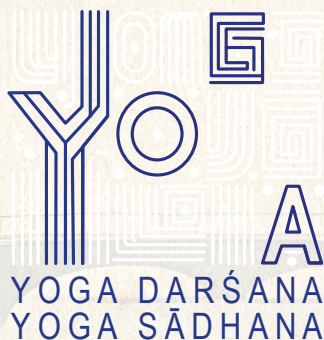


The 4th International
Yoga Darśana – Yoga Sādhana
Conference:
Authenticity, Authority, Adaptation

PARIS
27–29 MAY 2026



ydys2026.sciencesconf.org



In memoriam: Johannes Bronkhorst (1946–2025)

Before his sad passing, Johannes Bronkhorst had honored us by accepting our invitation to deliver a keynote address, “The Two Traditions of Meditation after Forty Years,” at the 4th edition of YDYS.



Conference team

Convenors:

Raphaël Voix (CNRS, Cesah)

Amandine Wattelier-Bricout (CNRS, Cesah)

Organization and Scientific Committee:

Suzanne Newcombe (Open University)

Raphaël Voix (CNRS, Cesah)

Amandine Wattelier-Bricout (CNRS, Cesah)

Ruth Westoby (OCHS)

Theo Wildcroft (Open University)

Plenary Session Chairs, Speakers & Performers:

Jason Birch (University of Alberta)

Marissa Clarke (University of Edinburgh)

Elizabeth De Michelis (University of Cambridge)

Dominic Goodall (EFEO)

Sunila Kale (University of Washington)

Jacqueline Hargreaves (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

Lucy May Constantini (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)

Christian Novetzke (University of Washington)

Mark Singleton (SOAS, University of London)

MANTRAMS Exhibition Coordination:

Borayin Larios, with Prema Goet and Kanika Pruthi (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)

Administrator:

Naziha Attia (CNRS, Cesah)

Program, Registration and Logistics Coordinator:

Pamela Warner (EHESS, Cesah)

Communication and Scientific Mediation:

Audrey Blondel (CNRS, Cesah)

Volunteer Coordinator:

Sudipta Mohanty (EHESS, Cesah)

Virtual Broadcast:

Jacqueline Hargreaves (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

WEDNESDAY MAY 27

Lobby

10:00 am –
1:00 pm

Registration & Welcome
(Centre des Colloques - Campus Condorcet)

Lobby

10:00 am –
6:00 pm

Editor's corner:

École Française d'Extrême Orient, Equinox Publishing,
Journal of Yoga Studies, Purushartha, South Asia
Multidisciplinary Academic Journal

Auditorium 250

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Raphaël Voix, Amandine Wattelier-Bricout, Suzanne Newcombe,
Ruth Westoby, Theo Wildcroft, Borayin Larios

2:00 – 3:00 pm

Plenary Session #1: Keynote Address:

How is *Kuṇḍalinī* Conceived When She First Appears in
Seventh-Century *Śaivasiddhānta* Scriptures?

Dominic Goodall (EFEO)

Also available
on zoom
see p.10

3:00 – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

3:30 – 5:30 pm

Auditorium 250

Session #2: *Critical Edition of the Haṭhapradīpikā*

Auditorium 150

Session #3: *Responses to Institutional Abuse*

Room 3.01

Session #4: *Bodies & Care, Then & Now*

Room 3.03

Session #5: *Localization: Yoga in France*

Auditorium
250

6:00 – 7:00 pm

Plenary Session #6: Book Launch: *Yoga Machine: Technology, Transhumanism and Transcendence*

Mark Singleton (SOAS, University of London)

Also available
ON ZOOM
see p.10

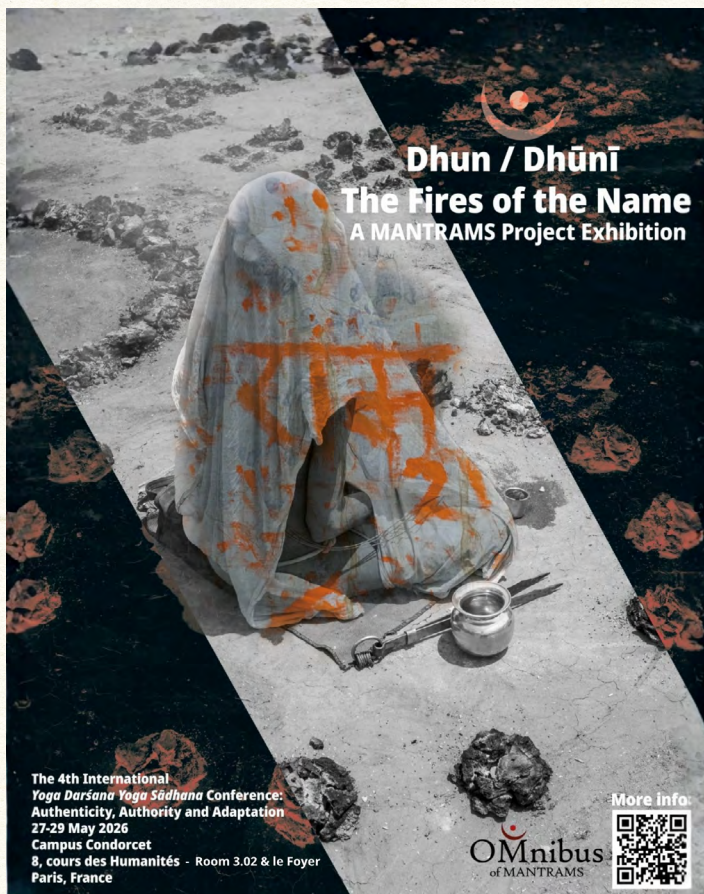
Mezzanine

7:00 – 8:30 pm

Vernissage of *Dhun / Dhūnī – The Fires of the Name*,
followed by a Cocktail Dinner

