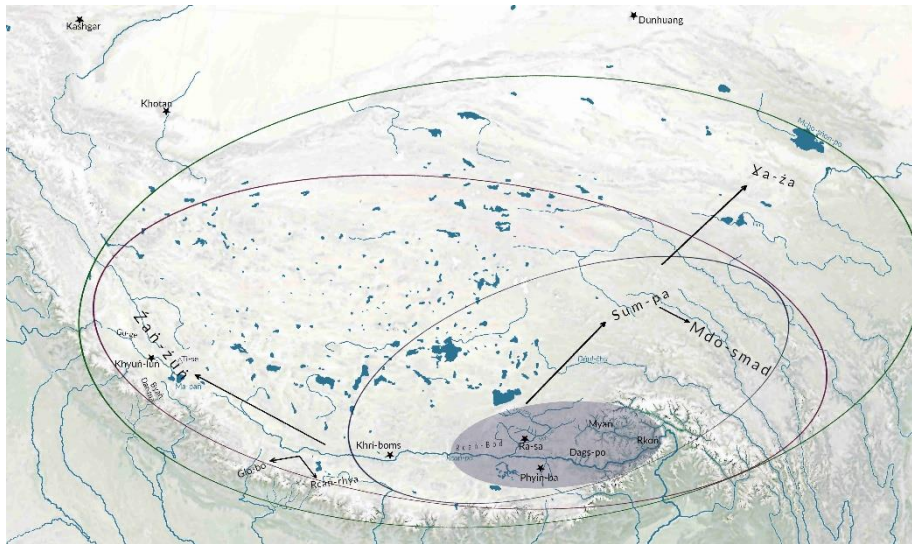


Tibet & Himalaya Colloquium Lecture Series

Lecture No.5 - Monday 07.06.21 – 18:15 CEST via Zoom

Dr. Joanna Bialek, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin:

Naming the Empire: from *Bod* to *Tibet* - the Emergence of the Polity -



This lecture presents the first attempt to reconstruct the prehistory of the proper name *Bod* on the basis of Old Tibetan records. To this end it focuses on the late prehistory that begins with the Yar-luñs dynasty's rise to power and the first expansions beyond the Yar-luñs valley. It begins with a reconstruction of the chronology of the expansion, but its primary objective is to examine the oldest occurrences of the proper noun *bod* and to track its semantic development in Old Literary Tibetan. It is a first attempt to answer the questions: why and how did the originally local exonym *bod* come to be used as endonym for the region popularly known in English as Tibet?

Joanna Bialek holds a master degree in History of Religions (Jagiellonian University, Krakow) and a doctoral degree in Tibetan Studies (Philipps Universität, Marburg). Currently she leads a postdoctoral research project "Old Tibetan Annals. A Comprehensive Text Grammar" at the Central Asian Seminar (Department of Asian and African Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin). Her research interests include historical linguistics of Tibetic languages (with the focus on diachronic semantics), the interlinkage of religion and language, Tibetan non-Buddhist funeral practices, as well as religious traditions of the Tibetan Plateau, Himalaya, and Central Asia.

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