

ILA Public Lectures

Dr. Maria Heim (BA Reed, PhD Harvard)

Professor of Religion, Amherst College

Dr. Heim is an expert on the intellectual, philosophical, religious, and literary history of ancient India and teaches courses in these areas, with a particular emphasis on Buddhism. She works in two classical Indian languages, Sanskrit and Pali. Dr. Heim's current projects are focused on emotions in classical Indian thought across many genres.

"Occasions both Worldly and Transcendent": Sacred Trees in Buddha's India"

Thursday, May 30, 5:00-6:00 p.m., at SK113

Nearly all of the key moments and teachings of the Buddha's life occur in the presence of specific, named trees or groves. This talk provides a map of the "treescape" of early Buddhism and explores particular, named trees in the Pali canon and commentaries to understand how they structure the Buddha's life and teachings. Exploring specific sacred trees in the Buddha's life story puts us on the ground in the localized physical geography of Buddha's India even as they serve as vectors of transcendent meaning and power.

"The Landscape of Remorse"

Wednesday, June 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m., at SK121

This talk discusses ways of studying the phenomenology of emotions in ancient texts. As a case study it tracks remorse and similar emotions of self-assessment across several different classical Indian textual traditions, to consider whether remorse is a valuable moral sentiment.

These lectures are open for all students and academics.

No reservation is needed.