Dhun / Dhūnī
The Fires of the Name
A MANTRAMS Project Exhibition

The 4th International
Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana Conference:
Authenticity, Authority and Adaptation
27-29 May 2026
Campus Condorcet
8, cours des Humanités - Room 3.02 & le Foyer
Paris, France

More info:

OMnibus
of MANTRAMS



THURSDAY MAY 28

PARALLEL SESSIONS

8:30 – 10:30 am

Auditorium
250

Session #7: *New Research in Mantras & Yoga I*

Auditorium
150

Session #8: *Round Table on “Products & Pedagogies”*

Room 3.01

Session #9: *Sex, Drugs, Gemstones & Fascists*

10:30 – 11:00 am

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Auditorium
250

Session #11: *New Research in Mantras & Yoga II*

Auditorium
150

Session #12: *Jain Yoga*

Room 3.01

Session #13: *Yoga, Media and Messages*

Room 3.03

Session #14: *Adverse Meditation and Yoga Experiences*

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break

Auditorium
250

Plenary Session #15: *Body & Mantras: Performing Somatic Research*

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Lucy May Constantini (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)

PARALLEL SESSIONS

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Auditorium
250

Session #16: *New Research on Mantras & Yoga III*

Auditorium
150

Session #17: *Shifting Worlds: Focal Practices*

Room 3.01

Session #18: *Navigation of Social Change*

Room 3.03

Session #19: *Menstruation in Yoga and Tantra*

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

4:30 – 6:00 pm

Auditorium
250

Session #20: *History of Kuṇḍalinī*

Auditorium
150

Session #21: *Localization: Indian Regional Traditions*

Room 3.01

Session #22: *Localization: The Muslim World*

Room 3.03

Session #23: *Twentieth-Century Yoga*

Auditorium
250

6:30 – 7:30 pm

Plenary Session #24: Presentation and film screening: *The Yoga of the Koranṭaka*

Jason Birch (University of Alberta) and Jacqueline Hargreaves (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

FRIDAY MAY 29

PARALLEL SESSIONS

8:30 – 10:30 am

Auditorium
250

Session #25: *Yoga for Śaivas*

Auditorium
150

Session #26: *Yoga in Contemporary India I*

Room 3.01

Session #27: *Maps, Mats, Meals & Marketing*

Room 3.03

Session #28: *Sites & Texts*

10:30 – 11:00 am

Coffee Break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Auditorium
250

Session #29: *New Research on Mantras & Yoga IV*

Auditorium
150

Session #30: *Yoga in Contemporary India II*

Room 3.01

Session #31: *Worldviews and Contexts*

Room 3.03

Session #32: *Polarization*

12:30 – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Guided tour of the Humathèque Research Library with Robin Toublan

Auditorium
250

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Plenary Session #33: *Oceano Respiração: Live Participatory Performance*

Marissa Clarke (University of Edinburgh)

PARALLEL SESSIONS

2:00 – 4:00 pm

Auditorium
250

Session #34: *Echoes of the Yogasūtra*

Auditorium
150

Session #35: *Roundtable on “Expanding Epistemologies”*

Room 3.01

Session #36: *Yoga in the US Academy*

Room 3.03

Session #37: *Localization: Yoga in Scandinavia*

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Coffee Break

Auditorium 250

4:30 – 5:30 pm

Plenary Session #38: *Keynote Address: Sovereignty, Boycott, Struggle: Three Registers of Political Yoga*
Sunila Kale and Christian Novetzke (University of Washington)

5:30 – 6:00 pm

Closing Remarks & Thank yous
YDYS 2026 Organizing Committee: Raphaël Voix, Suzanne Newcombe, Theo Wildcroft, Amandine Wattelier-Bricout, Ruth Westoby

Also available
on zoom
see p.10

7:30 pm –
Midnight

Dinner cruise on the Seine
Embarkation point: Quai de la Rapée, boat “Le Belle Vallée”

SATURDAY MAY 30

Room 100

10:00 am –
12:00 pm

YDYS Meeting

Off-Site

2:00 – 6:00 pm

Guided tour:

Bibliothèque nationale de France: Special Collections of the Sanskrit Manuscripts with Jérôme Petit

Custodia Foundation: Indian Miniatures Collection with Rhea Sylvia Blok

SUNDAY MAY 31

Off-Site

8:00 am –
6:00 pm

Fontainebleau forest : Hiking, Bouldering and/or Chilling out in Barbizon village and Apremont bouldering site

ARTISTIC EVENTS

May 27–29

- Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday 10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Room 3.02 / Mezzanine

Dhun / Dhūnī – The Fires of the Name

A MANTRAMS Project Exhibition Curated by Kanika Pruthi, Prema Goet and Borayin Larios

Mezzanine

Sound Installation: *Sounding the Goddess: Associated Rituals of kaḷarippayarr̥*

Lucy May Constantini (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)

Online Webinar Details

We are delighted to partner with the Centre of Yoga Studies at SOAS to offer three conference events live online for those unable to attend the conference in Paris.



May 27, 2026 01:30 pm (CEST)

YDYS Paris 2026 | Welcome & Opening Remarks | Plenary Session #1: Keynote Address: How is *Kuṇḍalinī* Conceived When She First Appears in Seventh-Century *Śaivasiddhānta* Scriptures? by Dominic Goodall
Passcode: tH5drs61iW



May 27, 2026 06:00 pm (CEST)

YDYS Paris 2026 | Plenary Session #6: Book Launch: *Yoga Machine: Technology, Transhumanism and Transcendence* by Mark Singleton
Passcode: VQHD4afzBU



May 29, 2026 04:30 pm (CEST)

YDYS Paris 2026 | Plenary Session #38: Keynote Address: “Sovereignty, Boycott, Struggle: Three Registers of Political Yoga” by Sunila Kale and Christian Novetzke
Passcode: R0TTnUQCx3



Detailed Program

Wednesday

MAY 27

10:00 am – 1:00 pm Lobby

Registration & Welcome

1:30 – 3:00 pm Auditorium 250

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Suzanne Newcombe, Raphaël Voix, Amandine Wattelier-Bricout,
Ruth Westoby, Theo Wildcroft

Session #1: Keynote Address by Dr. Dominic Goodall: “How is *Kuṅḍalīnī* Conceived When She First Appears in Seventh-Century Śāivasiddhānta Scriptures?”

