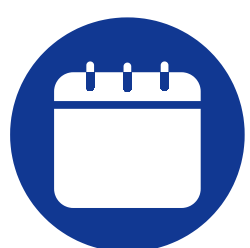# BUDDHIST PSYCHOLOGY AS ESOTERIC ACTIVISM

Buddhist Psychology is a field that can be seen as translating Buddhism into the language of Psychology or vice versa. In any case, it is marked by the attempt to provide an equal or additive form of psychology by negotiating between Buddhism as religion and as a scientific view of the world, the body and the mind. Such a translation between the language of psychology and that of Buddhism has been taken place at least since the late 19th century with the work of Caroline Rhys Davids who, as a feminist and psychologist, translated Pali Buddhist scriptures into a - sometimes activist - psychological framework. In this talk, I show how this translation process started by Rhys Davids contributed to various contemporary fields of Buddhist Psychology, in particular Black / African Buddhism as well as Disability Activism. I argue that both of these should be seen as forms of social activism that are esoteric - meaning that they are negotiating between religion and science as two realms of truth claims, individual and collective experience and forms of legitimization.

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Date:
Tuesday - 22 July 2025

Time:
6.15 - 7.45 PM

Location: Big Seminar room,
Hartmannstr. 14, Building D1, Erlangen
Link for virtual attendance: https://fau.zoom-x.de/j/62556506187