- 2015: Nominated for the VIVA400 of influential women between 25 and 45 in the category ‘intelligentsia’ (The Netherlands). <http://www.viva400.nl/knappe-koppen/berthe-jansen/>
- 2012: Shortlisted for the George Staunton Prize (for an article by a young scholar), Royal Asiatic Society, Cambridge.
- 2012: Shortlisted for the Professor Mary Boyce Prize (for an article relating to the study of religion in Asia), Royal Asiatic Society, Cambridge.
- 2010: Conference grant from Wolfson College (approx. EUR 200)
- 2010: Full bursary for the Doctoral Program in History and Civilization at the European Union Institute, Florence (approx. EUR 75.000, declined)

- 2009: Grant from Stichting Talent Support (approx. EUR 1000, declined)
- 2009: Research grant from the Oriental Institute, Oxford University (approx. EUR 900)
- 2009: Travel grant from Wolfson College, Oxford (approx. EUR 200)
- 2008-2010: HSP Talent-Scholarship, awarded by the Dutch Ministry of Education and Culture to cover a two year Masters-program at Oxford University (EUR 38070)
- 2006: Caland Prize of Encouragement, awarded to the best first year student in ‘Languages and Culture of India and Tibet’ at Leiden University (EUR 125)
- 2003-2005: Sponsorship by the Maitreya Instituut (FPMT) to pursue the interpreter’s course at the Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo Translator Programme (approx. EUR 5500)

Publications

- Forthcoming: Review of Christopher Hatchell’s *Naked Seeing: The Great Perfection, the Wheel of Time, and Visionary Buddhism in Renaissance Tibet* (Oxford University Press, 2014). *The International Journal of Asian Studies*.
- Forthcoming: “A Preliminary Investigation into Monk-tax: *grwa khral/ btsun khral/ ban khral* and its Meanings.” In *When the Taxman Cometh: Tax, Corvée and Community Obligations in Tibetan Societies*. Charles Ramble, Peter Schwieger and Alice Travers, eds. Leiden: Brill.
- 2017: Review of Shayne Clarke’s *Family Matters in Indian Buddhist Monasticism* (Hawai’i University Press 2014). *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 40/1: 2: 211-13.
- 2016a. “Monastic Guidelines (*bCa’ yig*): Tibetan Social History from a Buddhist Studies Perspective.” In *Social Regulation: Case Studies from Tibetan History* (Proceedings of the International Association of Tibetan Studies Conference, Ulan Baatar, 2013). Jeannine Bischoff and Saul Mullard, eds. Leiden: Brill: 64-98.
- 2016b. “The Disciplinarian (*dge skos/ dge bskos/ chos khrim pa/ zhal ngo*) in Tibetan Monasteries: his Role and his Rules”, *Revue d’Etudes Tibétaines*, 37: 145–161.
- 2016c. De Dalai Lama: een boeddhistische vluchteling over te veel vluchtelingen (The Dalai Lama: a Buddhist refugee on ‘too many refugees’) <http://www.leidenreligieblog.nl/>
- 2015a. “Monastic Organizational Guidelines.” In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism vol. 1: Preview*. Jonathan Silk et al, eds. Leiden: Brill: 442-49.
- 2015b. “Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy.” with Jonathan Samuels. In *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism vol. 1*. Jonathan Silk et al, eds. Leiden: Brill: 621-38.
- 2015c. Over aardbevingen, kloosters en dubbele karma-punten. (On earthquakes, monasteries, and double karma-credits) <http://www.leidenreligieblog.nl/>
- 2015d. Review of Jane Caple’s *Seeing beyond the state? The negotiation of moral boundaries in the revival and development of Tibetan Buddhist monasticism in contemporary China* (Leeds University 2011). <http://dissertationreviews.org/>
- 2014: “The Monastic Guidelines (*bCa’ yig*) by Sidkeong Tulku: Monasteries, Sex and Reform in Sikkim.” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 24/4: 597-622.
- 2013a: “Selection at the Gate: Access to the Monkhood and Social Mobility in Traditional Tibet.” In *The Proceedings of the International Seminar of Young Tibetologists*, 2012, Kobe. Tsuguhito Takeuchi, Kazushi Iwao, Ai Nishida, Seiji Kumagai, and Meishi Yamamoto eds., Current Issues and Progress in Tibetan Studies: Proceedings of the Third International Seminar of Young Tibetologists, Kobe 2012 (Journal of Research Institute, vol. 51), Kobe: Kobe City University of Foreign Studies: 111-39.
- 2013b: “How to Tame a Wild Monastic Elephant: Drepung Monastery According to the Great Fifth.” In *The Tibetans that Escaped the Historian’s Net*. Charles Ramble, Peter Schwieger, and Alice Travers, eds. Kathmandu: Vajra Books: 109-39.
- 2013c: “Zelfverbrandingen gericht op ommekeer Chinees overheidsbeleid” (Self-immolations for policy-change in China). *China Nu* 38/2: 18-22.