Chair: Amandine Wattelier-Bricout (CNRS, Cesah)

Also available
on zoom
see p.10

3:00 – 3:30 pm Mezzanine & Foyer

Coffee Break

3:30 – 5:30 pm Auditorium 250

Session #2: Critical Edition of the *Haṭhapradīpikā*

Chair: Isabelle Ratié (Collège de France)

- The *Haṭhapradīpikā*: Insights into Svātmārāma’s Methods and Purpose Made Possible by the New Edition
James Mallinson (University of Oxford)
- Development of the Various Recensions of the *Haṭhapradīpikā*
Mitsuyo Demoto (Philipps University of Marburg)
- Algorithms and Philology in Dialogue: Reconstructing the *Haṭhapradīpikā*
Nils Jacob Liersch (Philipps University of Marburg)
- The *Haṭhapradīpikā*’s Legacy in the Early Modern Period
Jason Birch (University of Alberta)

3:30 – 5:30 pm Auditorium 150

Session #3: Responses to Institutional Abuse

Chair: Amanda Lucia (University of California-Riverside)

- **Doubling-Down and De-Branding: Sustaining Kundalini Yoga After Revelations of Abuse**
Philip Deslippe (University of California-Santa Barbara)
- **Spiritual Abuse and Sexualized Violence in Modern Transnational Yoga: Crossing the Boundaries of Knowing and Believing**
Jens Augspurger (SOAS, University of London)
- **Grassroots Organizing against a Perpetrator: A Case Study**
Amelia Wood (SOAS, University of London)
- **Educational Reform, Does it Work? Ten Years since the Australian Royal Commission**
Jacqueline Hargreaves (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

3:30 – 5:30 pm Room 3.01

Session #4: Bodies & Care, Then & Now

Chair: Fabien Provost (CNRS, Cesah)

- **The Origins of Tantra in Europe: Constructed Authority, Claimed Authenticity and Creative Adaptation**
Tova Olsson (Umeå University)
- **Netī - Ancient Remedy or Modern Health Trend?**
James Russell (University of Leeds)
- **Rethinking the Practicing Body: Ethnographic Insights from Situated Iyengar Yoga Practice in Japan**
Endo Satoko (University of Tokyo)
- **Rethinking Care Through Yoga: Yoga Therapy & Mindfulness between Authenticity, Authority, and Adaptation in Switzerland**
Valentina Salonna (Lausanne University Hospital)
- **“Do you believe me because I look like that?”**
Firdose Moonda (Independent Scholar)

3:30 – 5:30 pm Room 3.03

Session #5: Localization: Yoga in France

Chair: Véronique Altglas (Queen's University)

- **Yoga Teachers' Authority: Knowledge, Power and Professional Dynamics**
Clément Petitjean (Université Paris I-Panthéon-Sorbonne, CRIDUP)
- **What Working in the Wellness Industry Means: The Example of Yoga Teachers in France**
Pierre Bataille (Université Grenoble-Alpes)
- **Teaching Yoga Outside Cities: Profiles, Backgrounds and Social Predispositions**
Clément Cézarine (Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1)
- **Yoga and Fame on Instagram: The Example of Influencers**
Eléonore Affre-Garcia (Université Toulouse III)

6:00 – 7:00 pm Auditorium 250

Session #6: Book Launch: *Yoga Machine: Technology, Transhumanism, and Transcendence* by Mark Singleton (SOAS, University of London)

Chair: Elizabeth De Michelis (Cambridge University)

Also available
on zoom
see p.10

7:00 – 8:30 pm Mezzanine

Vernissage of *Dhun / Dhūnī – The Fires of the Name*, followed by a Cocktail Dinner

Thursday

MAY 28

8:30 – 10:30 am Auditorium 250

Session #7: New Research in Mantras & Yoga I

Chair: Jérôme Petit (BnF, GREI)

- Measuring Mantras, Breath and Brahmanical Asceticism
Finnian Moore Gerety (University of Oxford)
- OM in the *Dharmaputrikā Saṃhitā*
Christèle Barois (ERC, GREI)
- The Meaning of *svādhyāya* in the *Pātañjalayogaśāstra* and its Early Commentaries: Evidence from Unstudied Manuscript Sources
Philipp Maas (Leipzig University)
- Mantra, Temple, and the Yoginī-Affiliated Goddesses of the *Devīpurāṇa*
Sandra Sattler (University of Oxford)

8:30 – 10:30 am Auditorium 150

Session #8: Round Table on “Products and Pedagogies”

Chair: Barbora Sojková (Universität Zürich)

- **Theo Wildcroft** (Open University)
- **Ananda Ceballos** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)
- **Martha Henson** (King’s College London)
- **Seth Powell** (Yogic Studies)
- **Ruth McNeil** (King’s College London)
- **Jacqueline Hargreaves** (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

8:30 – 10:30 am Room 3.01

Session #9: Sex, Drugs, Gemstones & Fascists

Chair: Dagmar Wujastyk (University of Alberta)

- **Yogic Transformations through Tantric Sex: Sexual Abuse v. ‘Religious Freedom’**
Amanda Lucia (University of California-Riverside)
- **Tracing the Path of Soma: Traditions and Transformations of *amṛta* in Indic Philosophy and Religion**
Stuart Ray Sarbacker (Oregon State University)
- **Diamond Medicine: Authority, Expertise, and Healing**
Patricia Sauthoff (Hong Kong Baptist University)
- **The (Alt-)Right-Hand Path: The Biopolitics of Yoga and Fascism**
Emily Ward (Loyola Marymount University)

10:30 – 11:00 am Mezzanine & Foyer

Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Auditorium 250

Session #11: New Research in Mantras & Yoga II

Chair: Emmanuel Francis (CNRS, Cesah)

