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New archaeological data on the extension of the Kushan empire and post-Kushan groups in the Himalayan range

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THE GHENT CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES (GCBS) PERMANENT TRAINING IN BUDDHIST STUDIES PRESENTS:

A PUBLIC TALK BY **Dr. SAMARA BROGLIA DE MOURA, CRCAO**

NEW ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA ON THE EXTENSION OF THE KUSHAN EMPIRE AND POST-KUSHAN GROUPS IN THE HIMALAYAN RANGE



Tangol site landscape

Samara Broglia is an archaeologist and specialist of the Himalayas. Since 2015, she has been carrying out research on ceramic productions in the Himalayas and on diachronic high-mountain peopling dynamics. The aim of this research is to propose new chronologies for the region, which are still lacking, and to understand the material and cultural interactions that Himalayan societies have maintained with its neighbors in Central Asia, Tibet and India overtime. Since 2011, she has taken part in several archaeological expeditions to excavate, to survey or to study ceramic material: in Nepal (Mustang region), India (Ladakh and Spiti valley), Afghanistan (Mes Aynak site), Uzbekistan (Kuduk Bulak, Termez and Romitan sites) and Turkmenistan (Ulug Dépé site). She also works with the French-Indian Archaeological Mission in the Indian Himalayas since 2015. Samara Broglia has also been involved in various research projects as a research assistant at the French Archaeological Delegation in Afghanistan (DAFA), and with the Franco-Turkmen Archaeological Mission in Turkmenistan (MAFTur) and as part of the Emergence(s) project directed by Laurianne Bruneau (EPHE): "Archaeology of the Himalayas: material culture and networks of the past". She is currently co-director of the Mission Archéologique Franco-Népalaise au Mustang (MAFNAM) co-funded by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and works as technical project manager in archaeology and regional director for Central and South Asia at Eveha International.

During the first millennium CE, part of the Western Himalayas was subjected to a dynamic of exchange and interaction similar to those that affected a large part of Central Asia and North India during the expansion of the Hellenistic empire up to the post-Kushan groups (3rd century BCE to 8th century CE). The aim of this presentation is to provide new archaeological data collected in Ladakh (North India), particularly in the Dras valley, in order to better understand the mechanism of expansion, the control apparatus, and the circulation roads of these different Central Asian groups in the Himalayas.

In order to detail these dynamics, we first aim to present new ceramic and architectural data from two sites in the Dras Valley (Goshan Khar and Rgyalmo Khar) and one site in the Nubra Valley (Deskrit Thingang). We will then carry out an intra-regional analysis with other contemporaneous sites in Ladakh, with the aim of understanding the different stages of expansion of these central Asian groups, the organization of the territory and the routes that linked all those sites. Finally, we will provide a macro-regional view of Ladakh's connections with its neighbours during the Kushan and post-Kushan periods.

Thursday, April 30, 2026 @ 17.00

**Location: Faculteitsraadzaal,
Blandijn, Campus Boekentoren**

9000 Gent

All are welcome. The Gandhāra Corpora Lecture Series is in-person and hybrid online. Please register for the series through this Google Form: <https://forms.gle/TwffQCPuVipUpMvk6> (or through the QR code above).



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