- 2013d: “Belgische jongen mag naar India om Boeddhistisch monnik te worden” (Belgian boy is allowed to become a Buddhist monk in India). <http://www.leidenreligieblog.nl/>
- 2012: Review of Tibet: a History by Sam van Schaik. *Journal of the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies* 2: 255-58.
- Forthcoming: *De Soetra van het Gouden Licht*. A translation of the *Suvarṇaprabhasottama sūtra* from the Tibetan and Sanskrit into Dutch, to be published as an in house publication by the Maitreya Instituut.
- Forthcoming: A translation of the *Vajracchedikā sūtra* from the Tibetan and Sanskrit into Dutch, to be published as an in house publication by the Maitreya Instituut.

A number of my publications can be downloaded at <https://leidenuniv.academia.edu/BertheJansen>

Presentations, lectures, and papers

- Forthcoming (August 2017): “Between Buddhism and Law: Tibetan Monastic Authors (?) and their Legal Texts”, Panel on Buddhism and the Law, Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Toronto.
- March 2017: The Buddhist Bin Laden? Violence against minorities in Myanmar and beyond.’ Lecture in the series ‘Religion: Between Violence and Non-violence’ (a lecture series for secondary school students). Leiden University Centre for the Study of Religion.
- February 2017: Boeddhisme en de wet in het oude Tibet: een inleiding’ (Buddhism and the Law in Old Tibet: an Introduction). Annual Dies lecture by Veni-winners for Alumni, Leiden University. (invited)
- January 2017: “The Religious Ideology in Legal Texts from the Ganden Phodrang Era: a Preliminary Investigation” Workshop on Law and Legalism in Historic Tibet, Oxford University. (co-organizer)
- November 2017: “Ragtag Buddhism: of Storytellers and their Social Status” Conference of the Franco-German Project “Social Status in the Tibetan World (TibStat)”, Paris. (invited)
- October 2016: “Ruling a Micro-society: Buddhist monasticism and its effects on society in traditional Tibet” (VISCOM lecture series) Institute for Medieval Research of the Academy of Sciences, Vienna. (invited)
- October 2016: “Monastic Economic Policies in Pre-Modern Tibet: Precedents for the Present?” Conference on Buddhism, business and economic relations – in Asia and beyond, University of Copenhagen.
- September 2016: ‘Monastic Laws and Lay Laws in Pre-modern Tibet regarding Punishment.’ Conference on Buddhism and Law, Buffalo, NY. (invited)
- June 2016: ‘*dKon mchog gsum!* The Place of Oath-taking, Vow-keeping, and Promise-breaking in Tibetan Secular and Religious Literature.’ IATS, Bergen.
- May 2016: ‘Buddhism For the Masses: the History and Future of a Tibetan Storytelling Tradition.’ 2016 Numata Lecture in Buddhist Studies, Leiden University.
- March 2016. ‘The Position of the Monk-Sponsor (*chos mdzad*): Social Status for Sale?’ Conference of the Franco-German Project Social History in Tibetan Societies (SHTS) “Social Status in the Tibetan World.” Fontainebleau. (invited)
- March 2016. ‘The Buddhist Bin Laden? Violence against minorities in Myanmar and beyond.’ Lecture in the LappTop series ‘Religion: Between Violence and Non-violence’ (a lecture series for secondary school students). Leiden University Centre for the Study of Religion.
- February 2016. ‘Rules for the Individual, Rules for the Community: Tibetan Monastic Discipline in Context.’ Legalism Seminar, Oxford University. (invited)
- January 2016. ‘An Inquiry into the Legal Position and Jurisdiction of Monks and Monasteries in Pre-modern Tibet,’ Leipzig University. (invited)

