



Materiality and Private Rituals in Tibetan and Himalayan Cultures

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Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue addresses the recent shift in the study of Tibetan and Himalayan Cultures that seeks to enhance the status of tangible materials in the conceptualization of ritual agency, especially in the private domain of Buddhist practice. One of the salient features of Buddhist practice is ‘entanglement’ (Barad 2017) with various objects that may include home-shrines, sutra boxes, postcards, clothes, effigies, protective strings worn on wrists or arms, tattoos, rings, prayer flags, printed texts, rocks or murals. These objects communicate a “more or less consistent systems of meanings” that contributes to establishing a self-programmed apparatus of ritual behaviour (Rambelli 2007: 2).

This Special Issue will focus on private rituals performed by individuals or small communities, independent of the state. Submissions are welcome from any methodological approach, including textual studies, anthropology, ethnography, and religious studies. Papers focusing on lay communities or marginalized ethnic groups are especially welcome.





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