



INTERDISZIPLINÄRES  
ZENTRUM FÜR  
OSTASIENSTUDIEN



Einladung

zu einer Vortragsveranstaltung

mit

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# Calendrical 12-Month Ceremonies and Liturgical *Anisong* Manuscripts in the Northern Thai and Lao Traditions

[Vortrag in englischer Sprache]

**Im Anschluss an den Vortrag erfolgt die Verleihung des Studienpreises  
des Königlich Thailändischen Generalkonsulats Frankfurt**

am Donnerstag, dem 31. Oktober 2019, um 14.00 Uhr c.t.,  
Seminarhaus, Campus Westend, Raum SH 2.105  
(U 1, 2, 3, 8: Station „Holzhausenstraße“ oder „Miquel-Adickes-Allee“)

gez.: Prof. Dr. Arndt Graf  
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069-798-28445

## Abstract:

Evidenced by the extant manuscripts which have survived, *anison* sermons were widespread in the northern Thai and Lao regions – the Dhamma script cultural domain, populated by Tai-language speakers – and that culture is still alive. The liturgy aims at praising meritorious deeds accomplished by donors and informs them about the upcoming positive outcomes (Th: *bun*, P: *puñña*) which they can expect as rewards for their merits by means of giving narratives that exemplarily recount glorious rewards other people gained in the past, especially in the period of Buddha Gotama. Socially and psychologically, the sermons can convince the audience of the promising rewards derived from merit-making and promote social solidarity among groups of laypeople who jointly made merit for special occasions, such as construction works of pavilions, monastic libraries or ordination halls, for which the merit makers can expect meritorious returns. Motivated by the fundamental belief in the future Buddha Maitreya (P: *metteyya*), *anison* manuscripts were dedicated to monasteries by devout sponsors and scribes to assist preaching monks in *anison* sermon deliveries on different kinds of occasions. The manuscripts were thus characterized in accordance with regional features.

Among the four kinds of rituals categorized in my Ph.D. dissertation in which *anison* manuscripts are involved, those serving calendrical 12-month ceremonies (*hit sipsòng*) are found both in northern Thailand and Laos, revealing the belief in meritorious incentives derived from participation in the annual festivals. Some festivals include multiple *anison* sermons that reflect specific acts required for merit-accumulation, while in the other festivals merit can be made by listening to or reciting specific religious texts. The remarks related to this aspect which are found in the extant *anison* manuscripts reflect cultural features, ritual differences and religious beliefs in the two regions and will be discussed in a comparative way.