- December 2015. ‘The Monk’s Work Ethic: Attitudes toward Labour According to the Monastic Guidelines (*bca’ yig*),’ Conference of the Franco-German Project Social History in Tibetan Societies (SHTS) “History and Organisation of Labour in Tibetan Societies (mid 17th to 20th centuries),” Bonn. (invited)
- November 2015. ‘Tibetan Monastic Policies: Rules for the Individual, Rules for the Community,’ *Zwischen Gemeinschaft und Abgeschiedenheit: Zum Religiosentum in den südasiatischen Traditionen, im Buddhismus, im östlichen und im westlichen Christentum*, TU Dresden. (invited)
- November 2015. ‘Strategies for the Revival and Survival of Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries during the 17th century and beyond,’ at the Fourth International SEECHAC Colloquium, University of Heidelberg.
- October 2015. ‘Monk-tax: an investigation,’ at the Colloquium “Advanced Topics in Tibetan and Buddhist Studies,” University of Heidelberg.
- September 2015. ‘The Disciplinarian in Tibetan Monasteries: his Role and his Rules,’ at the Fourth International Seminar for Young Tibetologists, Leipzig University.
- June 2015. ‘A Threat to Gods and Monks? Women in and around the Monastery in Pre-modern Tibet.’ Conference organised by Buddhism and Social Justice project ‘Gender in Tibetan Buddhist Societies 17th–20th centuries’, Leiden University.
- May 2015. ‘The Monastery Rules? Social Justice and Buddhist Policies in Pre-1959 Tibetan Monasteries.’ Kokoro Research Center, Kyoto University. (invited)
- April 2015. ‘Buddhist Monastic Policy in Pre-modern Tibet and its Relation to Social Justice.’ Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, The University of Tokyo. (invited)
- March 2015. ‘Crime and Punishment in Buddhist Monasteries in Pre-modern Tibet.’ Lecture Ghent University. (invited)
- March 2015. *De waarde en waarden van de boeddhistische kloostergemeenschap (the value and values of the Buddhist monastic community)*. Lecture at museum Volkenkunde Leiden during the ‘Buddhism weekend’. (invited)
- December 2014. ‘On the Monastic Payroll? Tibetan Monks and their Income.’ Conference of the Franco-German Project Social History in Tibetan Societies (SHTS): ‘Property in Tibetan Societies: Ownership, Transfer, Confiscation.’ Paris. (invited)
- December 2014. ‘Are They Ever Just Gifts? Donations to and by Monks in Pre-modern Tibet.’ Conference ‘Just Monks? Monasticism and Issues of Hierarchy, Freedom, and Fairness in Buddhist Asia.’ SOAS, London. (invited)
- December 2014. ‘Monastic Economic Policy according to the Tibetan Monastic Guidelines and the Vinaya.’ Conference on Monastic Economy in Buddhism, EPHE, Paris. (invited)
- November 2014. ‘Where Buddhism Touches Social Policy: the Monastic Guidelines (*bca’ yig*) in Pre-modern Tibet.’ Oxford University, Tibetan Studies Seminar. (invited)
- August 2014: ‘Annoying Lay-people: Public opinion and Vinayic concerns in Tibetan monasteries (12th to 20th century)’. Conference of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna.
- May 2014: ‘Trading Buddhism: the Business of the Individual and the Corporation in Pre-modern Tibetan Monasticism’ at Bonn University. Conference of the Franco-German Project SHTS ‘Commerce and Communities: Social Status and the Exchange of Goods in Tibetan Societies’. (invited)
- April 2014: ‘The Impact of the Monastic Institution on Society and Social Justice in Pre-modern Tibet’ at Leiden University. Conference of the VICI project ‘Buddhism and Social Justice’.
- April 2014: ‘The Impact of Buddhist Monasticism on Tibetan Society and Culture.’ Hoorneboeg. Huizinga Instituut Promovendisymposium.