- Myths and Colophons: Intertextual and Paratextual Strategies
Asserting the Authenticity of Purāṇic Kavacas
Amandine Wattelier-Bricout (CNRS, Cesah)
- History through Mantra: The Siddhānt Paṭal
James Mallinson (University of Oxford)
- Yogic Dying in the Javanese-Balinese Śaiva Traditions
Andrea Acri (EPHE, GREI)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Auditorium 150

Session #12: Jain Yoga

Chair: Nalini Balbir (EPHE, GREI)

- Jain Reception of *haṭhayoga*: The Case of Acharya Sushil Kumar's
Jain Yoga
Christopher Miller (University of Zürich)
- *Ahiṃsā* in Practice: Jain Contributions to the Ethics of Yoga
Corinna May Lhoir (University of Hamburg)
- From *saṃsarin* to *siddha*: Gender and the Body in Jain Yoga
Ruth Westoby (OCHS)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Room 3.01

Session #13: Yoga, Media and Messages

Chair: Nicolas Sihlé (CNRS, Cesah)

- Performing Yoga in Fiction: From ‘Yoghis to ‘rNal ‘byor pas’—with Reference to the Earliest Tibetan Novel in a European Language
Samuel Thévoz (University of Vienna)
- Mystical Experiences Captured in Paintings: Adaptations of Hindu Visual Culture in the First Yoga School in Chile (1930-1940)
Macarena Gonzalez (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile)
- Reviving True Hinduism through Yoga: Swami Nithyananda and the Pursuit of Authority
Jaroslav Zapart (Jagiellonian University in Kraków)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Room 3.03

Session #14: Adverse Meditation and Yoga Experiences

Chair: Knut Axel Jacobsen (University of Bergen)

- *Kundalini* Syndrome Narratives: Contemporary Accounts of Challenging Spiritual Practice Experiences
Jack Saxelby-Smith (The Open University)
- The *Kundalini* Syndrome: Treatments at the San Francisco-based Kundalini Clinic
Marleen Thaler (University of Graz)
- *Kuṇḍalinī* and the Many Spiritual Emergencies
Sravana Borkatakya-Varma (University of Houston) & **Anya Foxen** (California Polytechnic State University)

12:30 – 1:30 pm Foyer & EHESS Courtyard

Lunch Break

1:30 – 2:00 pm Auditorium 250

Plenary Session #15: *Body & Mantras: Performing Somatic Research*

Lucy May Constantini (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Auditorium 250

Session #16: New Research on Mantras & Yoga III

Chair: Véronique Bouillier (CNRS, Cesah)

- Inscribing Rām: Bhakti Yoga, Material Practice, and Digital Circulation in Contemporary Hinduism
Borayin Larios (University of Vienna)
- Visual and Material Culture of Yogis and Mantra
Seth Powell (Yogic Studies)
- Living through Mantras: Mantras among Contemporary Hindu Ascetics
Daniela Bevilacqua (University Institute of Lisbon)
- Not Giving a Damn: Mexican Mantras for a Postmodern Yogic Path
Adrián Muñoz (The College of Mexico)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Auditorium 150

Session #17: Shifting Worlds: Focal Practices

Chair: Ananda Ceballos (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

- Discerning Expertise is a Fundamental Human Skill
Marcus Braun (Institute of Biotechnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences)
- On the (Extra)ordinariness of Belts and Blocks. What Can Extended Cognition Tell Us about the Use of Props in āsana Practice?
Matylda Ciołkosz (Jagiellonian University)
- Tracing the Genealogies of Somatic Yoga
Laura Von Ostrowski (University of Hamburg)
- Balancing Act: The Importance of Epistemological Equilibrium as an Enactive Skill for Yoga Transmission
Theo Wildcroft (Open University)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Room 3.01

Session #18: Navigation of Social Change

Chair: Philip Deslippe (University of California-Santa Barbara)

- **Connecting Dots: From a Search in Secret India, through Sheilaism to Saint Culture**
Suzanne Newcombe (Open University)
- **Yoga in the Times of Transition: The First Decade of Iyengar Yoga in Poland (1984-1994)**
Iwona Kozłowiec (Independent researcher in Poland)
- **The Bricolage Roots of Yoga under the Polish People's Republic: Leon Zawadzki and the Dynamics of Cultural Transfer**
Agata Świerzowska (Jagiellonian University in Krakow)
- **Omwashing & Yoga**
Sheena Sood (Delaware Valley University)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Room 3.03

Session #19: Menstruation and Yoga and Tantra

Chair: Caterina Guenzi (EHESS, Cesah)

- **From Ambiguous Power to Powerful Ambiguity: Menstruation among Tantra Practitioners in India**
Monika Hirmer (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
- **Beyond Menstruation in Yoga and Jainism**
Ruth Westoby (OCHS)
- **Case Study of Menstrual Practices from Hindu Women in Varanasi**
Daphnée Dion-Carrier (Université Laval)
- **Bloating, Slowness, Heaviness: Menstrual Rhythms in the Ashtanga Movementscape**
Marissa Clarke (University of Edinburgh)

4:00 – 4:30 pm Mezzanine & Foyer
Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 pm Auditorium 250

Session #20: History of Kuṇḍalinī

Chair: Ian Whicher (University of Manitoba)

- The *Ṣaṭcakranirṇaya*: A Kashmiri Yoga Text on the Rise of Kuṇḍalinī
Nils Jacob Liersch (Philipps University of Marburg)
- Vivekananda's Ninth Auxiliary
Scott Lamps (SOAS, University of London)
- The Serpent in the Marketplace: Global Gurus and the Competition for Authentic Kuṇḍalinī
Sravana Borkataky-Varma (University of Houston) & **Any Foxen** (California Polytechnic State University)

4:30 – 6:00 pm Auditorium 150

Session #21: Localization: Indian Regional Traditions

Chair: Michal Panasiuk (Inalco)

