

# 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Phenomenon of the Holy Mt. Kailash

## Compilation of Traditional and New Aspects of Mt. Kailash and Surrounding Pilgrimage Sites

University of Hamburg, Germany, Khyentse Center for Tibetan Buddhist Textual Scholarship,  
 Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, supported by the Numata Center for Buddhist Studies

March 25-27, 2022

Website of the free  
 online Conference:  
[uhh.de/aai-kailash](http://uhh.de/aai-kailash)



**Aims of the Conference:** Mt. Kailash in the far west of Tibet is one of the holiest mountains in the world, worshipped by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Bönpo. During the last two decades, also Westerners set out for this remote region. Improved infrastructure and more liberally issued permits let their number and very much that of Indian pilgrims increase largely. This requires new regulations to preserve the landscape of Mt. Kailash and neighboring sites.

In a number of travel guides covering the topic of Mt. Kailash travels, many aspects of this exceptional geographical region, religious backgrounds, legends and iconographic properties are not dealt with in rich detail. The special regions include the likewise holy Lake Manasarovar, Lake Raksas Tal, Tirthapuri and the historical Guge Kingdom, as well as the revered sources of the four big rivers Brahmaputra, Karnali (headstream of the Ganges), Sutlej and Indus.

Besides the traditional rules for Tibetan and Indian pilgrims, during recent years, new explorations were made and new regulations put into force. The aim of this conference is to compile both traditional and new aspects of the phenomenon of Mt. Kailash and surrounding sites of pilgrimage, their interpretation and comparison with old scriptures and tantric vision. The knowledge of these and the cooperation in further scientific investigation will be discussed.

### Conference Programme

**Mt. Kailash in Scriptures and Legends**  
**History and Geography of the Mt. Kailash Region**  
**The Meaning of Pilgrimage**  
**Tourist and Medical Considerations**  
**The Parikrama (tib. Kora) of Mt. Kailash and the Lakes**  
**The Stations of the Barkor**  
**Inner Kora Paths**  
**Inner Pilgrimage and Tantric Relevance**  
**Round Table Discussion**

**Speakers:** **Ian A. Baker, PhD**, Great Britain, **Dr. Sergei Balalaev**, Phenomenon of Kailash Research Group, Russia, **Ajitkumar Benadi**, Jain Association International, Germany, **Dr. Ram Prasad Bhatt**, University of Hamburg, Germany, **Dmitry Ermakov**, Foundation for the Preservation of Yungdrung Bon, Great Britain, **Susan Griffith-Jones**, Great Britain/India, **Minka Hauschild**, Germany, **Dr. Christoph Klein**, Switzerland, **Galina Kotovskaya**, Phenomenon of Kailash Research Group, Russia, **Niraj Kumar**, Society for Asian Integration, India, **Dr. Diana Lange**, University of Hamburg, Germany, **Prof. Pierre Mercier**, Canada, **Alexey Perchukov**, Phenomenon of Kailash Research Group Russia, **Marwin Schwarzbach**, Stiftung Sowa Rigpa, Boppard, Germany, **Viktor Shcherbakov**, Russia, **Prof. Dr. Dorji Wangchuk**, University of Hamburg, Germany, **Dr. Wolfgang Wöllmer**, Phenomenon of Kailash Research Group, Germany