- December 2013: ‘Monk-tax? Three Different Meanings of *Grwa khral*’ at Fontainebleau. Conference of the Franco-German Project SHTS ‘When the Taxman Cometh: Tax, Corvée and Community Obligations in Tibetan Societies’. (invited)
- July 2013: ‘Tibetan Social History from a Buddhist Studies Perspective’ at the International Association of Tibetan Studies, Ulan Baatar.
- May 2013: ‘How to Tame a Wild Monastic Elephant: Drepung Monastery according to the Great Fifth’ at Bonn University. Conference of the Franco-German Project SHTS ‘The Tibetans who Escaped the Historian’s Net’. (invited)
- May 2013: ‘Monastic Guidelines (*bca’ yig*) by an Oxford incarnation: Sidkeong Tulku on Monasteries, Sex and Reform in Sikkim’ at Oxford University, Tibetan Studies Seminar. (invited)
- January 2013: ‘Tensions in Tibet’ at SIB (Student association for International Relations), Groningen. (invited)
- September 2012: ‘Monastic Guidelines (*bca’ yig*) as Sources for Social History’ at the Third International Seminar for Young Tibetologists, Kobe.
- June 2012: ‘A Historical Perspective on Buddhism and Economics’ at the conference ‘Buddhism and Economics’, Erasmus University, Rotterdam. (invited)
- June 2012: ‘The Monastic Guidelines (*bca’ yig*) by Sidkeong Tulku: a Buddhist Modernist (?) on Monasteries, Sex and Reform in Sikkim’ at the conference ‘Buddhism and the Dynamics of Transculturality’, hosted by the Cluster of Excellence: Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows at Heidelberg University. (invited)
- May 2012: ‘Translationese: the Pretense of Sense in Buddhist Studies’ at the LIAS PhD Conference ‘Content or Discontent: Dealing with your Academic Tradition’, Leiden University.
- May 2012: ‘Sangha Inc.: Monks, Corporate Identity, and Society in Pre-Modern Tibet’ at the LIAS PhD seminar, Leiden University.
- May 2011: ‘De Verbeelding van Tibet’ (Tibet in the Imagination) lecture at the Studium Generale series: “Tibet, de ander anders bezien” (Tibet: the other viewed in another light), Leiden University. (invited)
- July 2010: ‘Buddhist and non-Buddhist themes contained in Tibetan wedding recitations’ at the UKABS (United Kingdom Association of Buddhist Studies) conference, University of Leeds.
- February 2010: ‘Wedding Recitations from Dingri: Approaching Tibetan Oral Literature’ at the Tibetan Studies Graduate Seminar, Oxford University.

Fieldwork

- January, 2016: Fieldwork in Nepal
- July, August 2012: Fieldwork in Northern India
- March 2011: Fieldwork in Sichuan, China
- July, August 2009: Fieldwork in Nepal and Northern India
- July, August 2008: Fieldwork in Northern India

Relevant coursework

- January -June 2013: Cultural History course, at the Huizinga Institute Graduate School
- February 2012: Course ‘Didactics for PhD Students and Teaching Assistants’, at ICLON, Leiden University
- 2011-2012: Course ‘Oral History and Life Stories’ at the Huizinga Institute, Research Institute and Graduate School for Cultural History
- February, March 2011: Course ‘Interviewing and Data-processing’, at ICLON, Leiden University

Ancillary positions

- 2015 - present: editor for 'Tibetan Buddhism' in Brill's Encyclopedia of Buddhism, vol. 2: Persons and Personages
- 2012 - present: Board member of the International Seminar for Young Tibetologists (ISYT)
- 2011- 2013: Member of the LIAS Advisory Council
- 2011-2012: Chair of the LIAS PhD council
- 2010-2011: Secretary of the LIAS PhD council

Conference and workshop organization

- (Forthcoming) June 2017: Tibetan Buddhists and the Law, Leiden University.
- January 2017: Co-organizer (with Prof. Pirie) of a conference on Tibetan Law, Wolfson College, Oxford.
- June 2016: Co-chair (with Prof. Ramble) of the panel: 'Oaths, Vows and Promises: Words and Deeds that Bind' at the IATS, Bergen
- June 2015: Co-organizer of the conference 'Perspectives on women and women's perspectives in Tibetan Buddhist societies (17th to the 20th centuries)', Leiden University
- February 2015: Convener of the workshop 'Between Tibetan Monasticism and Society', Leiden University
- April 2014: Co-organizer of the conference 'Buddhism and Social Justice', Leiden University
- May 2012: Co-organizer of the LIAS PhD conference 'Content or Discontent? Dealing with Your Academic Ancestors', Leiden University
- September- October 2011: Co-organizer of the Leiden University Studium Generale 'Just how? Defining and Contextualizing Social Justice'

Language competence

	<i>Speaking</i>	<i>Reading</i>	<i>Writing</i>
Dutch:	Native language		
English:	Near Native Fluency	Very Competent	Very Competent
Tibetan:	Very Competent	Very Competent	Good
French:	Fair	Good	Competent
German:	Fair	Good	Competent
Mandarin:	Beginner	Beginner	Beginner
Hindi:	Working Knowledge	Working Knowledge	Working Knowledge
Latin:		Fair	
Greek:		Fair	
Sanskrit:		Good	

Academic referees

Prof. dr. Jonathan Silk, Leiden University (LIAS) - J.A.Silk@hum.leidenuniv.nl +31 (0)71 527 2510

Prof. dr. Charles Ramble, Sorbonne (EPHE/ CNRS) - charles.ramble@orinst.ox.ac.uk + 33 643727934