- From Manuscript to Book: A Bengali Witness to the Transmission of the *Śivasamhitā*
Peter Pasedach (University of Hamburg)
- Is There Another Lotus within the *Sahasrāra*?
Lubomír Ondračka (University of Oxford)
- She Whose Speech is True: The Yoga Library and Œuvre of Om Prakash Swamigal
Keith Cantù (Harvard Divinity School)

4:30 – 6:00 pm Room 3.01

Session #22: Localization: The Muslim World

Chair: Alexandre Toumarkine (Inalco, Cermom)

- **Breath, Rhythm, and Union: Dialogues of Yoga and Sufi Music in Pakistan's Spiritual Landscape**
Aziz Ullah (SZABIST)
- **Mapping Discursive Shifts: Representations of Yoga in Turkish Public Discourse (1930s–2000s)**
Gülnihal Özdener (Yildiz Technical University)
- **Quantum Method Yoga: Scientific Meditation and the Making of Modern Middle-Class Spiritual Selves in Bangladesh**
Akhi Hossain (University of Tübingen) & **Carola Lorea** (University of Tübingen)

4:30 – 6:00 pm Room 3.03

Session #23: Twentieth-Century Yoga

Chair: Magdalena Kraler (University of Vienna)

- **Harnessing the Mind: Yoga, Hypnotism, and Relaxation Culture in 1950s Britain**
Victoria Addinall (Independent Author in UK)
- **Kripalu Yoga and the Roots of Flow: Movement, *prāṇa*, and Absorption in Modern Yoga**
Adriana Maldonado (Open University)
- **Come for the Stretching, Stay for the Gods: The Pedagogy, Politics and Power of the Gods in Modern Postural Yoga**
Samuel Horsley (University of Edinburgh)

6:30 – 7:30 pm Auditorium 250

Plenary Session #24: Presentation and film screening: *The Yoga of the Koranṭaka*

Jason Birch (University of Alberta) and Jacqueline Hargreaves (SOAS, Centre of Yoga Studies)

Friday

MAY 29

8:30 – 10:30 am Auditorium 250

Session #25: Yoga for Śaivas: The Śivadharma tradition (7th–16th centuries)

Chair: Saarthak Singh (EFEO, GREI)

- Translating Yoga for Śaivas: The Case of the *Civatarumōttaram*
Renato Davalos (CNRS, Cesah)
- Who are the Śīvayogins? An Investigation in Sanskrit Sources
Florinda De Simini (University of Naples)
- Who are the Śīvayogins? Notes from the Tamil South
Margherita Trento (EHESS/IFP, Cesah)
- From *prāṇa* to *śakti*: The Emergence of the Central Channel in Tantric Yoga
Judit Törzsök (EPHE, GREI)

8:30 – 10:30 am Auditorium 150

Session #26: Yoga in Contemporary India I

Chair: Mark Singleton (SOAS, University of London)

- Yoga as an Academic Discipline in Indian Public Universities: The Case of the Department of Yogic Art and Science, Vishva Bharati (West Bengal)
Raphaël Voix (CNRS, Cesah)
- Sectarian Transmission of Yoga in Contemporary India: The Lakulish Yoga University (Ahmedabad)
Pamela Warner (EHESS, Cesah)
- The Political Evolution of Sri Aurobindo's Integral Yoga in Postcolonial India
Sudipta Mohanty (EHESS, Cesah)

8:30 – 10:30 am Room 3.01

Session #27: Maps, Mats, Meals & Marketing

Chair: Stuart Ray Sarbacker (Oregon State University)

- The Map, the Territory, and the Reason for Travelling: Lessons from *Yogalands*
Paul Bramadat (University of Victoria)
- Does the Mat Matter? Investigating the Materiality of Yoga Practice in the *Bhagavadgītā*
Adheesh Sathaye (University of British Columbia)
- Are Onions Worse than Meat? Modernizing Yoga through Vegetarian Morality
Beatrix Hauser (University of Bremen)
- Food for Non-Thought: The Evolving Role of Diet in Yoga Texts
Zoe Slatoff (Loyola Marymount University)
- Logos and Lotuses: Authority and the Cultural Work of Marketing Yoga
Christa Kuberry (FinAbility)

8:30 – 10:30 am Room 3.03

Session #28: Sites & Texts

Chair: Daniela Bevilacqua (University Institute of Lisbon)

- Bodymind as a Cognitive Tool in Pratyabhijñā Philosophy of Nondual Śaivism of Kashmir
Anna Freud (SOAS, University of London)
- ‘Yogic Bhakti’ in Early Modern Vernacular Nāth and Sant Literature
Hunter Hill (University of Oxford)
- Selective Reception: Herman Walter and the Shaping of *haṭhayoga* in German Indology (1890–1935)
Anja Nikodem (University of Tartu)

10:30 – 11:00 am

Mezzanine & Foyer

Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Auditorium 250

Session #29: New Research on Mantras & Yoga IV

Chair: Hugo David (EFEO)

- **Mantram, Posture and Siddhi in South Indian Martial Art**
Lucy May Constantini (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)
- **Swami Sivananda's Japa Yoga: Framing Mantra Practice as a Form of Yoga**
Gudrun Bühnemann (University of Wisconsin Madison)
- **Sikh Kirtan Parampara and Maryada: Dueling Claims to Authority in Revival of Sikh Music Tradition**
Nirinjan Kaur Khalsa-Baker (Loyola Marymount University)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Auditorium 150

Session #30: Yoga in Contemporary India II

Chair: Nicolas Dejenne (USN, GREI)

- **Authenticity, Authority and Adaptation: Yoga, Bhakti and the Radhasoami Tradition**
Diana Dimitrova (University of Montreal)
- **Mother Nation: The Healthy Female Body in Contemporary India**
Ida Pajunen (University of Oxford)
- **Yoga between Authenticity and Commodification: Politics and Postcolonial Dynamics in Globalized Yoga Practices**
Anna Krämer (University of Cologne)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Room 3.01

Session #31: Worldviews and Contexts

Chair: Aminah Mohammad-Arif (CNRS, Cesah)

- Towards a Typology of Yogic Worldviews
Janne Kontala (Abo Akademi University)
- Authenticity and Authority on the Margins: The Muslim Jogis (Yogis) as Tantric Healers, Bards, and Islamic Practitioners
Mukesh Kumar (University of Zurich)
- Desmond Dunne's 'Yogism' of the 1960s: Psychologization and Secularization of Yoga
Magdalena Kraler (University of Vienna)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm Room 3.03

Session #32: Polarization

Chair: Theo Wildcroft (Open University)

- Yoga, Mind and Body Relations: An Experience of Yoga in Argentinian Prisons
Victoria D'hers (University of Buenos Aires)
- Altar of Fire: Authenticity and Agency in Visual Anthropology
Sabbi Lall (Harvard Divinity School)
- Can Christians Practice Yoga?
Allyson Huval (Georgetown University)
- Yoga, Fascists, Activists and Scholars: Asymmetries of Misinformation
Daniel Simpson (Independent Scholar)

12:30 – 1:30 pm Foyer & EHESS Courtyard
Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:00 pm Guided tour of the Humathèque Research Library
with Robin Toublan

1:30 – 2:00 pm

Auditorium 250

Plenary Session #33: *Oceano Respiração: Live Participatory Performance*

Marissa Clarke (University of Edinburgh)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Auditorium 250

Session #34: Echoes of the *Yogasūtra*

Chair: Thibaut D'Hubert (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität)

- **How did God Enter Yoga Philosophy?**
Knut Axel Jacobsen (University of Bergen)
- **Ethics and the Authentication of Authority in Yogic Traditions**
Brett Parris (University of Oxford)
- **Realizing the Self in Integration, Not Separation: Bhakti Appropriations of the Pātañjala Yoga Model of Liberation**
Eileen Goddard (University of California-Santa Barbara)
- **Rājayoga in the 17th century**
Jérôme Petit (BnF, GREI)
- **Samādhi and No Breathing**
Matthew Clark (SOAS, University of London)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Auditorium 150

Session #35: Round Table on “Expanding Epistemologies”

Chair: Suzanne Newcombe (Open University)

- **Ruth Westoby** (OCHS)
- **Theo Wildcroft** (Open University)
- **Dagmar Wujastyk** (University of Alberta)
- **Lucy May Constantini** (University of Vienna, MANTRAMS Project)
- **Borayin Larios** (University of Vienna)
- **Carola Lorea** (University of Tübingen)
- **Marissa Clarke** (University of Edinburgh)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Room 3.01

Session #36: Yoga in the US Academy

Chair: Christopher Miller (University of Zürich)

- The Academic Study of Yoga
Christopher Chapple (Loyola Marymount University)
- Building and Maintaining an Academic Yoga Studies Program at a Publicly Funded Community College
Kari Ross-Berry (Southwestern College)
- Yoga Studies MA Program at Naropa University
Ben Williams (Associate Professor, Naropa University)
- The Development of Sri Aurobindo Studies in Contemporary Academia: Texts, Archives, Institutions, and Transcultural Networks
Devdip Ganguli (California Institute of Integral Studies)

2:00 – 4:00 pm Room 3.03

Session #37: Localization: Yoga in Scandinavia

Chair: Tova Olsson (Umeå University)

- Conspirituality in the Finnish Yoga Scene
Kia Andell (Åbo Akademi)
- Yoga Practitioners in Finland
Måns Broo (Åbo Akademi)
- Trans and Nonbinary In/Visibility in Finnish Yoga
Ella Poutiainen (Åbo Akademi)
- Yoga in Norwegian Kindergartens: What Is It, and Who Is It For?
Marie Glasø Glein (Queen Maud University College)

4:00 – 4:30 pm Mezzanine & Foyer

Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 pm Auditorium 250

Session #38: Keynote address by Sunila Kale & Christian Novetzke:
Sovereignty, Boycott and Struggle: The Three Registers of
Political Yoga

Chair: Raphaël Voix (CNRS, Cesah)

*Also available
on zoom
see p.10*

Closing Remarks & Thank yous

YDYS 2026 Organizing Committee: Raphaël Voix, Suzanne
Newcombe, Theo Wildcroft, Amandine Wattelier-Bricout,
Ruth Westoby

7:30 pm – Midnight

Dinner cruise on the Seine with live music - on registration
(100 person max)

Embarkation point: Quai de la Rapée, boat “Le Belle Vallée”



Saturday

MAY 30

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Room 100

YDYS Meeting to discuss:

- Futures YDYS Conferences,
- YogaResearch.org,
- Association Discussion

2:00 pm

Guided Visit to Two Parisian Research Institutions (Advance reservation required)

Meeting Departure Point:

Metro Front Populaire in front of Centre des Colloques with Ananda Ceballos (Group A) and Pamela Warner (Group B)

2:30 – 4:00 pm

- Group A:
Visit to **Custodia Foundation: Indian Miniatures collection, with Rhea Sylvia Blok**
- Group B:
Visit to **Bibliothèque nationale de France: Special Collections of the Sanskrit Manuscripts, with Jérôme Petit**

4:30 – 6:00 pm

- Group A:
Visit to **Bibliothèque nationale de France: Special Collections of the Sanskrit Manuscripts, with Jérôme Petit**
- Group B:
Visit to **Custodia Foundation: Indian Miniatures collection, with Rhea Sylvia Blok**

Sunday

MAY 31

8:30 am – 6:30 pm Fontainebleau Forest: Hiking, Bouldering and/or Chilling-Out

We are pleased to offer a relaxed and convivial outing to the nearby village of Barbizon. Located on the edge of the Forêt de Fontainebleau, Barbizon is a picturesque village renowned as the cradle of the 19th-century Barbizon School of painters, who drew inspiration from its natural surroundings.

The day will begin with a short train ride to Barbizon, followed by an easy hike through the Apremont Gorges (approx. 1.5–2 hours), offering a gentle introduction to the forest’s iconic landscapes of sandstone rocks, pine trees, and open clearings. After the hike, lunch can be enjoyed at *La Caverne des Brigands* or in one of the village’s more refined restaurants.

In the afternoon, participants can enjoy an informal bouldering session in one of the most beautiful climbing spots in the area (Apremont Bizons), set among the sandstone formations of the forest. The activity is suitable both for beginners and for more experienced and confirmed climbers (bring your climbing shoes). The day may also include an optional visit to the *Musée des peintres de Barbizon*, before returning in the early evening.

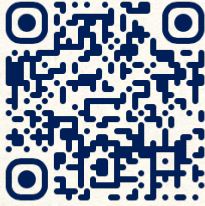


Meeting point: Gare de Lyon 8:30 am, Hall 1, in front of “Voie M”

Train/Bus ticket and lunch: not included

Once registered, you’ll be included in a WhatsApp group for organizational details

Abstracts & Latest Info



Scan me for more details!

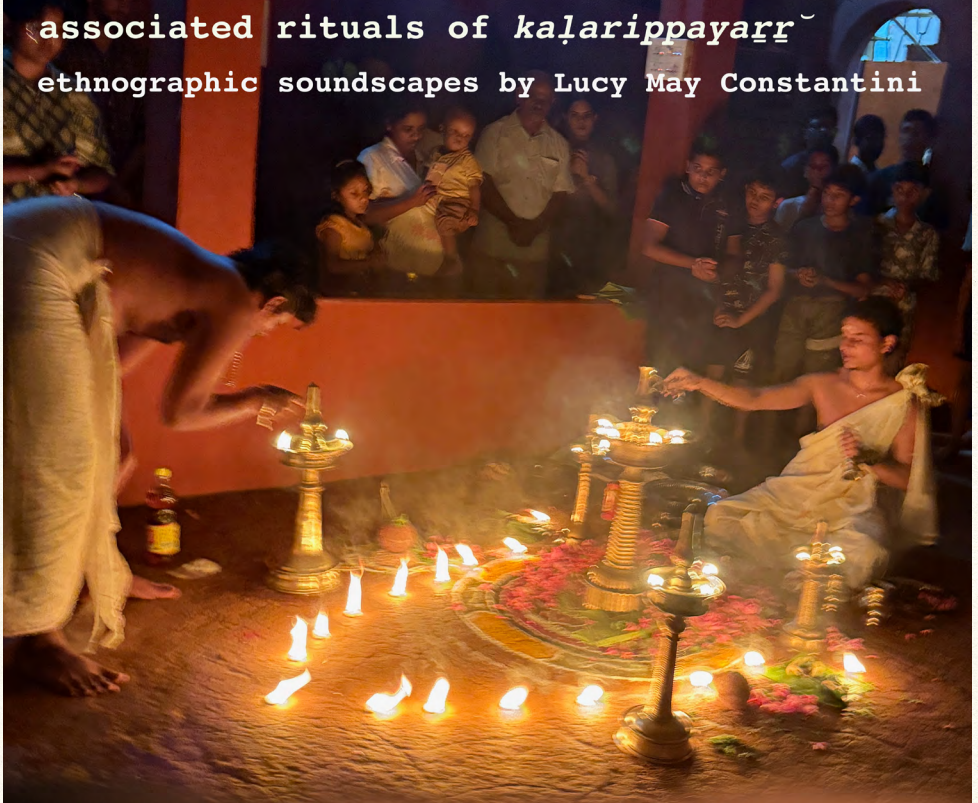
Gratitude

The organizing team would especially like to thank all those who graciously accepted our invitation to chair session panels during this conference:

Véronique Altglas, Nalini Balibir, Daniela Bevilacqua, Véronique Bouiller, Ananda Ceballos, Hugo David, Nicolas Dejenne, Elizabeth De Michelis, Philp Deslippe, Silvia d'Intino, Thibaut D'Hubert, Emmanuel Francis, Caterina Guenzi, Knut Axel Jacobsen, Magdalana Kraler, Amanda Lucia, Christopher Miller, Aminah Mohammad-Arif, Suzanne Newcombe, Tova Olsson, Michal Panasiuk, Jérôme Petit, Fabien Provost, Isabelle Ratier, Stuart Sarbacker, Nicolas Sihlé, Saarthak Singh, Mark Singleton, Barbora Sojková, Alexandra Tourmarkine, Theo Wildcroft, Ian Wincher and Dagmar Wjuastyk.

Sounding the Goddess

associated rituals of *kālarippayarr*
ethnographic soundscapes by Lucy May Constantini



The 4th International *Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana* Conference:
Authenticity, Authority, Adaptation
27-29 May 2026
Campus Condorcet
8, cours des Humanités
Paris, France

**OMnibus**
of MANTRAMS



Body and Mantra

performing somatic research



creation & performance: Lucy May Constantini
film & photography: Giulia Tonello

The 4th International *Yoga Darśana Yoga Sādhana* Conference:
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with thanks to CVN Kalari Gurukulam, East Fort, Thiruvananthapuram



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Oceano Respiração: Live Participatory Performance

Friday May 29 1:30 – 2:00 pm Auditorium 250

Marissa Clarke (University of Edinburgh)

Oceano Respiração is a collaborative and compositional experiment in ‘research-creation’. It was made between January-April 2024, in Porto Alegre, Brazil, by Marissa Clarke and Bel Medula (a.k.a. Prof. Isabel Nogueira). The album features original tracks created from field recordings of breathing, moving and chanting in transnational yoga practices across different locations in London, Edinburgh and Porto Alegre. It also samples field recordings of beaches and riverbanks in Southern Brazil. The field recordings became a ‘reservoir of sonic events’, which Marissa and Isabel mixed with using virtual instruments and analogue synthesisers. In April 2024, they staged a participatory performance for the album at Casa Baka Arte e Cultura in Porto Alegre, which became a collective experimentation for listening-in-movement, accompanied by scores inspired by Pauline Oliveros’s (1974, 2005) Sonic Meditations and Deep Listening.



Campus Map



GRAND EQUIPEMENT DOCUMENTAIRE

10, cours des Humanités,
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

BATIMENT RECHERCHE SUD

5, cours des Humanités
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

CROUS UNIVERSITY RESTAURANT

Rue Germaine Tillion

Rue Waldeck Rochet

Rue Fantani Touré

EHESS

2, cours des Humanités
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

MAISON DES CHERCHEURS

3, cours des Humanités
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

--- way to the CROUS University restaurant

CENTRE DE COLLOQUES

Place du Front Populaire
93322 Aubervilliers cedex

Place du Front populaire



Avenue George Sand

Rue des Fillettes

Rue du Pilier

Special Thanks

Our Sponsors:

Campus Condorcet, Cesah, EFEO, EHESS, EPHE, ERC-MANTRAMS, GIS-Asie, GREI, SOAS, their presidents and directors and specially: Nicolas Dejenne (GIS-Asie), Vincent Eltschinger (EPHE, GREI), Dominic Goodall (EFEO), Caterina Guenzi (EHESS, Cesah), Cécilia Mendès (EFEO), Julie N'Guessan (Campus Condorcet), Judit Törzsök (EPHE, GREI), Olivia Aubriot (CNRS, Cesah)

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Special Outings:

Ananda Ceballos (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Rhea Sylvia Blok (Fondation Custodia), Jérôme Petit (BNF), Clément Oury (Humathèque), Robin Toublan (Humathèque), Pamela Warner (EHESS, Cesah)

All the Volunteer Students:

Otávio Amaral, Johanna Bauhuber, Catherine Boutet, Mauricia Bretcha, Paco Calatayud, Tom Eulry, Liyat Gebregiorgis, Derwinn Green, Xinhui Huang, Ayse Margossian, Stephanie Navarro, Maryam Rafeienezhad, Kat Suhre, Clara Vennat

Housing, Coffee Breaks, Catering and Music:

Fabien Brette, Amel Hernouf and their team (Maison des chercheurs); Mathieu Nassif and his team (Le Loubnane, Paris 5^e); Hugues Ducoin and his team (Apéti, Paris 7^e); The Barbecue Brass Band

Additional Publicity:

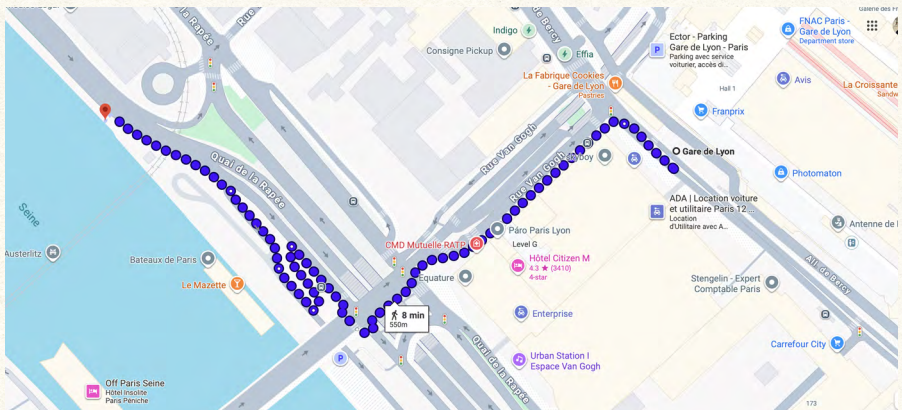
Armelle Leclerc (CNRS), Raj Balkaran (The Indian Wisdom Podcast), Seth Powell (Yogic Studies), Theo Wildcroft (Theo's Substack), yogaresearch.org and its team

And anyone whose name didn't make it into the program in time for printing...

How to get to the Boat

To get to the embarkation point for the dinner cruise on the Seine, from Front Populaire take the metro, line 12 direction Mairie d'Issy, change at the Madeleine station to line 14 direction Aéroport d'Orly. Get off at the Gare de Lyon station and take a 10 minute walk to the Quai de la Rapée.

You are looking for the boat called “Le Belle Vallée.”



Previous YDYS Conferences

The Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana (YDYS) conference series began in 2016 with an initiative by Matylda Ciołkosz at The Jagiellonian University, Kraków, who proposed an international gathering for scholars in the academic study of yoga. The first conference, co-organised with Elizabeth de Michelis, Mark Singleton, and Suzanne Newcombe, attracted a high volume of quality submissions and widespread interest, uniting researchers exploring yoga from classical Sanskrit texts to contemporary sociological practices.

After a hiatus extended by the Covid-19 pandemic, the second conference took place in 2022, again at Jagiellonian University and supported by a team affiliated with the SOAS Centre of Yoga Studies. The series then adopted a rotating venue model, with the next event hosted by Universität Hamburg under the leadership of Peter Pasedach in 2024. This event again brought together scholars from diverse disciplines and backgrounds to explore yoga's evolution and impact across historical periods and modern practices. In 2025, Christopher Jain Miller lead a team in organising an incredibly successful and accessible online YDYS conference at the Arihanta Institute. The virtual keynotes and panels of this event can be viewed at: <https://2025ydys.arihantainstitute.org/>.

Now in its 4th onsite iteration, we are honoured to continue the YDYS series in Paris to provide a vital platform for critical examination and dynamic discussion of recent advancements in Yoga Studies.

Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana 1st Conference:
Traditions, Transmissions, Transformations
May 19–21, 2016 Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków

Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana 2nd Conference:
Methods, Migrations, Mediations
May 18–21, 2022 Uniwersytet Jagielloński, Kraków

Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana 3rd Conference:
Introspection, Inspiration, Institutionalisation
May 22–25, 2024 Universität Hamburg

Yoga Darśana, Yoga Sādhana 1st Online Conference:
Tracing the Threads of Yoga
August 8–10, 2025 Arihanta Institute